

New Proposed Dumfries Cemetery

Information Day (28 January 2019) – Public Feedback

Information available about the Information Day

Following the information event at Dumfries Ice Bowl in early December 2018, a further information day was held at Summerhill Community Centre on 28 January 2019.

The information day was advertised on social media and on the Council's website, along with information about the event, photos of the proposals and links to the planning application. The information day was also covered in the local media and subsequently, there have been further hits on the Dumfries Cemetery Information web page.

Members of the public were encouraged to speak to members of the delivery team about the plans for the new cemetery and the investigation work that had been carried out on other potential sites at other locations around Dumfries.

Public Feedback

83 members of the public attended the information session on Monday 28 January. Feedback forms were available for members of the public to complete on the day. A summary of the feedback collated on the day:

- 58% of respondents felt that cycle routes to the cemetery were important or very important
- 73% of respondents felt that walking routes to the cemetery were important or very important
- 75% of respondents felt that bus stops at the cemetery were important or very important. 19% of respondents felt that bus stops were not important
- We had a very mixed response to 'the speed limit should be lower' – 59% of respondents felt it was important or very important. 12% felt it was quite important. 24% felt it was not important and 5% didn't know.
- Positive responses were received on all the questions relating to the aesthetics at the cemetery – 72% said landscaping was important or very important, 72% said flowerbeds were important or very important and 69% said that trees were important or very important

- 60% of respondents felt a memorial wall or planter was important or very important. 20% said it was not important.
- 78% of respondents said that car parking was important or very important
- 88% of respondents said that it was important or very important that the cemetery fits in with the local area. This was the most positive result received.

Additional comments received from the public included:

Positive:

- I think we need this provision for the Town and it seems a good site to me
- Good idea for the local council
- Very important for a cemetery in the local area especially at an affordable price
- I think it would be a very good idea as not enough room in cemeteries in Dumfries for existing people still living in town. It is land that is sitting empty anyway.

Negative:

- The site is not in a good location with the amount of money spent of road infrastructure and fencing to keep golf balls off the car park. Road access is not good in a hidden dip.
- Need to commit to graveyard upkeep - Troqueer sometimes a mess
- Not supportive of new cemetery site. Concerned about increased traffic on the Castle Douglas Road – all play golf. Would the other more cost-effective sites be looked at? Use cycle path lots. Like the area to be kept rural and not have 30-mile zone extended.
- My concern is the proximity to a house and entrance to the cemetery
- Could the council not find a suitable area that wouldn't cost the expensive speed reduction, high fences and site modification
- Concerned about houses nearby and visual affects on them. Bigger project than I thought.
- Very bad site. Floods down the bottom. Speed limit would have to be reduced as this road is like a race track

What happens with the feedback?

This feedback will be provided to the design team working on the project. Wherever feasible and practicable they will take account of what you have said when developing the emerging proposals for a new cemetery in Dumfries.

In parallel with this, the planning application process is currently ongoing. The design team will also be guided by the outcome of this formal process in terms of shaping the proposals to be taken forward.