

A guide to
Cemetery Services

A guide to the cemeteries and cemetery service

This leaflet provides some general information that may be required by relatives at the time of bereavement. It is one of a series of leaflets to help you at this difficult time.

Your funeral director will be able to offer a comprehensive service, including sensitive advice and information, but you are welcome to contact the Cemetery Manager for any other help, information or reassurance that you need.

The **Cemetery Manager** is available during normal office hours and is based at East Hampshire District Council, Penns Place, Petersfield, Hampshire GU31 4EX

Tel: 01730 234285

E-mail:

ehealth@easthants.gov.uk

Fax: 01730 234330

Information is also available on the internet at www.easthants.gov.uk

The Council's cemeteries

East Hampshire District Council has five cemeteries:

Alton,
Old Odiham Road

Catherington,
Catherington Lane

Petersfield, Ramshill

West Liss, Church Street

Whitehill,
Hollywater Road

All of the cemeteries are open 24 hours, although the Council does reserve the right to close them from time to time. However, in this unlikely event, notices will be displayed.

Dogs are permitted within the cemeteries but for the benefit of all visitors, do please keep them on a lead and ensure that any fouling is cleaned up.

The cemeteries are a place of quiet contemplation and reflection. As such, any person creating a disturbance, interfering with a burial or grave (including memorials, mementoes and plants) will be required to leave the cemetery and legal action may be taken against them.

Fees and charges

These are set out in a separate leaflet.

New graves

New graves are available at all cemeteries. If the grave is likely to be visited regularly by someone who has difficulty walking, please let us know when booking the funeral. We will then try our best to ensure that the grave is easily accessible from a path or road.

Catering for all faiths, religious and cultural needs

We aim to avoid discrimination against anyone because of race, religion, disability, creed or belief. The Cemetery Service aims to meet the needs of East Hampshire's diverse community by providing a service that respects religious and cultural requirements.

Please do not hesitate to discuss with your Funeral Director, or with us, any needs that you may have regarding the burial.

Reopening graves

Graves may contain up to three full burials, or two full burials and 6 ashes interments. This is dependant on ground water and soil conditions

Pre-purchase of Exclusive Rights of Burial

Subject to availability, burial plots may be reserved, for which there is a fee.

Other forms of memorial

At the discretion of the Cemetery Manager, other forms of memorials may be considered, e.g.: trees, bird boxes, benches and birdbaths.

Petersfield Chapel

Petersfield Cemetery includes a Grade II listed Church of England Chapel which is available (there is a charge).

Following a burial

Around 2/3 weeks after the funeral, all the flowers, wreaths and other items will be removed from the grave (unless you request otherwise in writing).

The soil within the grave will naturally settle over time. The contractor will inspect for settlement and top the grave up if necessary. After the settlement has finished, the contractor will turf/seed the grave. For further details, please refer to the leaflet *Exclusive Rights of Burial - Your Rights and Responsibilities*.

Unpurchased graves

If you choose to arrange a burial in an unpurchased grave you do not have the right to erect any memorial or leave any mementoes as the Council owns the exclusive right of burial.

Car parking and safety.

Whitehill and West Liss Cemeteries have designated car parking areas. Please do not try to drive beyond these areas.

In Alton and Petersfield, there is a small network of access roads. If you wish to use these, please drive slowly and carefully. You must remain on the roadway when turning your vehicle or you may be in danger of driving over graves.

At Catherington Cemetery, there is no specific provision for car parking, however, there is a parking area on the other side of Catherington Lane.

In all cases, we would strongly advise you to ensure vehicles are locked and anything of value is kept out of sight. The Council does not accept responsibility for any theft or damage caused to or by vehicles within the cemetery.