

Neighbourhood Plan Continuity Committee

Date:	6 April 2021
Title:	Burial Space – Site C
Contact Officer:	Andrea Oughton, Asset Manager

Purpose of Report

1. To provide an update on burial space at Site C.

Update

2. On 19 January 2021, Thame Town Council agreed in principle, subject to planning approval, to take on the ownership and management responsibilities for the new burial space off Thame Park Road (to the rear of Taylor Wimpey - Site C).
3. Nexus Planning are preparing the planning application pack. To meet South Oxfordshire District Council's (SODC) validation requirements (and specific requests with the pre-application letter) detailed plans for the toilet block, a transport assessment (required by Oxfordshire County Council), drainage, landscape and technical reports are being developed to accompany the application.
4. It is hoped the planning application will be submitted towards the end of April. A copy of the application will be forwarded to the Town Council before submission to SODC.
5. One of the advantages to the Town Council owning and managing the space will be the wider choice it gives to the residents of Thame who may not want to be buried in a churchyard or other religious setting. The space will provide for traditional burial, interment of ashes, green burials, etc. For people of faith who wish to be laid to rest in the cemetery each grave will be dedicated by the faith leader.
6. The Town Council is starting with a blank canvas which will allow the burial space to be developed in a way that is easy to manage, set rules and policies, etc. It is envisaged the Burial Space Working Group will undertake this work and put forward proposals to the Town Council for consideration.
7. As part of the preparation the Acting Town Clerk and Asset Manager have both attended trainings offered by the Society of Local Council Clerks - 'Managing Burial Ground Memorials' and 'An Overview on Cemetery Management and Compliance'.

Action Required:

To note the report