

Appendix 3

Hendon Cemetery & Crematorium

Grave Purchase Residency Criteria

1. Background

- 1.1. Hendon Cemetery and Crematorium has a variable pricing structure for the purchase of the exclusive right of burial (grave plots). This variable pricing structure recognises that Hendon Cemetery has limited space, and aims to prioritise Barnet residents above non-residents, and those with immediate need over those wishing to pre-purchase for future use.
- 1.2. Whilst it is easy to establish who is a resident or not, there has never been a formal policy to address those with a clear residency history within the Borough, but for whatever reason no longer live in Barnet. A pragmatic approach has always been adopted, but this opens the service to accusations of inconsistency and/or favouritism. It should be noted that no such complaints and or accusations have ever been made.
- 1.3. This appendix addresses this issue as far as is practical, but clearly not every scenario can be foreseen.

2. Fees and Charges

- 2.1. Fees and charges for Hendon Cemetery are set annually, and all fees and charges for 2017 have been set except for a proposal to raise the non-residents grave pre-purchase premium from 40% to 50%.
- 2.2. It is proposed that this fee increase is reinstated as indicated in 2.1 above. The purpose of this fee is to discourage, but not to prohibit non-residents from pre-purchasing graves at Hendon Cemetery. This in a small way helps preserve the limited burial space available at Hendon.
- 2.3. On average, there are less than 10 non-resident pre-purchases per annum.

3. Residency Criteria

- 3.1. To qualify for the resident's fee an applicant must meet one of the following criteria;

- Currently live in the Borough (evidence of residency is required).
- Be a former resident of the Borough, but have either moved in with a family; care giver; or into residential care, irrespective of where they are located and but for the need of care would have remained a Borough resident (evidence of co-residency with a family care giver will be required).
- Must have lived in the Borough for a minimum of 20 years and moved away for whatever reason within the last 5 years (evidence will be required).
- Means a person whose only or main residence for a period of at least two years continuously in the last five years was within The London Borough of Barnet.

These residency criteria will be included in the Cemetery & Crematorium rules.

- 3.2. If there are any other scenarios arising, a pragmatic approach erring towards residency will be applied. The final arbiter will be the Commissioning Director rather than the Service Provider.
- 3.3. These criteria only apply to the purchase of graves. Interment fees are at a flat rate irrespective of residency, consequently former Borough residents who pre-purchased their grave are not prejudiced by moving out of Borough.