



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Roselawn Crematorium – Proposed listing</b>
<b>Date:</b>	14 February 2013
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio and Programme Manager

1	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	<p>The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee that Officers have received advance notice of the proposed listing of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. Three such notices have been received in respect of the Crematorium at Roslawn, specifically relating to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Crematorium Building;</li><li>2. The Gate Lodge and Gate Screen; and</li><li>3. The Toilet Block, Porters Lounge and Concrete Gazebo</li></ol> <p>This situation has arisen from a survey undertaken by Northern Ireland Environment Agency, to allow it to update and improve the list of buildings of special architectural / historic interest. One of the areas currently being worked on is Castlereagh.</p> <p>Belfast City Council has been informed the intention to list in its capacity of Owner of facility and not as a statutory consultee. NIEA has sought the views of both Castlereagh Borough Council and the Historic Buildings Council. It is our understanding that Castlereagh has not yet responded, while the Historic Buildings Council has responded supporting the proposal to list the buildings.</p> <p>As the owner the Council is entitled to make a written submission however NIEA has informed us that they can only take into account information relating to the architectural or historic interest of a structure and not for example to its functionality or current use.</p>

Members may be aware that should the buildings be listed it will place certain responsibilities on the Council as the owner, for example, it must be maintained in a certain way and any proposed development or demolition requires the approval of NIEA. Members should note that there is grant aid in place.

A meeting with NIEA was held on 7<sup>th</sup> February. At that meeting Officers expressed concerns about the proposed listing from an operational perspective: The main points raised included:

- The crematorium and cemetery are likely to remain operational for another 30 – 40 years and beyond;
- The crematorium is heavily used and our desire to avoid work nuisance at a sensitive time for bereaved families results in timing issues around routine and planned maintenance, therefore any additional requirements would exacerbate the process;
- The Council may consider a second chapel on the site at a future date;
- The Council was looking at internal alterations to improve accommodation for staff and the public;
- The Council is considering the removal of the canopy at the side of the main crematorium building to facilitate access by Emergency Services;
- The Council is currently implementing changes such as the installation of new cremators and the associated mercury abatement equipment which will impact on the external façade of the building and will be erecting new signage on the external wall and the Porters Annex, which is the cemeteries office on the site;

In response, NIEA indicated that:

They appreciated the operational nature of the buildings, but pointed out that they had a duty to list buildings where they felt it was appropriate;

On the issue of maintenance it was pointed out that the listing would relate to building as it stands in its current state; there would be no requirement to for example replace PVC windows with wooden frames in the future. This has to some extent lessened the perceived impact, but nevertheless, it may still result in time delays and potentially higher costs.

On the issue of any future development either to the building, its contents or indeed its environs it was stated that this would require listing building consent;

these meetings, should the listing be formally approved. In the event of the Council having plans to alter any of the buildings or construct adjacent to the buildings it will require listed building consent.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>The Committee is asked to note that in conclusion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The indications are that the buildings will be listed;</li> <li>2. In relation to maintenance, there are regular meetings between NIEA and Council Officers and the crematorium buildings will now be included in these discussions to facilitate future works;</li> <li>3. [plans for alterations to the buildings or their contents or to the environs within which they are located will require listed building consent;</li> <li>4. The Council can if it wishes make a written submission to the NIEA on the matter, NIEA has indicated that whilst the consultation period has lapsed it will defer a final decision until after the Committee meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February to take on board any comments it may have.</li> </ol>

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>Should the buildings be listed it could potentially increase the cost of future works, however, it is not possible to estimate the cost.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>There are no additional human resource implications.</p> <p><u>Asset and other implications</u></p> <p>The listing will preserve the special architectural and historic features of the buildings.</p>

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
	There are no equality implications

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	The Committee is asked to consider the report and offer up any additional comments for inclusion in a response to the NIEA on the matter.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	A further report will be brought to Committee in March 2013.

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	NIEA – Northern Ireland Environment Agency

<b>8</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None