



Peterlee Town Council Cemetery

Since the opening of the Cemetery in 1992, Peterlee Cemetery has developed into a beautiful area of peace and tranquillity which is maintained to very high standards.



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INTRODUCTION

Name; Eden Lane Cemetery. SR8 5DJ

Map Reference; 54°45'57.04' N 1°19'39.99' W

Location: Adjacent to Eden Lane Road, this Cemetery is in the Town of Peterlee.

Vision Statement: The Management Plan for Peterlee Town Council Cemetery sets out the management, maintenance and development framework of the cemetery over five years.

The management plan is reviewed annually, so that any outstanding tasks can be rescheduled, as necessary.

Peterlee Town Council Cemetery is a working cemetery, having burials in new graves and re-opened graves as well as Ashes plots. The Cemetery contains a range of habitats from amenity grassland, wildflower areas and parkland trees which all overlook the Northeast Coastline.

This plan seeks to secure a sustainable future for the cemetery, to conserve the formal parkland landscape and introduce management regimes to conserve and enhance the mosaic of wildlife habitats.

The aim of the management plan is to establish sustainable site management and to provide the best cemetery service possible for the public whilst promoting the site as a key open space.

Size: The site occupies approximately 4.0 Hectares of land consisting of the existing burial area Phase 1, this is developed for 2800 burial plots. Then Phase 11, undeveloped giving a further 1750 burial plots.

Age; Currently 34 years, the site was opened in April 1992.

Ownership and Management; The site is owned by Peterlee Town Council and managed by its Neighbourhood services team.

Maintenance: The site is maintained by Peterlee Town Councils Neighbourhood services staff; this also includes a young college placement and a newly appointed apprentice who joined us in September 2025.

Significant Features and main uses; Peterlee Town Council own and manage Eden Lane Cemetery located on Eden Lane Road. The Cemetery office is located 100 meters away from the cemeteries main entrance and is part of the Neighbourhood services department depot. There are toilet facilities at this site which includes disabled access, we provide car parking for 30 cars which incorporates designated disabled parking. The cemetery has two access and egress points. The main entrance gate allows good disabled access, this entrance immediately leads on to the cemetery notice board which has a selection of useful information including the cemetery site map, a left turn leads you directly into our Remembrance Garden, a peaceful quiet area that includes seating. Carrying on through the remembrance garden brings you directly to our individual burial sections these are each identified by BLOCKS, 1 2, 3 ,4 ,5 ,6, 7. Each block consists of rows, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, J, K each containing 12-17 graves per row.

We have recently started the new instillation of Block 8; this includes new utilities that provide water points and further street lighting and our concrete rafts.



Block 8 instillation



Eden lane Cemetery can boast about its own unique reinforced raft system for our memorials. This additional feature currently will not be found in or around our local area, this is a welcomed addition from the feedback we receive from our visiting memorial masons and undertakers. Returning to the main entrance there is a long driveway that is lined with displays of colourful flower tubs and floral bedding arrangements, our hanging baskets and tubs are created by one of the several community organisations **PCP** Pioneering Care Partnership who are involved within the cemetery.

Continuing down the drive through an avenue of memorial flowering cherry trees and meandering crocus's, you arrive at the Cemetery obelisk which to date bears no important significance, however there are plans to develop this into a memorial of some kind following consultation with outside organisations and our local churches. This area allows spectacular uninterrupted views of the North Sea as well as the adjacent ex-mining village of Horden.

All the paths within the cemetery are user friendly and allow good access for our disabled visitors, the main double gates are open during working hours to allow direct access for any disabled visitor. Street lighting has been installed for the darker nights allowing visitors to comfortably attend their loved one's graves on those darker evenings, there is also the provision of CCTV for security purposes this is monitored from the cemetery office within the Neighbourhood services buildings, the Neighbourhood services manager and his deputy can access this if required. Metal ornate water points have recently been replaced with more user-friendly options these include the use of recycled plastics for the outer bodies which have proved to be a cost saving exercise regarding burst pipes throughout the colder winter months, additional to this all the water points are now on a set timer system again proving to be a cost saving move for Peterlee Town Council.

CAPACITY

Since opening in 1992 Peterlee cemetery has had 1234 interments and at the current rate, we expect there to be enough capacity to accommodate Peterlee's deceased residents for another 120-150 years. In generations to come Peterlee Town Council may need to consider capacity issues, however for the time being this management plan does not specifically include future capacity issues.

BRIEF HISTORY

Eden Lane Cemetery was developed in 1992 on what used to be farmed land. The Town Peterlee was named after a celebrated Durham miners leader called Peter Lee (1864-1935). It is one of a few places in the British Isles to be directly named after an individual and unique among the post second world war new Towns in being requested by local people through their MP.

The Town was mostly developed from 1950 to 1970 and occupies land immediately West of the large neighbouring mining village of Horden and to the North of the beautiful Castle Eden dene. This was all previously undeveloped countryside except for a few farms and scattered houses. An area close to Eden Lane Cemetery also includes the site of an abandoned Medieval village called Yoden which lies on the Eden Lane playing fields area of Peterlee today.

A WELCOMING PLACE

Cemeteries are for the living as well as the deceased and should provide a peaceful haven for all its visitors to enjoy. Important natural features include trees, shrubs, flowers, wildlife and lawned areas which includes seating for the bereaved to spend time to reflected and remember their loved ones.

A newly installed seating area has been created alongside the children's burial area on Block 6; this provides stunning views of the open ocean where people can reflect and drift back to happy memories of loved ones lost.



Peterlee Town Councils cemetery office on Eden Lane is the main location for enquires. The office is open Monday-Thursday 7.30 am – 15.30pm, Friday 7.30am – 15.00pm.

Funeral bookings mostly come through the funeral director however some clients come directly to the cemetery or telephone to make a booking. Memorial applications, burial searches, tree and memorial bench enquiries, purchase of grave spaces cremated remains plots are just some of the day-to-day enquiries that we deal with.

THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Management plans are an important aid to the efficient and effective management of the site and provide an opportunity to collate information relating to the site into a single comprehensive document.

The management plan is ‘owned’ by the Neighbourhood Services Department but has been developed with the support of other departments within the council such as Administration, Finance and Communications & Marketing.

The plan has been specifically laid out to comply with the green flag award scheme criteria. The result is a working document that is accessible to all those involved in managing and maintaining Eden Lane Cemetery. Paper copies can be made available however the need to update the plan means that it is best stored in an electronic format.

The management plan is a public document and can be accessed via the internet, it shall be reviewed annually as this process gives us the opportunity to reflect on success as well as changes in direction created by our ever-changing circumstances.

Management

To secure the Green Flag Award and indeed to ensure the ongoing protection and maintenance of the cemetery, a management plan or strategy must be in place which reflects the aspirations of a sustainable agenda, which clearly and adequately addresses all the criteria, and which must of course ensure the effective continuation of the cemetery as a working burial site. The cemetery is managed by Peterlee Town Council, for the working structure see Appendix 1

Effective financial management will be vital at a time when our cemetery is facing budget restrictions and a lack of investment.

HEALTH, SAFE AND SECURE

Eden Lane cemetery is managed to provide a healthy, safe and secure atmosphere and environment for all those who visit and work in it. Peterlee Town Council do allow dogs within the cemetery however we request that the owners keep their pets on a lead and immediately remove any fouling that may occur once inside the cemetery. The cemetery is covered by risk assessments which are annually reviewed, Appendix 2

SAFETY OF MEMORIALS

The safety of memorials programme began in January 2001 and can be carried out by three trained members of our cemetery team. The Neighbourhood Services Manager closely monitors the inspections which are carried out at the recommended five-year intervals see Appendix 2. Any memorials that fail these strict inspections are recorded and dealt with immediately. The original stone mason is contacted, and the remedial work is carried out usually within the week, the grave owner will be contacted and notified of this action and there should be no cost incurred for the grave owner.

This safety of memorials goes hand in hand with the monitoring of the stone masons who work within Eden Lane cemetery. Peterlee Town Council are also registered on the fixers licence data base and will only allow memorial masons who have successfully achieved their NAMM or BRAMM fixers licence to carry out work within Eden Lane cemetery. All memorial masons that carry out works in Eden Lane Cemetery have their licences kept on file within the Cemetery office alongside their business liability insurance, these are regularly monitored to make sure they are all currently up to date. Peterlee Town Council have also recently developed its own headstone policy Appendix 3.

TRAINING AND STAFF WELFARE

The cemetery staff are encouraged to develop their careers with training and attendance of the ICCM branch meetings, which is the only recognised country wide authority on all matters relating to the cemetery and crematorium service industry.

Peterlee Town Council is also committed to encouraging its staff on all relevant training schemes to give them the skills required to carry out our ever-improving service to the public. Two members of the cemetery team have

recently completed their memorial inspections certificates which increases the number now to three qualified personal.

All our staff have annual appraisals and have personal development plans in place to ensure that they have the skills and experience to provide an excellent cemetery service for the people of Peterlee and surrounding Area.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION.

As the only cemetery in Peterlee, we recognise that we have a monopoly, but we do communicate via our website & Facebook as well as engaging with the Eden Hill residents' group which are based in the adjacent Rugby club on Eden Lane. This group have recently been involved within the cemetery and has helped us to plant 5000 spring flowering bulbs. We also have the involvement of a community organisation based at Seaham. This group is called PCP and they have a responsibility with the development and planting of our hanging baskets within the cemetery.

Pioneering Care Partnership Group loading our plants at their nursery.



Eden Hill Residents, planting spring flowering bulbs.



Our Facebook page is @peterleetowncouncil

<https://www.facebook.com/PeterleeTownCouncil/>

Our website can be accessed here: <http://www.peterlee.gov.uk/cemetery-and-burials/>

CLEAN AND WELL MAINTAINED

Eden Lane cemetery is managed to provide a clean well-maintained environment for all its visitors to enjoy. Regular grass cutting and strimming keeps the areas in and around the Memorials clean and tidy, grave levels are regularly monitored, and immediate action taken if necessary. Yearly levelling of graves and reseedling takes place to combat the constant settlement within the graves, the floral displays found within the cemetery are changed twice a year to provide year-round colour, hedges are pruned twice yearly. The large block paved cemetery driveway requires constant attention to keep it free from annual weeds, our waste baskets are emptied weekly, and leaves are removed to prevent slips, trips, and falls, these are composted then reintroduced back into our planting schemes over the coming years.

Maintenance Area	Schedule
Landscaping	Landscaped areas will be maintained within allocated budgets and to the requirements of each landscaped area. Plant species will be replaced in Town Council maintained landscaped areas with a similar or same species of plant.
Turf Maintenance	The mowing of turf areas will be undertaken as required to ensure public safety, providing a satisfactory appearance always and to accommodate significant dates. Strimming around memorials is carried out monthly. Maintenance activities, such as fertilising and watering will be undertaken throughout the year in line with allocated budgets. The levelling and re-turfing of sunken graves will be ongoing to ensure public safety.
Headstone & Monuments	The ongoing maintenance of the headstones and monuments is the responsibility of the families. Council will treat both headstones and monuments as private property. Council may act in the interest of public safety if a monument or headstone is deemed unsafe and a risk to the public. The Council will attempt to notify the grave owner if any work is carried out, to eliminate safety concerns.
Foundation Raft	Foundation Raft's will be constructed in line with demand within the lawn section of each site. All instillation works are carried out by our Neighbourhood Services Staff.
Aesthetics	The rubbish will be collected from the site on a weekly basis. Investigate opportunities to continue and improve appearance of cemetery.
Additional Funding & Alternate Resourcing	Investigate grants. Investigate use of volunteers, community services and prisoners.

SUSTAINABILITY

Peterlee Town Council cemetery and park are managed to maintain sustainable development through our recycling of our green waste. Surrounding covers on our water points are made from re-cycled plastic. Trees that are removed from our woodland areas are chipped and the material is then re-used for our woodland pathways or mulch for our extensive shrub beds. Grass clippings are composted along with our old annual bedding and

again this is mixed with the topsoil that we remove from our new graves then this is re-used in our yearly grave levelling programme. The fallen annual leaves are collected and stored for several years then this provides us with excellent composted material which we re-introduce back into our annual floral bedding displays. Our placed nesting boxes and bird table are created using wood from old pallets. Our purchased annual bedding is grown in 50 per cent reduced peat compost and the plastic containers they are supplied in are either re-usable or recyclable and a take back scheme is in operation with our suppliers. Maintenance arrangements encourage the minimal use of pesticides and where pesticide use is necessary, the chemicals used will be of a non-residual nature, and all our operatives are trained and certified for that operation. Peterlee Town Council has a blanket ban on the use of Glyphosate which was agreed in 2019.

BIODIVERSITY

The enhancement of Biodiversity is a key aim of sustainable development. Our aim is to protect and enhance the natural habitat within Eden Lane Cemetery and help safeguard its wildlife. Our shrub beds provide ideal habitat for insects and birds, the floral displays prove popular with our pollinating insects.

Hedgerows and mature trees give permanent cover and protection for a variety of our visiting birds whilst also providing corridors along which wildlife can travel through. Placed nesting boxes give the option of a safe site and our on-site large three teared re-cycled plastic floral planters prove popular nesting sites for our revisiting blue tits every year. As previously mentioned, we have recycled plastic water points and recycled plastic seating.

The future of our planet depends on what we can promote and implement now, so here at Peterlee Town Council we are conscious of what contribution we can make. The Council has large areas of wildflowers that attract an abundance of pollinators and some of the UK's most recognisable animals. The presence of native Wildflowers brings much-needed stability to soils, preventing soil degradation and erosion due to weather (healthy soils can support much more life). Healthy soils are a very important carbon store, keeping carbon locked away for hundreds of years.

Tree planting has several benefits for mitigating climate change, supporting biodiversity and for human health. Here at Peterlee Town Council, we have

recently planted over 10,000 trees around our sites; by creating forests this is a key solution as it helps to sink carbon from the atmosphere and store this in the trees' biomass.

FUTURE PLANS

[Future Actions for Development in Health Safe and Secure](#)

Peterlee Town Council are to investigate and trial the reduction in mowing some of our larger areas outside the East side boundary of the cemetery this should hopefully encourage biodiversity within these areas. as the cemetery expands this will need addressing to give a more aesthetic appeal.

The introduction of a tree maintenance and management document for the cemetery has now been implemented, we also have them in place for our surrounding woodlands, and these have been created by our own qualified Neighbourhood services staff.

[Future Actions for Development in The Management Plan](#)

At the present time Peterlee Town Council's Eden Lane Cemetery currently have all burials completed within consecrated land, However the future planning would include investigating the options for multi faith and green burials as undeveloped sections are currently non-consecrated. However, following further investigation with our local undertakers this demand is currently almost non-existent. This option will still be carefully monitored over the coming years and if circumstances do change then the council would adapt for the benefit of its growing community.

The Town Council is looking at options to increase the use of the basic Pear Technology Mapping reference tool that we have introduced which can also be linked alongside our new RBS system (Rialtas Business Solutions) and have it expanded and updated on a more regular basis.

[Future Actions for Development in Clean and Well Maintained](#)

Peterlee Town Council is to maintain a beautiful and safe cemetery for the people of Peterlee. The Town Council will be engaging more with local schools and community groups for help with wildflower planting and bulb planting schemes. Looking to the future we certainly hope to re-connect with our local resources.

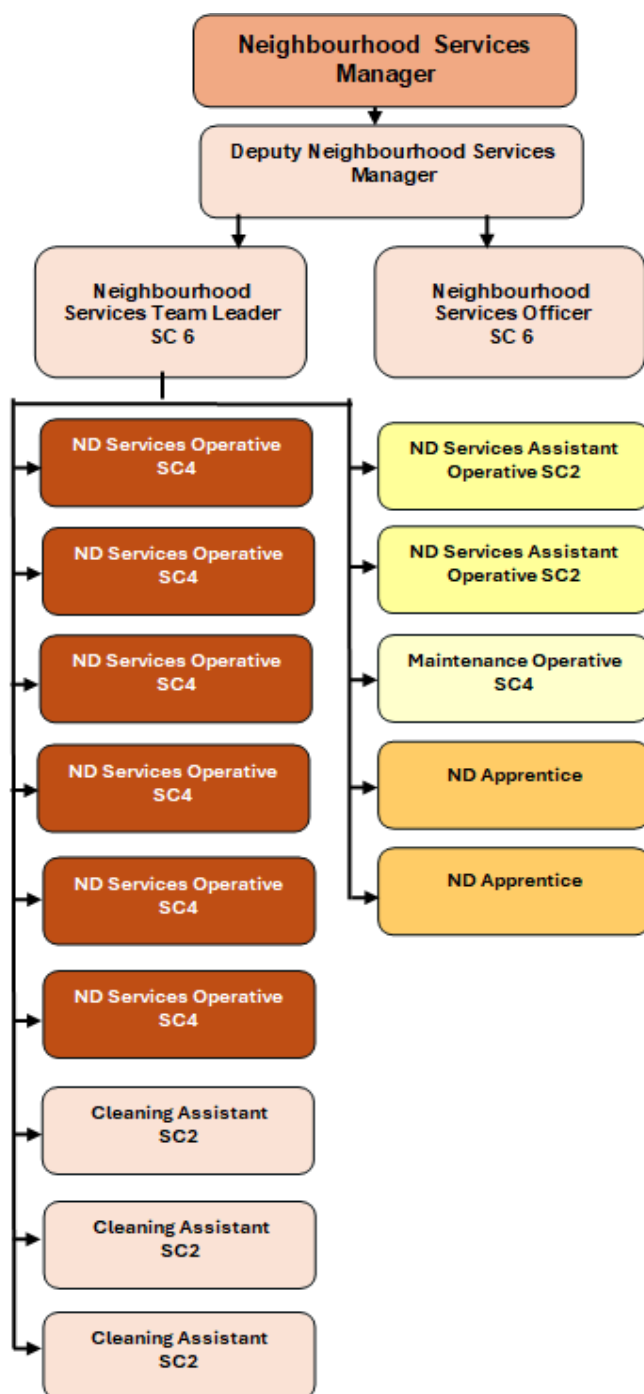
Our Marketing and Communication Strategy should now raise the profile of the Cemetery locally, and to mainland visitors; promote the heritage and conservation value of the site as well as hopefully increase more community engagement, involve more people in the delivery of the Cemetery management plan, promote the Cemetery's environmental credentials and promote natural burial options once they are available.

The Town Council website is continually updated and populated by our Democratic Services assistant.

[Future Actions for Development in Sustainability](#)

Peterlee Town Council are looking to include natural burial options which could incorporated a woodland burial section.

Appendix 1



Peterlee Town Council, Neighbourhood Services Structure 2025

Appendix 2

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL EDEN LANE CEMETERY

General Risk Assessment Record

Service and location	Work activity:	Date of assessment	Review Date
CEMETERY / EDENLANE	COMPLETE ROLL OF CEMETERY DUTIES.	03/07/2024	07/2026
Name of Assessor and position	Approved by (Service Manager)	Consultation	Reference Number
Gary Mc Court / Acting Deputy Manager	Wayne Harriman		

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you doing already?	What further action is needed?	Action by whom	Action by when	Done
Moving Machinery, Open Excavations. Working Below Ground Level, Unstable Memorials. Members of the public. Slips, Trips, & Falls. Chemical Applications	Staff & Members of the public. Staff & Cemetery Visitors Staff/ Grave Collapse. Staff/ Members of the Public. Crushing Injuries. Cemetery visitors. Moving machinery. Staff & Members of the Public. Cemetery Visitors & Staff. Inhalation.	Council vehicles with orange lights/beacons illuminated. Signage, Banksman. PPE. Grave covers in Place & Signage. PPE. Working in Pairs, Grave Shoring, Ladders, PPE. Regular Memorial Inspections. Tape off areas of concern/ Signage Regular Cemetery grounds inspections. Making sure the working area is clean & tidy. Signage. PPE, correct weather conditions	Regular Training & refresher courses Regular inspections of Ladders, Shoring equipment. Continue to monitor Memorials. Staff to continue their awareness in & around the Cemetery. Continual monitoring of the Cemetery area always. Correct Training and regular Refresher courses.	Staff Staff Cemetery Operatives. Cemetery Officer. Cemetery Operatives. Cemetery Operatives. Cemetery Operatives.	Daily When required Daily when in use. Recommended Period of 5 YRS Daily. Daily. Daily when in Use.	May 2022

N.B. Risk Assessment is Continuous Process — Significant Changes to the Work Activity Require a Review of the Assessment

Peterlee Town Council
CEMETERY MEMORIAL INSPECTION FORM

CEMETERY: EDEN LANE

SECTION: _____

Action Priority

1, Immediate Attention 2. Re-inspect in 1 month 3, Re-inspect in 6 months.

Plot No.	Surname	Mason	Type	Size		AB	C	D	E	F	G	H	Action To Be Taken	Priority
1														
2														
3														
4														
5														
6														
7														
8														
9														
10														
11														
12														
13														
14														
15														

Inspected by:

Date:

Key: A - Memorial upright and true B - Memorial Complete C - Vandalism Damage D - Ground Condition E - Memorial Weathering F - Topple Testing - 35kg G - Joint
Check H - Memorial / Stone Condition

Box ticked if everything was ok and a cross put in place if not. If any box crossed **action to be taken** detailed, then **action priority** recorded in last column.

ACTIVITY/ LOCATION/ EQUIPMENT/ PROJECT			FUNCTIONS/ PERSONS AFFECTED	ASSESSMENT DATE 18/06/2024			RA NUMBER	
Inspection of headstones, memorials and crosses in the cemetery.			Peterlee Town Council operatives, and Members of the Public	REVIEW DATE: 14/06/2025			PTC / MI / 01	
Service Team: Neighbourhood services Department				NEXT REVIEW DATE 06/2026				
No:	Hazard	Risk	Current Controls	Assessment Severity/Likelihood		Level	Further Controls/ Action	
1	Work at height	Risk of employees falling from ladders whilst inspecting headstones over 1 metre high.	All employees who inspect headstones are trained under ICCM / NAMM Memorial Management course and follow Ministry of Justice Guidance. All employees trained in ladder safety. All ladders manufactured to BS/EN 131 minimum standards and marked with unique ID number. Documented system of routinely inspecting all ladders in place.	3	2	M		
2	Manual handling	Musculo-skeletal injuries to employees from the testing of memorials.	All employees who inspect headstones are trained under ICCM / NAMM Memorial Management course and follow Ministry of Justice Guidance. All staff trained in correct manual handling techniques	3	2	M		
3	Falling Headstones	Crushing injuries to staff or members of the public from falling headstones	All employees who inspect headstones are trained under ICCM / NAMM Memorial Management course and follow Ministry of Justice Guidance. Advisory signs on Cemetery entrances to warn public that headstone inspections are in progress. Pushing force to be applied to the monument from a side position only out of line of the falling zone using a gradually increasing force with the palm of the hand and the other hand placed slightly behind the stone to restrict any movement. Dangerous headstones to be laid immediately. Monuments with slight movement to be marked, banded or pocketed in accordance with the Inspection Plan, using the Porta-gantry.	4	2	M		

4	Slips, trips and falls.	Employees, members of the public tripping on footpaths, slippery grass areas, tools and equipment during memorial inspections Increased risk during ice, snow or heavy rainfall and working on slopes	All employees who inspect headstones are trained under ICCM / NAMM Memorial Management course and follow Ministry of Justice Guidance. Advisory signs on Cemetery entrances to warn public that headstone inspections are in progress. Prior to headstone inspections, route to graves and area around grave checked for slip/trip hazards. All equipment used in inspections transported to vicinity in vehicle and kept on board vehicle when not in use. Memorials not inspected when frost or snow present.	2	2	L	
5	Extreme Temperature	Ill health from exposure to extreme temperatures.	Warm and waterproof clothing provided. Memorials not inspected when frost or snow present. Drinking water available.	1	2	I	
6	Display screen equipment	Possible visual fatigue, and Musculo-skeletal injuries from prolonged use of DSE	DSE equipment only used for short term tasks Workstation assessments not required by regulation	2	1	L	
7	Lone working	Employees feeling isolated, increased risk if there is a need to interact with aggressive mourners	All operators' whereabouts are known by the Team Leader/team members. Mobile phones are distributed to operatives and contact made on regular basis.	3	2	M	Operators to be provided with the Neighbourhoods Services lone working procedure NS/LONE
8	Violence and aggression	Aggressive behaviour and possible assault from mourners. Possible aggression as a result of the testing regime itself.	All staff made aware of the potential for aggressive behaviour by mourners. In the event of any aggressive behaviour, all employees empowered to contact the Police to summon assistance. All incidents reported on standard accident form, investigated and followed up by line managers.	2	2	L	



HEADSTONE INSPECTION POLICY

Version 1: July 2020

ABSTRACT

This Policy sets out the procedure for headstone testing in the Cemetery.

Wayne Harriman
Cemetery Officer

POLICY & PROCEDURE FOR HEADSTONE TESTING

The following procedure is carried out by a trained members of the Town Councils cemetery team in accordance with the directions and guidance regarding memorial safety.

1, Prepare and maintain a spread sheet detailing monuments. This will have three actions of priority:

- Immediate action required
- Re-inspect in one month
- Re-inspect in six months

The sheet will then consist of the following observations.

- Memorial upright and true,
- Memorial complete,
- Vandalism damage,
- Ground condition,
- Memorial weathering,
- Physical push test 25Kg,
- Joint check,
- Memorial/ Stone condition.

2, Display notices in cemetery notice board and website informing the public that memorial testing is to be carried out, one month prior to work commencing. ?

3, Headstones will be tested by hand where appropriate (physical push & pull test) any failing this test will be dealt with immediately (made safe). The cemetery officer will contact the original fixing mason to request that necessary remedial work is carried out as soon as possible. There shall be no cost imposed on to the grave owner. The grave owner will usually be notified of this procedure if it is possible to do so.

The above procedure should be followed every five years as recommended. Also, in addition to the above Peterlee Town Council are registered on the license fixers scheme. This means only registered memorial masons who have successfully completed their NAMM or BRAMM accreditations are allowed to install headstones within Eden Lane cemetery. This ensures that all memorials are fitted to a quality specification based on the NAMM code of working practice and BS 8414.

