

WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE – 14TH SEPTEMBER 2011

EXECUTIVE – 26TH SEPTEMBER 2011

Report by the Director of Leisure and Amenity Services on proposals for the recycling of metals remaining following the cremation process.

SUMMARY

Background. The Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) has approached the Council inviting participation in a scheme for the recycling of metals following cremation. Currently, metals - which include artificial joints and coffin fittings, remaining after cremations at the Council's Putney Vale Crematorium (Putney Heath and Roehampton, SW15) and at the North East Surrey Crematorium in Morden, Surrey (also managed by the Council) - are recovered from ashes and buried in the crematorium grounds. The ICCM metals recycling scheme, which they operate in partnership with OrthoMetals, is provided at no cost to crematoria and the income derived from the sale of the metal materials, less the cost of collection and processing, is distributed by the ICCM to charities; a sum of £125,000 was distributed to charities in 2010. Local faith groups have been consulted on the proposals and the responses received were positive (paragraphs 12 – 13).

Policy. It is considered that the proposals set out in this report are in line with the Council's policies for best environmental practices.

Issues and proposals. The Executive are recommended to approve the proposal that the Council participates in the ICCM scheme for the recycling of metals following cremation.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to support the recommendations.

Director of Finance's comments. The participation in the ICCM metals recycling scheme will be at no direct cost to the Council.

Supporting information. A copy of the ICCM information pack on the recycling of metals following cremation has been placed in the Members Room.

Conclusion. Participation in the ICCM scheme would provide the opportunity to make more sustainable arrangements for the disposal of metals following cremation, whilst ensuring that the bereaved family can choose how such metals should be dealt

Recycling of metals following cremation

with. It also provides practical financial support for appropriate charities.

GLOSSARY

ICCM – Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management

1. **Recommendations.** The Environment, Culture and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to support the recommendations in paragraph 3.
2. If the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approve any views, comments or additional recommendations on the report, these will be reported to the Executive for their consideration.
3. The Executive are recommended to:-
 - (a) agree that, with the prior agreement of the bereaved, metals remaining following cremation are recycled; and
 - (b) approve entering into an agreement with the Institute of Cemetery and Cremation Management for the recycling of metals following cremation.
4. **Introduction.** The Council has been invited by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) to participate in their scheme for the recycling of metals following cremation. It is important to note that metals remaining after cremation would only be recycled with the prior agreement of the bereaved family.
5. Metals remaining after cremation include artificial joints and fittings from coffins. At the crematoria operated by the Council, Putney Vale Crematorium and the North East Surrey Crematorium these are currently recovered from the ashes and buried in the crematorium grounds.
6. The metals recycling scheme is operated on behalf of the ICCM under a contract with OrthoMetals, a UK subsidiary of a company that provides the same service in Holland. Under this contract OrthoMetals provide the equipment, staff, vehicles and other resources necessary for the collection and processing of recycled metals.
7. The ICCM scheme also allows for the recycling of metal memorial plaques in cases where the leases on plaques have expired and have not been renewed.
8. The scheme is provided at no cost to participating crematoria and the income derived from the sale of the processed materials, less the cost of collection and processing is distributed, by the ICCM to appropriate charities, such as the British Heart Foundation and Cancer Research, a sum of £125,000 was distributed to such charities in 2010.
9. Discussions have taken place with the ICCM regarding the possibility for income to benefit local rather than national charities. The ICCM have confirmed that they will contact the

Council each year and ask for nominations from local charities who the Council consider should benefit from the Scheme. The ICCM will consider all nominations. In 2010 15 local charities each received £8,333 from the Scheme.

10. Currently approximately 50% of the crematoria operating in the UK are participating in the scheme, which is based on one that has been operating successfully in Holland since 1998.
11. **Scheme Information.** The ICCM has produced a number of useful draft documents including an information brochure/leaflet explaining the scheme to the public, a press release, a pro-forma by which the bereaved confirm their consent to the recycling, an amendment to the memorial lease agreement (in respect of metal plaques) and an agreement between the crematorium, the ICCM, and OrthoMetals. These documents, which would all be produced as 'Wandsworth documents, are attached as appendices to the report. The ICCM have also provided a document describing the scheme which includes the legal advice and other background information relevant to the scheme. A copy of these documents has been placed in the Members' Room.
12. **Equality Impact Assessment.** The Equality Act 2010 requires that the Council when exercising its functions must have "due regard" to the need to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. As such an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken on the proposals in this paper. The EIA did not identify any adverse impact. It is attached as an appendix to this report

As part of conducting the EIA the proposals set out in this report were circulated to local faith groups and other organisations that use the Council's crematorium facilities on the 13th June 2011. One response was received and this endorsed the proposals.
13. The Council's Bereavement Services Manager also attended a meeting of the Council's Faith Group, chaired by the Leader of the Council, on 12th July 2011, to advise on the proposals. The feedback from the Faith Group meeting was positive, with a number of the groups advising that they considered the proposals for dealing with the disposal of metals following cremation to be both sensitive and environmentally beneficial.
14. **Comments of the Director of Finance.** The Director of Finance comments that the participation in the ICCM scheme for metal recycling would be at no direct cost to the Council. Proceeds from the recycling, after deducting collection costs will be donated to charity. There may be additional work load in the Council administering scheme, such as for obtaining consent for recycling which will need to be contained within existing resources.
15. **Conclusion.** Participation in the ICCM scheme would provide the opportunity to make more sustainable arrangements for the disposal of metals following cremation whilst ensuring that the bereaved can choose how such metals should be dealt with. It also provides practical financial support for appropriate charities.

Recycling of metals following cremation

The Town Hall,
Wandsworth,
SW18 2PU.

P. G. BRENNAN
Director of Leisure and Amenity Services

6th September 2011

Background Papers

No background documents were relied upon in the preparation of this report.

All reports to Overview and Scrutiny Committees, regulatory and other committees, the Executive and the full Council can be viewed on the Council's website (www.wandsworth.gov.uk/moderngov) unless the report was published before May 2001, in which case the Committee Secretary, Mr D Jones-Owen (020 8871 7032) djonesowen@wandsworth.gov.uk can supply it if required.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q Can I have the metals buried?

A Only if you leave the metals in the remains and have them all buried together

Q Why can't you just continue the way it was?

A The law now says that if we continue then there may have to be extensive changes to how the metals are buried. The environmental benefits mean it is time for a change

Q Can I have any gold or silver that is reclaimed?

A Unfortunately not, these metals will melt and combine with ash and could be dispersed widely within the cremation equipment and remains. We recommend all gold and silver is removed prior to the cremation

Q Do the implants get re-used for other patients?

A Unfortunately, they are too badly damaged for re-use to be allowed. They are smelted down into granules before being re-used in other industries.

Q Can I have the implant back?

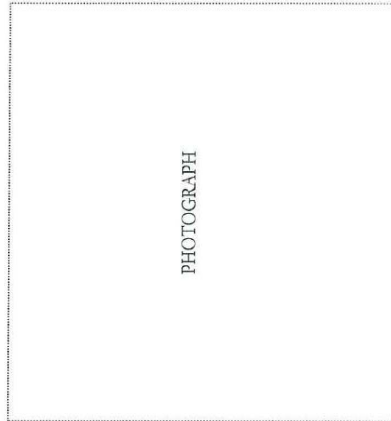
A Yes, just let your funeral director know and arrangements will be made

Q Why the sudden change in policy?

A Recycling is environmentally friendly and provides real benefits to charities on the Continent. This can now happen here. It also allows us to consult the bereaved and allow you to make the choice



**Name of
Crematorium**



Name of Crematorium

Address Line 1,
Address Line 2,
Address Line 3
Address Line 4

Phone: 555-555-555
Fax: 555-555-5555
Email: xyz@crem.co.uk

**Recycling of Metals
Following Cremation**

Tel: 555 555 5555


Recycling of Metals

If your loved one had to have an orthopaedic implant during their lifetime you may wonder what happens to it after cremation.

Until recently it was accepted practice to take the implant from the remains and place it with other implants until there was a sufficient amount of metal to dispose of it all in the grounds of the crematorium.

This has become less acceptable on environmental grounds over the years and on the Continent the recycling of metals that are in the cremated remains following the cremation have been recycled for a number of years.

The metals used for implants are special medical grade stainless steel, titanium and cobalt chrome all produced from non renewable resources.



Arranging a Funeral?
We think you should know the facts

Over time these resources will be depleted and such metals will become less available for such operations in the future.

The Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) have identified a means of collecting metals from participating crematoria throughout the UK and (name of crem) have decided to look to the future and the protection of our environment.

In future metals will be collected by the ICCM and recycled. Any monies that they may collect in this process will then be donated to bereavement related charities like Cancer Research and the Heart Foundation. We hope you agree that this not only protects the environment but provides potential benefits for the living.

(Name of crem) will not do this without your permission, however, we are amending our cremation forms to seek your consent prior


Photograph of Crematorium or event at Crematorium

Comment on Photograph

to the metals being placed for recycling. If you do not wish the metals to be recycled then we are happy to return them to you or leave them in the cremated remains. If they are left in the remains, however, the remains will need to be buried rather than scattered.

Other metals may also be collected at the same time including ferrous metals, mainly from the nails in the coffin, and some very small granules of precious metals. These precious metals usually vaporise in the cremator, but there are sometimes very small granules that may be left. Most of these will end up in the remains but some may be left behind in the cremation equipment.

Some questions and answers have been included on the back of this page that may help in your decision



Name of Crematorium

Address Line 1,
Address Line 2,
Address Line 3
Address Line 4

Phone: 555-555-5555
Fax: 555-555-5555
Email: xyz@crem.co.uk



Recycling of Metals Following Cremation Model Press Release

At some time in our lives we may need to have an operation to replace a joint or have a metal insert to assist the repair of a bone. Often we will die with these metal implants still in our body. We may then be cremated and these metal implants remain in the ashes following the cremation.

At present these metal implants, along with the remaining metals from the construction of the coffin, are removed from the ashes and stored until there is a sufficient quantity to be taken out into the grounds and buried to the detriment of the environment. In a time when environmental issues are becoming more and more important to us all, we are realising that we cannot continue to take action that is detrimental to our environment, without accepting the consequences of our actions some time in the future. Crematorium has reviewed current practices in line with recent national guidance from the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM). A number of issues have arisen from the review:

- There is an opportunity to recycle the metals that remain after a cremation and ensure that the use of non-renewable resources is minimised, thus helping protect our long term environment
- We should seek the consent of the bereaved before we take any action to dispose of metals following a cremation. The bereaved will now be asked to consent to the sensitive recycling of the metals rather than their disposal in the grounds of the crematorium. The metals can be returned to the family if they so wish
- Soft/precious metals melt during the cremation process and are dispersed throughout the remains and the cremator and are reduced to tiny granules. These cannot be recovered and returned to the family so it is recommended that all jewellery is removed prior to cremation

As from(date)... we will be revising our documents for cremation to seek consent for the sensitive recycling of the metals. Arrangements are in place with the ICCM to ensure the highest standards of collection are maintained. The improved arrangements for dealing with metals will not cost the bereaved and may raise a small amount of money from the process. The ICCM has assured all crematoria that any monies raised from this process will be donated to death related charities such as the Heart Foundation and Cancer Research. Full records of all collections, monies raised and charities that have benefited from the process will be available for inspection at the crematorium when the scheme is properly established. Should you have any questions about the new arrangements, please contact the crematorium on Tel. No. ????.

Recycling of metals following cremation

ISSUED BY: The Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management
ICCM National Office, City of London Cemetery, Aldersbrook Road, Manor Park, London
E12 5DQ
Tel: 020 8989 4661 Fax: 020 8989 6112. Website: www.iccm-uk.com

DISPOSAL OF CREMATED REMAINS

Please read the following notes carefully

Name of Deceased _____
All other information as shown on Form A – Application for Cremation

Environmental Policy

All metals remaining following cremation will be disposed of in the most suitable manner to reduce the impact on our environment. This will include the sensitive recycling of metals to avoid the use of non-renewable resources and comply with existing legislation. Please indicate how you would like metals to be dealt with by ticking the appropriate box. Please see the Recycling of Metals leaflet provided by the crematorium for further information.

I accept the metals will be recycled ☐

I would like the metals returned ☐

I would like the metals left in the remains ☐

I would like the cremated remains to be dealt with in the following manner:

Scatter in the Garden of Remembrance ☐

Inter in the Cemetery ☐

Remove by Funeral Director ☐

Retain pending further instructions ☐

Other (please advise) ☐

.....
If you wish for any help or advice in this connection please call, write or telephone to the Manager at the address on the front of this form

The crematorium makes no charge for the collection of cremated remains. The crematorium will provide a polythene urn and a certificate for disposal without charge. A range of urns and caskets are available for purchase from the crematorium.

The anytown crematorium obides by the lccm code of practice for burial & cremation and the charter for the bereaved. Copies of these documents and literature of the anytown crematorium are available from your funeral manager and also by calling the crematorium direct on **0101 101010**

Cremation is completed on the same day as the funeral service EXCEPT where the service takes place after 3.30pm when the cremation is completed within 24 hours and in most cases the morning after the cremation service.

I agree to the treatment of cremated remains as indicated above

Signature of Applicant for Cremation _____ Date _____

Recycling of metals following cremation

Instructions for Funeral Managers

Construction of the coffin. The coffin must be of wood or a wood by product which, when placed in a cremator and subjected to the accepted cremation processes, is easily combustible and which does not emit smoke, give or leave any retardant smears or drips after final combustion. No metal of any kind shall be used in the manufacture of such coffin except as necessary for its safe construction and then only metal of high ferrous content. Cross pieces must not be attached to the bottom of the coffin. If it is desired to strengthen the bottom of the coffin, wooden strips may be placed lengthways for this purpose. The coffin must not be painted or varnished but may be covered with a suitable cloth. Products manufactured in polyvinyl chloride (PVC) must not be used in the construction of the coffin or its furnishings. The use of polystyrene must be restricted to the coffin nameplate only in which case it must not exceed 90 grams in weight.

Lining of the Coffin. If circumstances require, suitable sealing material may be used, but no metal, rubber or polyvinyl chloride (PVC) will be permitted and on no account must pitch or similar substance be used.

Size of Coffin. The maximum external dimensions of a coffin must not exceed length 84 inches (213 cm); width 31 inches (78 cm); depth 25 inches (63 cm).

Notice of Cremation (Preliminaries)

Details of Deceased

Name of Deceased _____	Other details as shown on Form A – Application For Cremation
------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------

Confirmation of Cremation

Day:- _____	Date:- _____	Time:- _____
Religion _____		Officiant _____
Use of East Chapel <input type="checkbox"/>	Use of West Chapel <input type="checkbox"/>	Witness Cremation <input type="checkbox"/>
Special Instructions (requests for CLC1 on day, overseas certificates, non-pulverisation of cremated remains etc)		
<p>Environmental Policy</p> <p>All metals remaining following cremation will be disposed of in the most suitable manner to reduce the impact on our environment. This will include the sensitive recycling of metals to avoid the use of non-renewable resources and comply with existing legislation. Should you wish to dispose of the metals in any other way then please indicate by ticking the box and metals will be returned to you within the cremated remains or separately from them. Please see the Recycling of Metals leaflet provided by the crematorium for further information. <input type="checkbox"/></p>		

Music Required

Cemetery Music <input type="checkbox"/>	Organist (supplied by FD) <input type="checkbox"/>
Music	Entry: _____
	During: _____
	Exit: _____

Name of Company arranging funeral _____

Signature of Funeral Manager who is responsible for the accuracy of the information given on this form.

Name _____ Signature _____

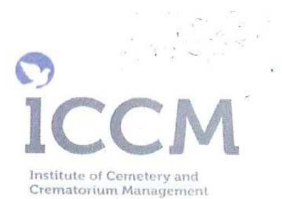
Address of Funeral Manager _____

Telephone number _____ Facsimile number _____ Date _____

Signature of Applicant _____

For Crematorium Use Only

Crematorium Check List	date	signature	Crematorium Check List	date	signature
Receipt of Registrar/Coroner's certificate			Part C returned to the Registrar's Office		
Receipt of B C & F			Full details entered onto BACAS		
Prepare documents for Medical Referee			Literature sent to applicant		
Basic details entered onto BACAS					



Recycling of Bronze Plaques

An authority in membership of the 'Metals Recycling Scheme' has approached the Institute and asked if the scheme can be extended to include abandoned bronze plaques.

The Institute has made some enquiries of other authorities and current methods for dealing with expired agreements range from burying the plaques with other metal residue to indefinite storage in an out-building ! One authority already recycles these plaques !!

We have consulted with our specialist company OrthoMetals who have informed us that these plaques can be collected along with other metal residues covered by the scheme and can be handled by the smelting plant.

The Institute believe the inclusion of bronze plaques within the scheme enhances its environmental principles and will further assist the death related charities benefiting from the scheme. This scheme extension may also enhance your own authority/company environmental policy.

In order to provide safeguards to cremation authorities/companies wishing to dispose of abandoned plaques in a sensitive manner the following statements should be included in memorial agreements and renewal notices:

Renewal Notices A statement to the effect of :-

Should you not wish to renew the lease on your memorial plaque it will be retained in store for you to collect. Should you not collect your plaque within 12 months of the date of this reminder it will be included in the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management's (ICCM) Recycling Scheme (a scheme designed to benefit the environment and provide income to death related charities. Details of the scheme can be obtained from the crematorium office).

Memorial agreements

The agreement should include a statement detailing that the applicant will be sent a renewal reminder at the end of the lease and can renew the agreement for a further period if required. The agreement should also state that recycling of the plaque will only take place should the agreement for the plaque not be renewed and not collected within 12 months following the expiry date.

Old memorial plaques that are currently being stored can be recycled in accordance with the legal advice relating to abandonment, provided you have sent a renewal reminder and have held the plaques in store for a reasonable period in which to allow collection.

A public information leaflet and example agreements and renewal notices are available from the ICCM website at: www.iccm-uk.com

In order that we may estimate uptake from this element of the recycling scheme we would appreciate a letter or email expressing interest.

ISSUED BY: The Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management
ICCM National Office, City of London Cemetery, Aldersbrook Road,
Manor Park, London E12 5DQ
Tel: 020 8989 4661 Fax: 020 8989 6112 Website: www.iccm-uk.com

APPENDIX 6

Department	Leisure and Amenity Services
Service	Proposals for the recycling of metals remaining following the cremation process.
People involved	Clive Andrews, Clare O'Connor

Key dates for the assessment
Date for start of EIA: 01.06.11
Start and end date of consultation: 8.06.11 – 12.07.11
Completion date for finalised EIA: 10.08.11

1. What are the aims of the service and what changes are being proposed?
The Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) has approached the Council inviting participation in a scheme for the recycling of metals following cremation. Currently, metals - which include artificial joints and coffin fittings, remaining after cremations at the Council's Putney Vale Crematorium (Putney Heath and Roehampton, SW15) and at the North East Surrey Crematorium in Morden, Surrey (also managed by the Council) - are recovered from ashes and buried in the crematorium grounds. The ICCM metals recycling scheme, which they operate in partnership with OrthoMetals, is provided at no cost to crematoria and the income derived from the sale of the metal materials, less the cost of collection and processing, is distributed by the ICCM to charities; a sum of £125,000 was distributed to charities in 2010.
2. What is the rationale behind these changes?
The changes are in line with Council's policies for best environmental practices and mirror changes made by other local authorities. Participation in the ICCM scheme would provide the opportunity to make more sustainable arrangements for the disposal of metals following cremation, whilst ensuring that the bereaved family can choose how such metals should be dealt with. It also provides practical financial support for appropriate charities
3. Which organisations will have the opportunity to feedback on the EIA?
WLSP Multi-Faith Groups Faith Groups who use the services in the borough.

4. What data do you have on your service and potential impact of your service change in relation to the use of service, customer satisfaction, feedback on service, results of consultation		
	List data you have	Any gaps in information? be addressed.
Race	n/a	
Gender	n/a	
Disability	n/a	

Recycling of metals following cremation

Age	n/a	
Faith	Consultation responses from faith groups	
Sexual Orientation	n/a	

5. What does available information show in relation to the impact of the service change? What is the impact on different groups? Please give detail	
Race	Recycling only takes place with prior agreement of the bereaved. No issues identified
Gender	Recycling only takes place with prior agreement of the bereaved. No issues identified
Disability	Recycling only takes place with prior agreement of the bereaved. No issues identified
Faith	The views of faith groups on the proposals were sought. The faith groups attending the WLSP Multi Faith Group and those involved in the consultation highlighted no impact in relation to their beliefs. They highlighted that it would be down to individuals and therefore approved that recycling only takes place with prior agreement of the bereaved
Age	Recycling only takes place with prior agreement of the bereaved. No issues identified
Sexual Orientation	Recycling only takes place with prior agreement of the bereaved. No issues identified

6. What does your review of the information show?	Evidence for your answer
a)No impact continue with change	

7. Have you identified any actions that will improve the proposed service change or mitigate any negative impact? Yes/No. If yes please list.
None identified.

8. What future monitoring and evaluation tools will be appropriate and effective? n/a

9. Are the aims of the service/policy consistent with wider Council policies on Equality and Diversity?
The Council's equality statement says, "It is our policy that no service user is discriminated against because of their disability, gender, race/ethnicity and other dimensions of disadvantage and discrimination including age, sexuality and religion or belief." The proposed changes allowing for the recycling of materials after cremation supports this by ensuring that the practice does not impact on the beliefs of any faith and also by ensuring that individual's families have the option not to participate in the scheme.

10. Which of the following does the service/policy relate to? (you can select more than one) 1. Eliminating discrimination N 2. Promoting equal opportunities N 3. Promoting good relations N
11. How would you rank the service/policy in relation to relevance to equality? (select one level only) <i>Low</i>

Feedback on the findings of the EIA

What did external organisations say about your findings when you shared this EIA with them?
<p>The WLSP Multi-Faith Group received a presentation on the proposals at their meeting of July 17th. They raised no specific concerns and highlighted that it would be down to the individual's family. One formal response was received:</p> <p>Dear Mr Andrews,</p> <p>In response to your correspondence of the 13th inst., the Buddhist perspective on this issue is neutral but endorses environmentally friendly policies and practices.</p> <p>Therefore the proposal to recycle metals the result of cremation is considered beneficial to the environment, and as such an approved practice. This is the view of the Bhuddhist community.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Ven. P.K.LOM (Secretary)</p>
What changes did you make as a result of this feedback?
No changes required.