

# **Committee: MERTON & SUTTON JOINT CEMETERY BOARD**

**Date: 13 June 2012**

Agenda item: 9

Wards: Borough Wide Merton & Sutton

**Subject: Front entrance improvements and bearer beams installation**

Lead officer: Mark Robinson

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## **Recommendations:**

- A. That the Board agrees to defer the start date of the front entrance improvements and bearer beams installation until the final costs of the cemetery extension have been confirmed and agreed.
  - B. The Board agrees for a re tender of the project in July 2012.
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## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1. The Board agrees the front entrance and bearer beams installation project becomes top priority to be undertaken when the final costs of the cemetery extension have been confirmed and agreed.
- 1.2 The project now needs to re-tendered.

## **2. DETAILS**

- 2.1. The concrete foundations beams on section 'B' have moved considerably since being installed resulting in all of the headstones leaning very badly, which could cause a danger in the near future.

The cemeteries office is receiving considerable complaints regarding the state of the foundations from distressed members of the public and Members of Parliament. It is the cemetery's responsibility for the upkeep of the beams.

Memorial masons are now not willing to install headstones as they will lean excessively.

- 2.2 In the previous meetings the Board showed an interest in having a new entrance to the cemetery. The project is to improve the "kerb" appeal of the cemetery entrance. The car park will be removed and grassed over. The design will include: A new curved shaped road to reduce cars from speeding, footpaths either side of the road, an avenue of native trees or flowering trees, new low fencing around the area, removal of the existing height barriers, groups of low maintenance shrub planting.

- 2.3 In July 2011 the Board agreed to proceed with design and tender works on for a new entrance and replacing the bearer beams on Section B. The project was put to tender.
- 2.4 At the November 2011 Board meeting it was agreed to defer the project as there would be more certainty on the outturn cost of the cemetery extension project at its meeting in February 2012. The project was deferred at this meeting.
- 2.5 The tender price received in November 2012 has now expired.
- 2.6 The project now has to be re tendered.
3. **TIMEABLE**  
The project would be put to tender in July 2012. If finances allow and the Board agrees, the project could be started in September 2012.
4. **FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**  
None at this stage. The Board will consider the financial implications when the tenders have been received and the outturn costs of the extension project are finalised.
5. **LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**  
The Board and the Council are not under any statutory obligation to replace the bearer beams.
6. **HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**  
None.
7. **CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**  
None.
8. **RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**
- 8.1 If the bearer beams are not replaced the implications they will be health and safety issues with headstones falling over.
9. **APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**  
None.