



Housing and Growth Committee

17 February 2022

Title	Authorisation of Barnet's Closed Churchyard Management Plan
Report of	Chair of Housing and Growth Committee
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix 1: Closed Churchyards Management Plan and its associated appendices: 2. Closed Churchyard addresses 3. Listed and locally listed monuments 4. Closed Churchyard site plans
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Summary

The Closed Churchyard Management Plan outlines a robust system of inspection and maintenance for the closed churchyards in Barnet. A closed churchyard no longer accepts bodies for burial, and maintenance responsibilities are passed to the Council. There are nine closed churchyards in Barnet. The Council will be responsible for maintaining good order of the closed churchyards.

Officer's Recommendations

1. To approve the Closed Churchyard Management Plan for the London Borough of Barnet, outlined in Appendix 1, and the plan's associated appendices.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 This report is needed to authorise the Council's Closed Churchyard Management Plan Appendix 1 of the report, which outlines the activities the Council will undertake to ensure closed churchyards in Barnet are maintained in good order.
- 1.2 A closed churchyard no longer accepts bodies for burial, and maintenance responsibilities are passed to the Council (though the church still owns the churchyard). There are nine closed churchyards in Barnet. The Council will be responsible for maintaining good order of the closed churchyards.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council implements the Closed Churchyard Management Plan so that a robust system of inspection and maintenance is in place for the closed churchyards.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 The Council could have taken the option not to develop a Closed Churchyard Management Plan. However, this option is not recommended as this would leave the Council without clarity on the Council's responsibility towards maintaining the closed churchyards in good order.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 If approved, the Closed Churchyard Management Plan will be implemented in Barnet. A rolling programme of maintenance will be developed to ensure that the closed churchyards are kept in good order.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The Closed Churchyard Management Plan is in line with the Barnet Plan's 'Thriving' priority, where all residents and visitors benefit from improved sustainable infrastructure.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 The maintenance of the churchyard's will be financed by the Council's Estates maintenance budget. Value for money will be realised as the Council's approved contractors will be used for works, who have been approved through the Council's procurement process. Oversight of contractor works will be met through existing Council staff. The cost for churchyard repairs to make safe is estimated at £90,000, and the cost for churchyard monuments is estimated at £75,000 for 2022/23. The cost for churchyard repairs to make safe is estimated at £30,000, and the cost for churchyard monuments is estimated at £75,000 for 2023/24. This has been forecasted.

- 5.2.2 There are no property implications as the Council does not own the closed churchyards. However, the Council is responsible for their maintenance.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

5.3.1 The Council's Constitution, Article 7, outlines the responsibilities of the Housing and Growth Committee, which include 'regeneration strategy, *asset management* [italics supplied], employment strategy, business support and engagement.'

5.3.2 This Plan relates to the maintenance of assets by the council, but not of assets owned by the council. However, it still falls within the remit of the committee.

5.4 Insight

5.4.1 The Closed Churchyard Management Plan has been informed by historical maintenance activities which have been undertaken at closed churchyards by the Council.

5.5 Social Value

5.5.1 The Closed Churchyard Management Plan contributes towards maintaining the closed churchyards as places of peace and tranquillity for the public to visit.

5.6 Risk Management

5.6.1 The Closed Churchyard Management Plan manages the risk that the closed churchyards are not maintained in good order, particularly with regards to health and safety to the public. As these are places of peace and tranquillity, any works will be undertaken with sensitivity and respect.

5.7 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 N/A.

5.8 Corporate Parenting

5.7.1 N/A.

5.9 Consultation and Engagement

5.9.1 The Dioceses responsible for all closed churchyards in Barnet have been consulted as part of the development of the Closed Churchyard Management Plan. These are the Diocese of London and the Diocese of St Albans.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 None.