

EPSOM CEMETERY

Basis for fees and charges.

The fees charged for the purchase of the Exclusive Right of Burial of a grave, will be based upon the residential qualification of the purchaser (the Grantee) for a period of 40 years.

All fees in respect of both interment and memorial work will be based on the residential qualification of the person being interred, not the Grantee.

Definition of Resident

A "resident" is a person who resides in the Borough or has done so within the last five years. The five years will be calculated from either the date of purchase (for the purpose of the Exclusive Right of Burial of a grave) or from the date of death (for the purpose of interment and memorial charges).

Before becoming eligible for the status of "resident" the person must have resided in the Borough for a period of a least one year during the five year qualifying period, and the residence which was occupied must be the only or principal permanent place of residence of the individual.

If, at the time of death the person resided in a nursing home, residential home or a hospital in the Borough, "the non resident" scale of charges will apply for interment and memorial fees unless it can be shown that the person would otherwise have qualified as a resident under the above definitions.

Definition of Non Resident

A "non resident" will include all those persons not included in the definition "resident".

How residency will be established.

Residency qualification will be determined through reference by the Cemetery Superintendent to either the electoral register or to records indicating the person responsible for payment of council tax on the property they occupy or occupied. If neither source confirms residential status then the Superintendent will require independent written confirmation of proof of residence, normally in the form of a solicitor's letter.

Special Cases.

Where the person who purchased the Exclusive Right of Burial of a grave as a "resident" and at the date of their death had not lived in the Borough for five years or more as their only or principal place of residence, the interment and memorial fees will be at the "non resident" scale.

However, where the initial interment was for a “resident” the subsequent interment and memorial fees for the spouse will also be charged as resident notwithstanding that the spouse may no longer be resident in the Borough.

In the case of persons under the age of eighteen years, the basis of the charge will be the residential qualification of either parent or guardian of that person.

Fees Schedule

Cemetery fees are reviewed every financial year and any changes take effect on 1 April.

The schedule of fees for the current financial year are available on the Council’s web site.

The fees for memorials will be calculated so as to include the fees chargeable for each component part, eg headstone with kerbs, headstone with footstone and kerbs.

Information

Part 1 – Exclusive Right of Burial (forty years)

Epsom cemetery offers a choice of graves from pergola front row, front row traditional, other row traditional, lawn or cremation space, for which the exclusive right of burial may be purchased.

The selection of a particular grave is only available on pergola front row and front row graves and is in every case subject to the approval of the Superintendent.

The Exclusive Right of Burial is purchased in the form of a Deed of Grant, for a period of 40 years and upon expiry can be extended for a further period on payment of a nominal sum. Under current legislation such further period cannot exceed one hundred years.

The person purchasing the Exclusive Right of Burial is termed the “Grantee” and their written permission is required on all matters concerning the grave.

The Deed of Grant may be assigned under certain conditions but will normally be inherited by the next of kin.

“Assignment of Rights” between a “Resident” and a “Non Resident” will be allowed only following payment of the difference in the purchase fee.

We are able to arrange the purchase of Exclusive Right of Burial for future use in all types of graves excluding the Islamic section.

The Council will repurchase any unused graves at the original fee paid by the “Grantee”.

No person or household will be permitted to obtain the Exclusive Right of Burial in more than two unused graves.

In all cases there is a separate fee for interment see Part 2.

Part 2 – Interments

Interment fees are based on the residential qualification of the deceased, “Residents” and “Non Residents” scale of charges apply.

Each grave can accommodate up to four interments (eleven feet) with the exception of graves in the Islamic section which are for one interment only (five feet). The depth of the first interment determines the number of subsequent burials.

Cremation spaces are in our Garden of Remembrance and will accommodate up to four sets of cremated remains.

Cremated remains can also be interred in a full grave, but would then close that grave to subsequent body burial. A full grave space will accommodate twelve sets of cremated remains with further space available for scattering.

Part 3 – Memorials

All memorial fees are based on the residential qualification of the deceased, not the Grantee.

Where regulations allow a memorial to be placed on two adjoining grave spaces the memorial fees will be double the schedule fee.

The style and size of a memorial permitted on a grave is dependent on the type of grave and its location, and is subject to the approval of the Cemetery Superintendent. We advise a settlement period of the grave for a minimum of eight months before a memorial is fitted.

Lawn graves are turfed or seeded following interment, therefore the planting out, placing of encumbrances or enclosure of these graves is not allowed. A headstone can be drilled and dowelled to the existing concrete beam soon after the funeral; there is no need to wait for any settlement period.

Cremation spaces are turfed following interment, planting out, placing of chippings, stones or other encumbrances is not allowed. A headstone up to two feet in width and height, or a tablet up to eighteen inches width can be placed on the cremation space subject to the approval of the Superintendent.

It is the Grantee’s responsibility to maintain the memorial in a sound condition, and repair or reaffix it if required.

Health and safety guidelines require the periodic testing of memorials for stability. The Council will regularly test memorials, those which fail this safety test, will where possible, be made safe by temporary staking whilst we endeavour to contact the Grantee.

In some instances where staking is not a feasible option or we are unable to trace the Grantee or the Grantee declines to make the necessary repairs we may remove or lay the memorial down. (Local Authorities Cemetery Order 1977)

The Grantee is strongly advised to check the warranty provided by their mason and consider taking out appropriate insurance.

All memorial work must conform to the National Association of Memorial Masons current code of practice and BS8415.