

Title: Lake View Bereavement Centre, Crematorium and Burials – Rules and Regulations Policy 2026

Committee: Operational Services

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Author: Crematorium and Bereavement Centre Manager

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Contact officer: Marisa Rogers-Jones, Crematorium and Bereavement Centre Manager
Marisa.rogers-jones@eastcambs.gov 01353 616310, room number 12, The Grange, Ely

1.0 Issue

- 1.1. To consider and approve the Lake View Bereavement Centre, Crematorium and Natural Burials Rules and Regulations, including the Framework for Enforcement, to provide clear standards for the operation, use and management of the site.

2.0 Recommendations

Members are requested to:

- 2.1. Approve the Lake View Bereavement Centre, Crematorium and Natural Burial Rules and Regulations (Appendix 1).
- 2.2. Delegate authority to the Crematorium and Bereavement Service Manager to implement non-material changes and manage the Rules and Regulations as the operational standard for the site, including day-to-day decision-making and enforcement in line with the approval framework.

3.0 Background/Options

- 3.1. Lake View Bereavement Centre, Crematorium and Natural Burials (“Lake View Bereavement Centre”) is operated by East Cambridge District Council (“the Council”). The Council has statutory responsibility for the management and regulation of burial and cremation services, and the day-to-day management and enforcement of the proposed Rules and Regulations is delegated to the Crematorium and Bereavement Service Manager.
- 3.2. The Rules and Regulations have been developed to:
- 3.3. Set out a clear and consistent operating framework for burials, ash interments, ash scatterings, memorialisation and cremation-related services delivered from Lake View Bereavement Centre.
- 3.4. Provide clarity for funeral directors, memorial leaseholders and visitors about what is and is not permitted; and
- 3.5. Support environmental stewardship of the grounds.
- 3.6. Lake View Bereavement Centre is designated as a County Wildlife Centre and is managed in a sustainable and environmentally responsible way. The Rules and

Regulations therefore include provisions designed to protect biodiversity, preserve habitats and limit environmental harm through restrictions on materials and activities which could negatively impact the ecology of the site. The policy has also been written in consultation with Environmental Services, and considerations of the Council's already approved Environmental Crime Enforcement Policy.

- 3.7. The Council is asked to approve a formal set of Rules and Regulations to ensure transparency, fairness and consistency, and to support operational decision-making. The alternative option would be to continue operating without a formally approved and published framework, which would increase the risk of inconsistent decisions, disputes, and avoidable complaints.

4.0 Arguments/Conclusions

- 4.1. Appendix 1 sets out the full Rules and Regulations and provides the Framework for Enforcement. Key elements include:
- 4.2. Standards of conduct and site access to ensure the grounds remain a place of dignity, respect and quiet reflection, including controls on prohibited activities, photography/filming approvals, and safe access arrangements.
- 4.3. Clear visiting arrangements including opening times, vehicle access and speed restrictions, and expectations for children and dogs.
- 4.4. Environmental protections reflecting the site's status as a County Wildlife Site, including restrictions on planting, memorialisation and materials that may harm wildlife or the natural landscape.
- 4.5. Floral tribute and grave items controls including limits on non-compostable materials, a clear list of items not permitted, and time periods for removal of tributes to maintain safety, dignity and environmental standards.
- 4.6. Defined burial and ashes arrangements, including natural burial principles, grave sizes and capacities by grave type, and clear approach to ash scattering and ash interments.
- 4.7. Memorialisation controls which prevent grave markers on natural burial plots and provide approved memorial options only in designated areas, with leases and renewal expectations.
- 4.8. Cremation service standards, including documentation deadlines, coffin identification requirements, aligned with relevant professional guidance.
- 4.9. Enforcement Framework setting out a transparent and proportionate process, including standard notice periods, communication methods, storage arrangements for removed items, and circumstances where immediate action is required for safety, offence or serious non-compliance.
- 4.10. Approval of these Rules and Regulations will provide a clear, consistent and compassionate framework for the operational of Lake View Bereavement Centre, balancing the needs of bereaved families with legal compliance, public safety, operational effectiveness, and environmental stewardship. It will also support staff by providing an agreed basis for operational decisions and enforcement.

5.0 Additional Implications Assessment

5.1 Table of additional implication assessment:

Financial Implications NO	Legal Implications NO	Human Resources (HR) Implications NO
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) YES	Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) NO	Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) NO

Financial implications

The Rules and Regulations confirm that fees and charges are payable in advance (except for funeral directors) and that fees are reviewed annually and published via the Lake View Bereavement Centre price list. The document also outlines administrative charges associated with changes to grave ownership and the management of associated documentations.

Legal Implications

These Rules and Regulations operate alongside the relevant legislative framework governing burial and cremation services, including the Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977 (as amended), and identify relevant legal controls such as the requirement for lawful authority for exhumation under the Burial Act 1857.

Clear adoption of the Rules and Regulations provides an agreed basis for operational restrictions and enforcement actions, supporting consistency and reducing legal risk arising from unclear or informal expectations.

5.2. Equality Implications

Lake View is a universal service accessed by residents and non-residents, and the Rules and Regulations are intended to support fair and consistent access for all users. The document sets expectations for conduct and access and provides clear guidance on service arrangements that can accommodate religious and non-religious services.

The Rules and Regulations also formalise arrangements for witness charging and faith-sensitive facilities. Families may request to witness the moment the coffin is committed into the cremator (known as witness charging), subject to advance booking and capacity limitations to ensure safety and dignity.

In recognition of the needs of different faith communities, the facility is equipped to support religious requirements where practicable. This includes the availability of appropriate washing facilities to accommodate Islamic faith practices prior to prayer. The service remains committed to working sensitively with families and funeral directors to meet cultural and religious requirements wherever possible within operational and legal constraints.

The requirement for respectful conduct and restrictions on certain items/materials apply equally across the site. Any potential impacts (for example, restrictions on memorialisation or tributes) are mitigated through clear communication, provision of

approved memorial options, and a transparent enforcement framework with standard notice periods.

5.3. Carbon / Environmental Implications

As a County Wildlife Site, Lake View is managed to protect biodiversity and minimise environmental harm. The Rules and Regulations support this directly through restrictions on planting, discouraging non-compostable tributes, limiting plastics and other harmful materials, and supporting eco-composting and reuse of natural waste within the grounds.

The approach is aligned to the Council's wider sustainability objectives and supports long-term ecological protection of the site.

5.4. Data Protection Implications

The Rules and Regulations do not introduce new routine processing of sensitive personal data beyond what is required for the administration of burials, cremations and grave ownership. Where documentation is required (e.g., to confirm ownership transfer), this is managed through established administrative processes.

6.0 Appendices

Appendix 1: Lake View Bereavement Centre, Crematorium and Natural Burials – Rules & Regulations and the framework for Enforcement of Rules and Regulations (including notice, removal and storage arrangements)

7.0 Background documents

Lake View Bereavement Centre, Crematorium and Burials - Rules & Regulations