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Camberwell Cemetery Consultation: Area B

June - July 2016



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1. Introduction

1.1: Background

In June 2012 Southwark Council's cabinet approved its Cemetery Strategy after a period of research and consultation. This strategy identified a shortage of burial space to meet predicted demand. The strategy recommends a series of short, medium and long-term options to address this challenge. Short and medium term options tend to focus on the council using areas of the Camberwell Old Cemetery and Camberwell New Cemetery that are currently unoccupied to address the immediate shortage of burial space. Additionally, by taking these short and medium term actions the council will extend the life span of the cemeteries to a point where the systematic reclamation and re-use of graves could take place. By doing this the council will create sustainable burial where future demand is met by re-using or reclaiming plots older than 75 years.

It should be noted that the Cemetery Strategy acknowledges that after all short and medium term options are exhausted, there will be a shortfall in provision, predicted between 2040 and 2045, where burial space within the cemetery will run out before the enough graves within Camberwell New Cemetery reach maturity. Additionally, the report notes that the council is not currently covered by legislation that allows the re-use of graves on non-consecrated ground, it is noted that this is likely an oversight but needs to be rectified before re-use of graves on un-consecrated ground can take place.

Several short and medium term options have already begun or have been completed. These include:

- Area A – a further extension of Camberwell New Cemetery, adjacent to Area B, which was completed in 2011 providing 415 new grave spaces
- Area E – a small area of land in Camberwell Old Cemetery, close to the entrance, made ready for burial in 2011 providing 50 grave spaces
- Area F,F1 – an area of land reclaimed and topped up with soil, in southern corner of Camberwell Old Cemetery, was made ready for burial in 2013 and has provided 721 grave spaces
- Area D1 – an on-going development in the north east corner of Camberwell New Cemetery to provide 145 new plots. Pending faculty permission
- Area Z – an on-going development, in the north western corner of Camberwell Old Cemetery, to provide 700 new plots. Pending faculty permission

Despite this Southwark Council predicts that their current provision of burial space will be exhausted in 2017. As a result, the development of Area B in Camberwell New Cemetery has been brought forward. This site, owned by the council, was previously used as a fireworks factory and later a nursery. It borders Honor Oak Park Station and Honor Oak Park. Currently, the majority of the site is inaccessible to the public, apart from a car park and access route to Honor Oak Recreation ground. Southwark Council appointed LUC to develop proposals for this site, which would make it suitable for burial, and these plans were published for consultation on the 21st June 2016.

The proposals would:

- Create approximately 1000 new burial plots (2000 new burial spaces)
- Remove existing contaminated soil and rubble and reinstate clean soil suitable for burial
- Retain the car park and maintenance depot in their current locations
- Remove the secondary vehicle entrance from Honor Oak Park and add additional buffer planting
- Add new cemetery footpaths and upgrade existing pedestrian routes
- Retain pedestrian access to the recreation ground
- Retain access to One Tree Hill allotments along the main entrance
- Retain the existing buffer planting
- Improve biodiversity by planting further native trees and planting
- Improved drainage systems to control surface water run-off

1.2: Objectives of the Consultation

It was intended that the consultation process would engage residents local to the area, in Southwark and Lewisham, on the periphery of Camberwell New Cemetery. The council also consulted local stakeholder groups who were given the opportunity to comment on the proposals. The objectives of the consultation were:

1. To gain feedback on the general proposed layout of the site
2. To gain feedback on the layout of the paths within the cemetery
3. To gain feedback on proposals to retain and improve biodiversity in the site
4. To gain feedback on the maintenance depot and car park

Because the Cemetery Strategy has already been approved by Southwark Council, the principle of burial was not consulted on. As a result the objectives of the consultation listed above reflect this.

1.3: Elements of the Consultation

This consultation ran between the 21st June and the 22nd July and consisted of three elements; a survey and two public exhibitions. Residents and stakeholders were also welcome to submit written feedback on the proposals.

Survey

In order to gather feedback from as wide a range of people as possible, a questionnaire was designed that gave respondents the opportunity to express their opinions and thoughts on the proposed developments. The survey was published on Southwark Council's consultation hub and paper copies were made available at the exhibitions and in the Cemetery Office.

A total of 445 completed survey responses were received during the consultation period.

Public Exhibitions

Two public exhibits were held during the consultation. The first exhibit was held on the 29th June between 10:00am and 7:00pm. The exhibit was held at the Chapel in Camberwell New Cemetery. Four A1 boards outlined the background to the proposals and the plans for the site. Residents were invited to use post-it-notes to provide feedback on the proposals as well as completing paper surveys. Representatives from Southwark Council and LUC were present to answer any technical questions. There were 23 attendees.

The second exhibit was held on the 14th July between 4:30pm and 7:30pm. The exhibit was held at the Chapel in Camberwell New Cemetery. Four A1 boards outlined the background to the proposals and the plans for the site. Residents were invited to use post-it-notes to provide feedback on the proposals as well as completing paper surveys. Representatives from Southwark Council and LUC were present to answer any technical questions. There were 3 attendees.

Promotion

Multiple local channels were used to advertise the consultation and consultation events. Leaflets were mail-dropped to 1,200 local residents. Posters were also displayed in Camberwell New Cemetery and the surrounding area. Southwark's twitter account regularly encouraged residents to view the plans and respond to the survey. One

advert was placed in Southwark Life and a further advert was placed in Southwark News (Dulwich edition) and residents could find out about the consultation on the council's consultation hub and their main website.

2. Executive Summary

The majority of respondents oppose the use of Area B for burial and instead would prefer the site to be developed into a green open space for community use. As a result, **few respondents commented on specific elements of the layout.**

Many respondents used this consultation as an opportunity to comment of the overarching Cemetery Strategy.

Many respondents are concerned about the sustainability of inner city burial and the possibility of the council extending Camberwell New Cemetery into other local green spaces. **Some are also concerned about the Cemetery Strategy's recommendation for re-use**, either because of religious reasons or out of respect for the dead.

There is some support for new footpaths as well as upgrades to existing footpaths and the car park. Some respondents would like a new footpath in Area B to link up to Honor Oak Park to provide an additional pedestrian access route through the area.

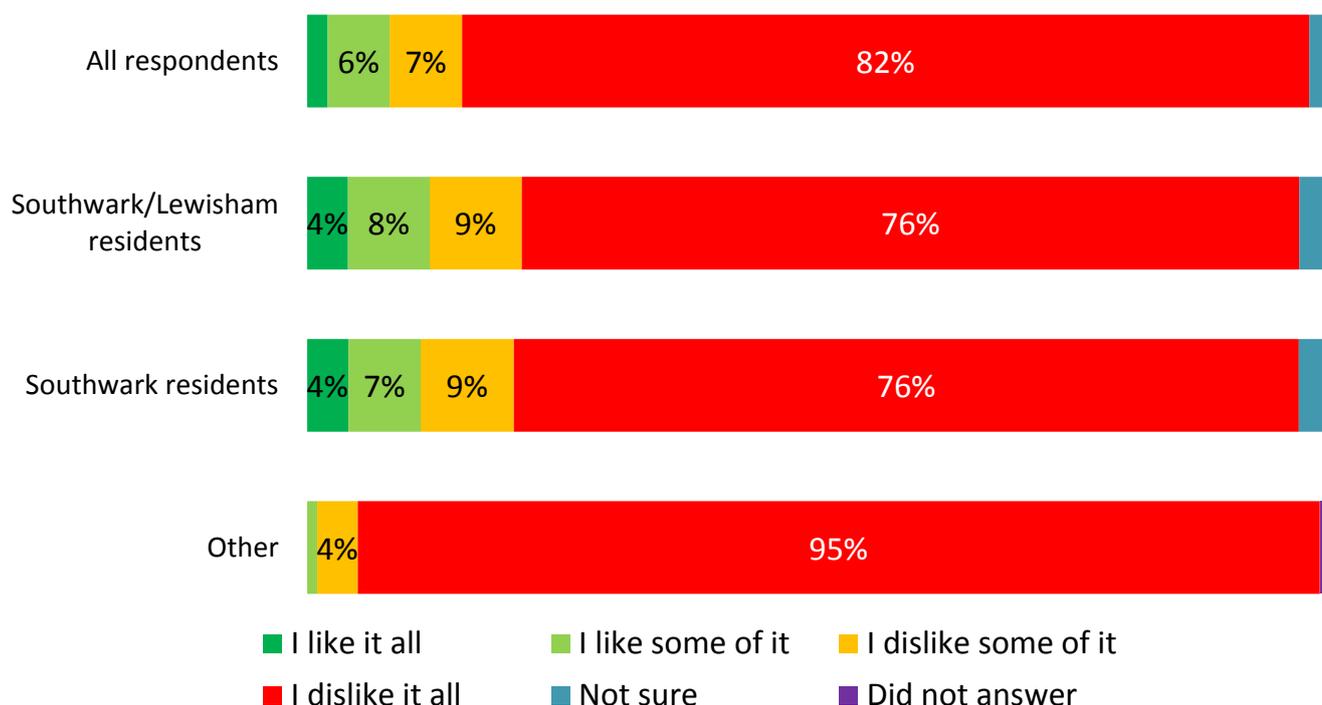
A small number of respondents suggested that burial could be provided in Area B in ways which would allow Area B to develop into a natural green space that could also be used by the community. **Smaller unobtrusive monuments and a more relaxed approach to managing grasses and plants in this area could be employed to create a meadow burial space.** This option could be explored as a way to **balance the needs of the borough with the views of local residents.**

There is a strong desire for Area B to be developed into some form of green natural open space.

The council should engage a broader group of residents about its Cemetery Strategy and the implications of the strategy.

3. Questionnaire Response Analysis

3.1: Overall views on the layout of Area B



***Other – all respondents whose full or partial postcode places them outside the London Boroughs of Southwark and Lewisham**

Source: Camberwell New Cemetery Area B consultation survey, 21/06/2016-22/07/2016 “Q1. Having seen the proposed layout of the site, what do you think?” Base: All respondents (445), Southwark/Lewisham residents (296), Southwark residents (181) and Others (181)

Respondents were asked to consider the proposed layout as a whole and answer whether they liked the overall plans. The majority of respondents (82%) do not like any elements of the proposed layout. Fewer than one in ten respondents like some or all elements of the proposals (8%).

A significant proportion of the responses, 149 respondents, came from those living outside of either Southwark or Lewisham. The proportion of Southwark and Lewisham residents that dislike all elements of the proposals is less than the same proportion of respondents living outside of these boroughs. Just over three out of four Southwark and Lewisham residents dislike all elements of the proposal where as 95% of respondents from outside these

boroughs dislike all elements of the proposal. Additionally, only one respondent living outside these boroughs likes some or all elements of the proposals in contrast to 12% of the Southwark and Lewisham residents.

The Friends of Camberwell Cemeteries/Save Southwark Woods organisation recommended followers and members respond to the survey by answering the first question by selecting “I dislike it all”. This organisation has 1,544 likes on Facebook, 2,270 followers on Twitter and a petition with 9,273 signatures on 38 degrees petition site against Southwark Councils’ Cemetery Strategy. This might account for the high number of non-resident responses as well as the high proportion of negative responses amongst all groups of respondents.

Reasons given

Respondents were asked to explain their response to the first question; there were 428 responses to this question, 385 of which were from respondents who dislike some or all elements of the proposals. Generally, those who dislike some or all elements of the proposal did so because they do not support the use of Area B for burial as opposed to disliking specific elements of the layout.

Those that do like the proposals commented that this area helped address the shortage of burials in the borough and recommended amendments to the layout which would improve access from Honor Oak Park with a new pedestrian and cyclist entrance as well as encourage wild/meadow/natural burial in this area.

Below are some of the major themes that emerged from this question.

Themes	Comments	Direct quotes
Area B should be developed into a natural green space (37%)	<p>Many respondents feel that this space could be developed into a natural green space.</p> <p>There were a variety of alternative suggestions for the use of this site as a green space. These include an orchard, nature reserve and market garden.</p> <p>A small number of respondents feel that Area B could be a valuable green space and cemetery if the area is allocated for meadow burial.</p> <p>Related topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing green space should be protected (24%) Green space benefits the environment (8%) Green space benefits public/mental health (6%) 	<p><i>‘I think that this is a terrible loss of Metropolitan Open Land for just a few years burial – Area B should be a nature reserve’</i></p> <p><i>‘I believe that the best use of this land would be an orchard or wooded area’</i></p> <p><i>‘I don’t think inner city green spaces should be used for burial plots, we need playing fields, woods allotments etc.’</i></p>

<p>Area B should be developed into a space for the local community (35%)</p>	<p>Many respondents commented that this site should be used to house new amenities for the local community.</p> <p>Many of these suggestions are linked closely with developing this space into a green open space. For instance some want Area B to be used for allotments.</p> <p>Many respondents feel that the site should be used to house recreational and public health facilities such as sport pitches and outdoor gyms.</p> <p>A few respondents want Area B to be used as a community market.</p>	<p><i>‘The land should be used for community woods or orchards, play space, sports space, allotments, market garden or any other community use.’</i></p> <p><i>‘The land was originally earmarked for community play or sports use.’</i></p>
<p>Area B should not be used for burial (33%)</p>	<p>Many respondents feel that Area B should not be used for burial. A variety of reasons are given including the limited open space in London and the importance of green space for the environment.</p> <p>Some noted that the majority of people opt for cremation and therefore only a minority of Southwark’s population would be negatively affected by burial outside of the borough.</p> <p>Related topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of Area B should be for the living not the deceased (24%) 	<p><i>‘I do not want this site used for a cemetery. This is a very short term solution and more and more of our local land is being given over for burial sites.’</i></p> <p><i>‘People will have to face up to the fact that, unfortunately, in cities, space is at a premium, and the spare cannot be locked up as sterile graves and graveyards for the foreseeable future.’</i></p>
<p>Green spaces should be protected (24%)</p>	<p>Some respondents want green space to be protected.</p> <p>Often respondents who shared this view criticised other on-going projects linked to the Cemetery Strategy such as Area D1 and Z.</p> <p>A small number of respondents referenced Area B as woodland indicating that there might be some confusion with other options in the Cemetery Strategy.</p> <p>Related topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited green space (16%) 	<p><i>‘Southwark seems disinclined to protect what little green space is remaining in the area.’</i></p> <p><i>‘I like the open land and the trees and nature that exist currently it provides a much needed lung in the area. Cutting down trees and extending burials inside London is no longer a sustainable or desirable use of land in our crowded city.’</i></p>

Inner city burial is unsustainable (15%)

Some respondents feel that burial in the borough is unsustainable.

Some argued that re-use/recycling of graves should be considered rather than further development.

Others argued that people should be discouraged from burying their loved ones

‘2000 plots will be used up very quickly - it is totally unsustainable to keep burying people and Southwark needs to change its policy.’

‘It is completely unsustainable to bury so many - increase in housing /increase in people /increase in burial. Should be looking at alternatives and promoting space saving i.e. cremation. There simply isn't room and people who are ALIVE need green space to keep healthy and keep living.’

Source: Camberwell New Cemetery Area B consultation survey, 21/06/2016-22/07/2016 “Q2. Why do you say that? Please tell us you chose the option” Base: All those who answered Q2 (428)

3.2: Footpaths and pedestrian routes

There were 285 responses to this question, 253 responses from those who do not like some or all elements of the proposals and 25 from those who like some or all of the proposals.

Respondents who like some or all elements of the proposals want paths in the plans to link up to Honor Oak Park to provide a new pedestrian route through the park. They also want assurances that the paths will not be too big and will be designed sympathetically with need for the site to be peaceful and serene.

Respondents who do not like some or all of the elements of the proposal often commented that they oppose the use of Area B as a cemetery and therefore any changes and improvements as a result of the plans. Some commented that there is no need for additional paths and hard standing as these could damage the natural habitats of the site.

Overleaf are some of the major themes that emerged from this question:

Themes	Comments	Direct quotes
General opposition to the planned use of Area B (65%)	<p>Many respondents oppose the use of Area B as a cemetery and therefore oppose all design elements</p> <p>Related topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land should be used for community use (11%) Against burial on this site (10%) 	<i>‘Due to the increase in burial plots green space will be diminished - therefore additions and upgrade of pathways are not the main consideration at present.’</i>
Area B should be developed into a natural green space (10%)	<p>Rather than discuss paths specifically some respondents wanted the area to be developed as a green space.</p> <p>Related topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green space should be protected (16%) 	<i>‘You should landscape the area for public use as a park or nature reserve.’</i>

Support for additional paths and upgrades to existing ones (13%)

A number of respondents are supportive of additional paths and upgrades to the existing footpaths. They feel that the new paths will make the area more accessible.

5% of respondents would also like the site to be opened up to Honor Oak Park to provide the new access route for pedestrians.

Related topics:

- Would like upgrades and additional footpaths without burial (2%)
- Footpaths should be designed so that there is minimal impact on the local habitat (2%)

'Sounds like a good idea. As well as giving access for those who wish to visit the graves, it would also be a walking route for others.'

'These footpaths should be constructed of eco-friendly material, rather than concrete or paving.'

Source: Camberwell New Cemetery Area B consultation survey, 21/06/2016-22/07/2016 "Q3. There will be new cemetery footpaths and upgrades to existing pedestrian routes. Do you have any comments or concerns?" Base: All those who answered Q3 (285)

3.3: The car park and the maintenance depot

There were 222 responses to this question, 196 responses from those who do not like some or all of the proposals and 23 responses from those who like some or all of the proposals.

Respondents who like some or all of the proposals are pleased that the car park will be optimised for use by both park and cemetery users. Some also want the council to provide facilities for cyclists.

Respondents who do not like some or all elements of the proposals argue that the council should be trying to discourage residents from driving to the cemetery. These respondents were also concerned that improvements to the car park will lead to an increase in hard standing and a resultant loss in green space.

Below are some of the major themes that emerged from this question:

Themes	Comments	Direct quotes
General opposition to the area being used as a cemetery (59%)	<p>Most people who answered the question oppose the use of Area B as a cemetery and therefore oppose all changes as a result of these proposals.</p> <p>Related topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area B should be used for community use (11%) 	<p><i>'I do not want this area to be turned into burial plots!'</i></p> <p><i>'Proposed 'improvements' are immaterial in the scope of the overall package of measures.'</i></p>
Supportive of proposals which would retain the car park and maintenance depot. (17%)	<p>Some respondents were supportive of proposals to retain the car park and maintenance depot.</p> <p>These respondents are pleased that the car park will be retained noting how it is important for many different groups such as park users and those with allotments.</p>	<p><i>'I am just glad the car park is remaining as it does get very busy at the weekend with footballers however layout could be improved to encourage better parking because currently if people cannot find spaces they just park in the middle'</i></p> <p><i>'This is welcomed. At weekends the car park is often at capacity. It is therefore important that this is not reduced.'</i></p>
Area B should be developed into a natural green space (15%)	<p>Some respondents used question 4 to argue that Area B should be developed into a natural green space.</p> <p>There were several suggestions for alternative uses of Area B, such as a nature reserve.</p>	<p><i>'The vegetation, greenery, trees and nature that were previously there have been totally destroyed and there should be immediate plans to landscape the area, restore its natural beauty for all to enjoy.'</i></p>

Opposed to any increase in hard standing (12%)

Some respondents are concerned that improvements to the car park and maintenance depot will lead to an increase in hard standing.

'This is a park for people on foot, not cars. Do not cover any more green space with concrete.'

Related topics:

- The council should discourage residents from driving to Camberwell New Cemetery (5%)
- The car park should be removed entirely (2%)

Source: Camberwell New Cemetery Area B consultation survey, 21/06/2016-22/07/2016 "Q4. The existing car park and maintenance depot will be retained, but layout will be improved. Do you have any comments or concerns about this?"
Base: All those who answered Q4 (222)

3.4: Existing vegetation, trees and the woodland boundary

There were 300 responses to this question, 264 responses from those who do not like some or all of the proposals and 29 responses from those who like some or all of the proposals.

Respondents who like some or all of the proposals were generally supportive of plans to retain existing vegetation and trees.

Respondents who dislike some or all of the proposals feel that these plans will actually decrease biodiversity as lawn burials create single species sterile environments. Some respondents also feel that there will be a net loss of biodiversity across the cemetery as a result of other developments.

Below are some of the major themes that emerged from this question:

Themes	Comments	Direct quotes
General opposition Area B being used for burial (44%)	<p>The majority of respondents used this question to explain how they oppose the use of Area B as a cemetery.</p> <p>By opposing the use of this site for burial, these respondents oppose any changes included in these proposals.</p>	<i>'This is not good enough. Please do not turn this area into burial plots.'</i>
Supportive of proposals to retain the boundary (33%)	<p>Around a third of respondents are pleased with plans to retain the existing woodland boundary.</p> <p>Related topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some feel that the woodland boundary should be extended (10%) One respondent felt that a buffer should also be developed on the boundary of the railway track (1%) 	<p><i>'Happy with vegetation and trees serving as a boundary between park and cemetery and be nice to see some new planting as long as it is maintained to keep it looking it's best.'</i></p> <p><i>'It is important that the trees and vegetation is kept, as it helps filters out noise and make the cemetery a nicer place to come to.'</i></p>
All flora and fauna should be retained (15%)	<p>Some respondents felt that the council should attempt to protect all flora and fauna in this site.</p> <p>These respondents feel that this site has already been allowed to develop into an important ecosystem that should not be disturbed.</p> <p>Related topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land should be returned to the wild (15%) 	<i>'The whole area should be preserved as a nature reserve.'</i>

<p>The proposals will actually lead to a decrease in biodiversity (7%)</p>	<p>Some respondents believe that creating burial space in Area B will decrease biodiversity by creating a monoculture.</p> <p>Other respondents feel that biodiversity needs to be considered in a broader context including Camberwell New Cemetery.</p> <p>Some respondents feel that additional planting in Area B was designed to compensate for the removal of established trees elsewhere.</p>	<p><i>'I think that any upheaval will be more detrimental to biodiversity than these "enhancements".'</i></p>
<p>Respondents do not trust the council to deliver on these promises (13%)</p>	<p>While some respondents feel this element of the proposal is appropriate they believe the council is unlikely to fulfil its promise. They cite the clearance work at Area D1 and Z as evidence that the council cannot be trusted.</p>	<p><i>'Given the record of destruction in this area in recent times I do not believe that these plans will enhance biodiversity at all.'</i></p>

Source: Camberwell New Cemetery Area B consultation survey, 21/06/2016-22/07/2016 "Q5. Existing vegetation and trees to Honor Oak Park boundary will be retained and biodiversity will be enhanced through additional native trees and plantings. Do you have any comments or concerns about this?" Base: All those who answered Q5 (300)

3.6: Further comments about the proposals for Camberwell New Cemetery

There were 273 responses to this question, 246 responses from those who do not like some or all of the proposals and 21 responses from those who like some or all of the proposals.

Respondents who like some or all of the proposals want assurances that as a result of this development the council will not seek to extend the cemetery onto Honor Oak Recreation Ground. Some also request that developments in Area Z and D1 are also halted.

Respondents who dislike some or all of the proposals generally feel that there are many other possible uses for the site, highlighting that Area B is Metropolitan Open Land and they feel that this disqualifies it from being used as a cemetery.

Below are some of the major themes that emerged from this question:

Themes	Comments	Direct quotes
General opposition to Area B being used as a cemetery (73%)	Many respondents used this open question to criticise the use of Area B for burial. Generally the majority of respondents oppose any plans to increase burial space in Camberwell New Cemetery, viewing such plans as unsustainable.	<i>'Please bring the area back into public use as a nature reserve or park. NOT a cemetery.'</i>
Area B should be developed for community use (21%)	<p>Many respondents feel that Area B should be used to provide facilities for Honor Oak Residents. Some feel that it is unfair that all Southwark's cemeteries are concentrated in one area.</p> <p>Related topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land should be for the living not the dead (12%) 	<p><i>'The space should be used for a community wood or orchard. We need more bio diverse green space in our cities and Southwark ought to be setting a good example in providing this for residents.'</i></p> <p><i>'Ensure Area B is laid out in such a way that it can be enjoyed by the community primarily as an area for nature and wildlife, both from the outset and into the future.'</i></p>
Area B should be developed into a natural green space (18%)	<p>Some respondents used this opportunity to reiterate that they feel Area B should be developed into a natural green space rather than a cemetery. Various alternatives were suggested including nature reserves, orchards etc.</p> <p>Related topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green space should be retained (16%) 	<i>'We want to see community woods or orchards, play space, sports space, allotments, market garden or any other community use. Locking up public green space as private dead space for the next 100 years is unsupportable.'</i>

Burial practises should be reviewed (8%)

Respondents feel that the council should review its burial practices for a number of reasons. Some are supportive of re-use while other are against re-use. Some feel the council should still provide burial space, but outside of the borough, other feel that the council should start to discourage people from burial in favour of cremation.

- Burial space unsustainable (8%)

'If you must bury people here - why not have a 'natural' cemetery with minimal disruption and change - eco burials in other words?'

'Space may be an issue for burials but you can reuse plots as they do in Switzerland.'

Source: Camberwell New Cemetery Area B consultation survey, 21/06/2016-22/07/2016 "Q6. Do you have any further comments about the proposals for Camberwell New Cemetery?" Base: All those who answered Q5 (273)

4. Feedback from Meetings

4.1 Exhibition 1

The first exhibition was held on the 29th June between 10:00am and 7:00pm at the Chapel in Camberwell New Cemetery and 23 people attended. Officers and experts noted down feedback they received and attendees were also encouraged to leave thoughts on a comment board. Feedback from this exhibition has been collated and summarised below:

General themes

Multi-use cemetery

Some residents want Area B to be a multi-use site that could be used for burials but also by the local community. One resident even suggested that some landscaping work could be done to create an artificial dell and limitations on memorials could be introduced that make the area aesthetically pleasing and relaxing for all users.

Other residents feel that the need to increase burial space could be achieved while improving the biodiversity of the site. If done correctly Area B could also become a nature reserve while doubling as a cemetery.

Some residents are concerned about how Area B could be developed in ways which benefit users of Honor Oak Recreation Ground. They want paths extended to the disused entrance on Honor Oak Park to provide a further pedestrian access route to the park.

Consideration for other possible uses of Area B

Some residents feel that the council should reconsider using the site for burial. There were many alternative uses suggested. Some stakeholders, such as those from Friends of Camberwell Cemeteries/Save Southwark Woods argue that with limited green space in the borough and London overall, the site should be allowed to grow wild.

Others argue that it is inappropriate for the council to use brownfield sites, such as this one, for burial when it could be used by local residents. One Lewisham resident, and neighbour of the site, said that the council had promised to allocate this site for community use in the 1990's. This resident suggested that the hard standing could be used as a community market and car park while the remaining green space could be allowed to develop into a meadow. This resident felt that local people have little trust in the council to undertake any extensive landscape work, when Area B had previously been used as an illegal landfill site and which had led to a landslip on Honor Oak Park Station.

Other residents want the site to be used as a further recreational ground.

Access to Honor Oak Recreation Ground

Residents are generally positive about access in the proposals. Park users are pleased the car park would be re-organised and those interested in the use of the cemetery feel that the footpaths are appropriate. Many residents and stakeholder would like the footpaths within the site to link up with a gate on Honor Oak Park. They believe that there will not be any issues opening up these access paths earlier in the morning and later in the evening.

Some residents are concerned that some cemetery users will drive right up to the graves of their loved ones, damaging the peaceful nature of the site. They are pleased that the plans include barriers preventing unauthorised vehicles from driving into Area B.

Integrating biodiversity/planting/wildlife into the site

Residents are generally supportive of proposals that will retain the existing plant buffer and leave an area where newts were found untouched. Some feel that an additional plant buffer should be installed next to the train station to replace the trees removed as a result of a previous land slippage onto Honor Oak Park Station. This additional buffer could provide a visual barrier for residents from Honor Oak and help create a more peaceful site by blocking out sound from the train station.

Friends of Camberwell Cemeteries/Save Southwark Woods argue that this site should not be used as a cemetery and instead should be allowed to grow wild.

Criticisms of the Cemetery Strategy overall

Some residents and stakeholders gave feedback on Southwark Council's overarching Cemetery Strategy. They argue that the strategy is based on a flawed consultation which found high levels of opposition to the use of Honor Oak Recreation ground as a cemetery without fully consulting on the clearance of trees in the existing cemetery boundary to provide more space for burial.

SSW/FOCC also criticise the council for not consulting on burial practices. Specifically, re-use which they argue is a controversial practice even amongst those that support local burial.

SSW/FOCC also argues that the council is wrong for suggesting that there is demand/need for in-borough burials. While they acknowledge that some people in the borough have a preference for burial, these residents may oppose in-borough burial when viewing this provision in light of limited green space in the local area

Some also commented that it is wrong for the council to limit the consultation to the layout of Area B if used as a cemetery. Instead they believe the council should more widely consult on potential uses of Area B.

4.2 Exhibition 2

The second exhibition was held on the 14th July between 4:30pm and 7:30pm at the Chapel in Camberwell New Cemetery and 3 people attended. Officers and experts noted down feedback they received and attendees were also encouraged to leave thoughts on a comment board. Feedback from this exhibition has been collated and summarised below:

General themes

Access through the cemetery

A representative from Southwark Cyclists and London Living Street commented that they would like to see improved access routes through the cemetery (including Area B improved). They also noted that there are right turns issues for cyclists accessing the cemetery and Honor Oak Park from Honor Oak Road and suggested that the council should look into ways to improve safety for cyclists.

Grave maintenance

One resident commented that grave owners should be allowed to plant on their plots. By allowing this the council could make Area B look like a formal garden.

Bio-diversity

Two attendees responded by stressing that the council should be looking at bio-diversity in a broader context encompassing the entire cemetery. They argue that when considering this the council will find that there will be net bio-diversity loss.

5. Email/Letter feedback

In addition to feedback through the online and paper questionnaires, many residents and interested parties responded to the consultation in letters and emails to Southwark Council. These letters and emails have been collected and catalogued. This section will identify some of the common themes that appeared regularly in correspondence with the council and also highlight feedback from key stakeholder groups. There were:

- 22 emails

In around half of the email responses to the consultation, Friends of Camberwell Cemetery/Save Southwark Woods were cc'd in.

Other uses for Area B

Many respondents oppose the use of Area B as a cemetery. Instead they feel that the council should explore other options. Some residents suggested that the site could be turned into a nature reserve or an orchard. Others suggested that the site could be used as BMX dirt track or outdoor gym.

Save Southwark Woods/Friends of Camberwell Cemeteries hosted a competition on alternative uses for Area B. Their feedback will be considered in this report separately.

Burial is unsustainable

Some respondents also noted that making this area of land suitable for burial will only create up 1000 burial spaces and therefore only provide several years' worth of burial. These respondents feel this is inappropriate as the need for green space outweighs a few years supply of burial spaces.

Access

A number of local groups commented that they would like the plans to increase 'permeability' of the area. They would like a new access route from Honor Oak Park through Area B.

6. Stakeholder response

6.1 Friends of Southwark Woods/Save Southwark Woods

In their official response, Friends of Camberwell Cemetery/Save Southwark Woods disliked all elements of the proposal. In their response they argue that the council's approach is short sighted because if burials do take place, it locks up the use of the area for at least 75 years. They note that it is not a statutory requirement for the council to provide burial space. They feel that this site could be better used as a more bio-diverse green space, providing environmental and public health benefits, noting that they have *'11,000 people calling on Southwark Council to protect Camberwell Cemeteries'*.

In general they view this proposal in the broader context of the overarching Cemetery Strategy. They argue that there should be a 'proper' consultation on all elements of the Cemetery Strategy; as well as alternative ways of addressing the shortage of burial space such as out of borough burial; and burial practises (i.e. the re-use of graves).

SSW/FOCC also ran a competition on their website to come up with alternative uses of Area B. The most popular suggestion was for Area B to be made into a nature reserve. It should also be noted that many responses to SSW/FOCC were addressed to Southwark Council officers and as a result much of this feedback is duplicated from their email responses.

Nature reserve	14
Orchard	6
Allotments	6
Play space	4
Sports space	3
Park	3
Wild life paradise	2
Community woods	2
Football pitch	1
Tennis court	1
Outdoor art area	1
Market garden	1
BMX track	1
Nut grove	1

6.2 Friends of Honor Oak Recreation Ground

In their official response, Friends of Honor Oak Rec like all elements of the proposal particularly the potential for the addition of a new access points for park users and residents.

They welcome the improvements to the car park that will make it safer for pedestrians and would like to see the pedestrian access path extended so that it continues around the car park. They are happy with footpath improvements so long as there are no restrictions for park users. They also note that a clearer car park is needed because when visitors park there at times of peak usage, often there is not enough space so car park in the centre of the car park.

Outside of Area B the Friends of Honor Oak Recreation Ground also commented that they would like a formal entrance to the park for residents coming from Brenchley Gardens noting that they can currently use a fire gate behind the chapel but that this is often locked.

6.3 Camberwell Cemeteries Working Group

The Camberwell Cemeteries Working Group (CCWG) 'like some' elements of the proposal. They note how the plans would retain existing trees and increase biodiversity in Area B. They also welcome plans to remediate contaminated soil and are pleased that the plans could create space for up to 2000 burials without damaging the environment.

They feel that the plans for Area B would allow the council to 'put on hold' plans for Areas Z and D1 which they are concerned will damage the environment and increase the risk of flooding.

They would also like the council to consider using the design and layout of the burial space to differentiate it from other areas of the cemetery. They suggest that the council should look into meadow and woodland burial for Area B.

6.4 One Tree Hill Allotment Society

The One Tree Hill Allotment Society like some elements of the proposal. They would like the design to be slightly altered so that the path within the burial section of Area B links up with a disused entrance on Honor Oak Road and is extended right to the recreation ground. They suggest that this could be designated the pedestrian entrance, while the vehicle entrance could remain where it is currently located.

In addition to renovating the road surface and clearly demarking parking bays they also want gates to the allotments demarked with yellow hatching to prohibit parking in front of the gates.

6.5 Hillyfielders Football Club

The Hillyfielders Football Club dislike some elements of the proposal. Their main concern centres on issues of drainage throughout the entire cemetery. They are concerned that path improvements and additional paths will compound drainage problems which prevent the use of the recreation ground. They recommend that instead of developing a Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) strategy for Area B, there should be a wider strategy for the entire cemetery. They suggest that there should be more bins throughout Honor Oak Park.

6.6 Southwark Living Streets

Southwark Living Streets feel that works on Area B could offer an opportunity to improve the 'permeability' of Camberwell New Cemetery. They note that the Cemetery is a key route for pedestrians and cyclists travelling to Honor Oak Park Station from South Nunhead and want a new pedestrian/cyclist gate as close as possible to Honor Oak Park Station.

Outside of Area B they also want a gate on Brenchley Gardens unlocked and renovated.

6.7 Southwark Cyclists

Southwark Cyclists shared their views with Southwark Living Streets. Southwark cyclists would like to improve the permeability of Camberwell New Cemetery by creating a new pedestrian and cyclist access gate as near as possible to Honor Oak Park Station.

6.8 Friends of One Tree Hill

The Friends of One Tree Hill offered no objection to the proposals. They are supportive of plans to retain native species and reduce invasive species to create biodiversity. They also welcome plans to remove contaminated soil and increase accessibility.

Appendix A: Survey Questionnaire

Creating new burial space within Camberwell New Cemetery at Honor Oak Consultation

Southwark, like many other boroughs, is quickly running out of burial space. If nothing is done about it now we could run out completely in a year or so.

To avoid this, the council has previously consulted local people on the future of the burial service, who said that they felt that the best options were to provide for the re-use of existing graves (for which there will be a separate consultation upon later in the year) and to bring unused land into use within our existing cemeteries of Camberwell Old Cemetery and Camberwell New Cemetery.

The currently unused old nursery site (area B) at Camberwell New Cemetery, beside Honor Oak Park, is a space we could use for burial spaces and we are keen to start work on this area this next year. Our proposal for this site will:

- Make use of unused land in our cemeteries
- Bring the area back into public use and make it attractive and accessible to everyone
- Provide potentially up to 1,000 burial spaces for residents
- Include sympathetic landscape design
- Improve biodiversity

Contributions are sought from as wide a range of views as possible to determine the most appropriate design and layout that is in keeping with the Cemetery's traditions and future use including through woodland and meadow burial.

This consultation focuses exclusively on proposals for the old nursery site, NOT any current or future plans for other areas of Camberwell Old Cemetery and Camberwell New Cemetery.

This survey will close on Friday 22th July 2016 at 5pm.

What this proposal would achieve

- New burial spaces for potentially 1,000 double-stacked burial plots (2,000 burial spaces)
- Removal of existing contaminated soil and rubble and 'clean' soil reinstated, suitable for burials
- Keep the car park and maintenance depot in their existing locations
- Remove the secondary vehicle entrance from Honor Oak Park and add additional buffer planting
- New cemetery footpaths and upgrade of existing pedestrian routes
- Pedestrian access maintained to the recreation ground from Honor Oak Park
- Access to the One Tree Hill Allotments retained along the main entrance
- Existing vegetation and trees to the Honor Oak Park boundary retained
- Investment in biodiversity enhancements through additional native trees and planting
- Enhanced drainage system to control surface water run-off

Overall Impression

Q. Having seen the proposed layout for the site, what do you think of it? Please tick one box only.

I like it all

I like some of it

I dislike some of it

I dislike it all

Not sure

IF LIKE/DISLIKE

Q. Why do you say that? OPEN TEXT

Routes around the Cemetery

There will be new cemetery footpaths and upgrades to existing pedestrian routes.

Q. Do you have any comments or concerns about this? OPEN TEXT

Car Park

The existing car park and maintenance depot will be retained, but the layout will be improved.

Q. Do you have any comments or concerns about this? OPEN TEXT

Vegetation and Planting

Existing vegetation and trees to the Honor Oak Park boundary retained and biodiversity will be enhanced through additional native trees and plantings.

Q. Do you have any comments or concerns about this? OPEN TEXT

Further Comments

Q. Do you have any further comments about the proposals for Camberwell New Cemetery? OPEN TEXT

About You

We are interested in the views of a wide range of people and organisations. Therefore to help us analyse the results of the consultation we would appreciate it if you tell us a bit more about yourself.

Q. Are you...

Male

Female

Q. How old are you?

- Under 16
- 16-24
- 25-39
- 40-59
- 60-74
- 75+

Q. From the following list, which one of these best describes your faith?

- No religion
- Buddhist
- Christian
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Sikh
- Any other religion\belief
- Do not wish to answer

Q. Are you responding to this consultation as...? Please tick all boxes that apply.

- A local resident
- A user of the playground
- A user of the recreation ground
- A dog walker
- An allotment user
- A representative of an organisation/stakeholder/campaign group (please only select this option if you are submitting an official response on behalf of a group)
- Other

IF RESIDENT/ VISITOR ASK:

Q. What is the postcode of your home? We need this information to look at the views of different groups of residents in different areas and to ensure everyone is kept fully informed.

Postcode (e.g. SE14 5BE)

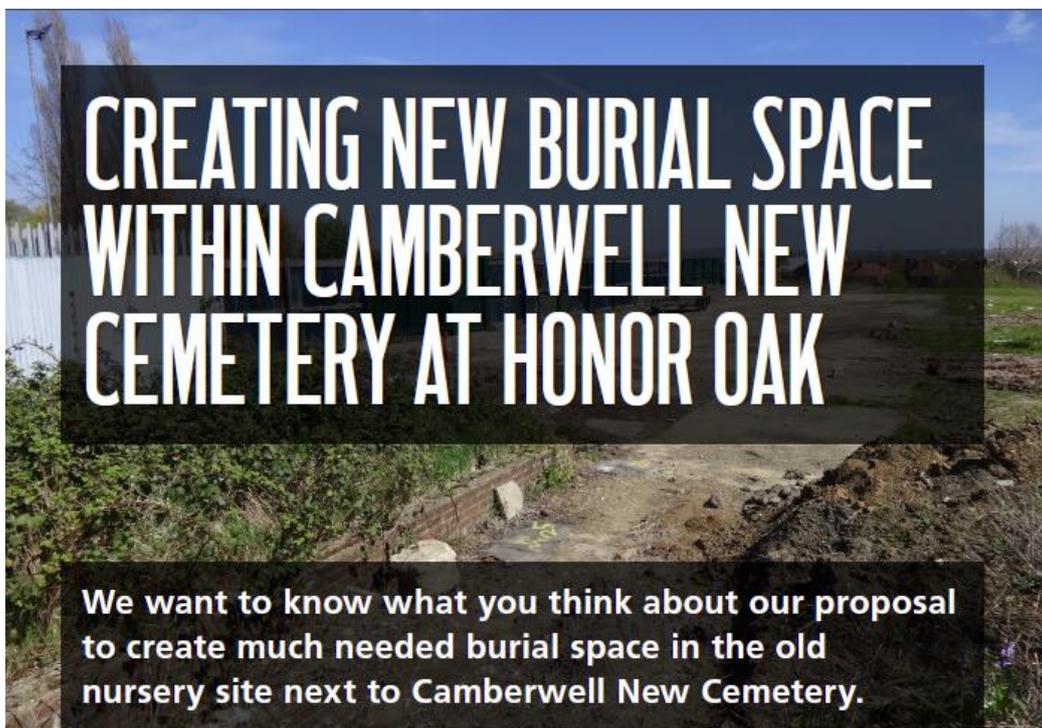
IF ORGANISATION ASK:

Q. What is the name of your organisation?

Name of organisation (please write in)

Appendix B: Poster and Leaflet

Poster A



If you would like to see and comment on the plans for this site please drop into our exhibition on the plans at the Chapel in Camberwell New Cemetery (Brenchley Gardens, Camberwell, SE23 3RD).

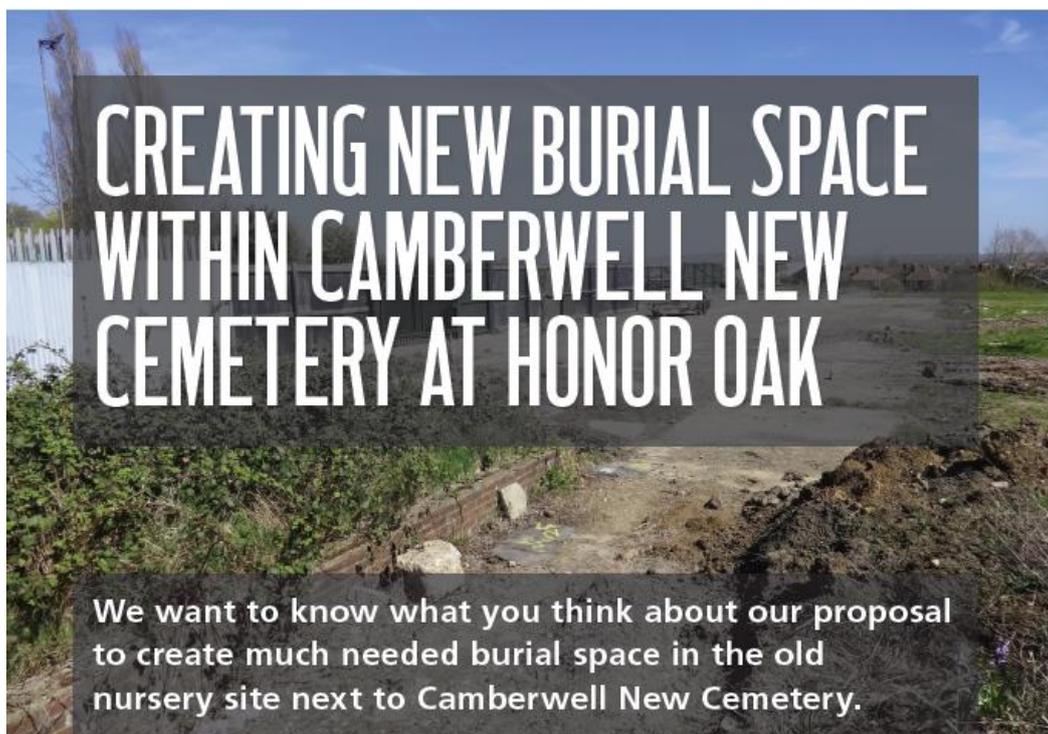
The exhibition will be open on the
29th of June from 10am-2pm and 3pm-7pm.
Get involved and tell us what you think.

For more information visit
www.southwark.gov.uk/camberwellnewcemeteryhonor oak

 @lb_southwark  facebook.com/southwarkcouncil


Southwark
Council
southwark.gov.uk

Poster B



To find out more about our proposals and share your views via our online survey, you can visit our website:
www.southwark.gov.uk/camberwellnewcemeteryhonor oak
You can also view the proposals and pick up a paper copy of the survey from the Cemeteries Office at Camberwell New Cemetery.

.....
: We will be holding an event at the Chapel in
: **Camberwell New Cemetery, Brenchley Gardens, SE23 3RD**
: on **Monday 11th July** between **4:30 to 7:30pm.**
: The consultation will close on **Friday 22nd July.**
.....

 @lb_southwark  facebook.com/southwarkcouncil



Leaflet

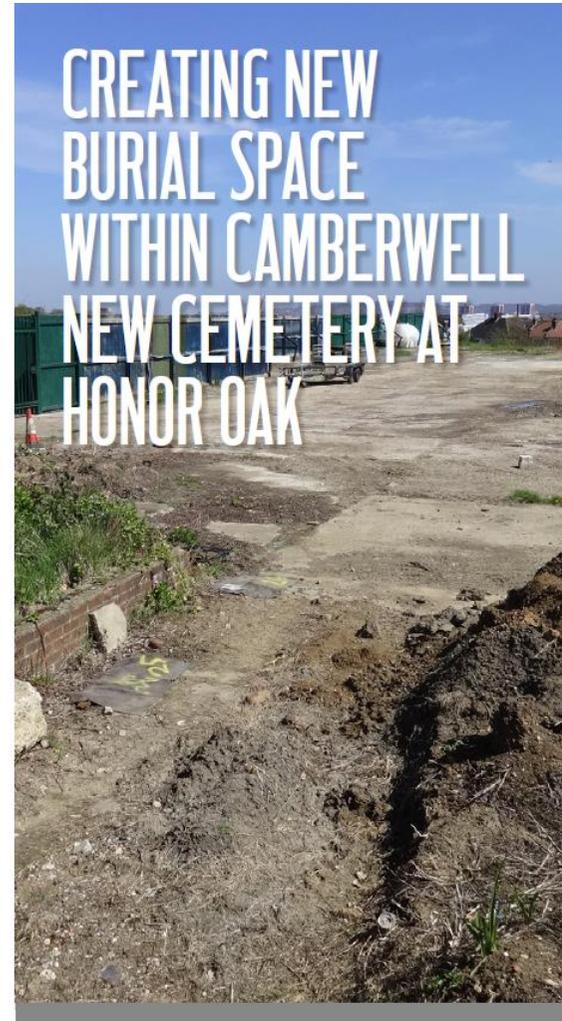
FEATURES

- New-burial spaces for potentially 1,000 double-stacked burial plots (2,000 burial spaces)
- Removal of existing contaminated soil and rubble and 'clean' soil reinstated, suitable for burials
- Keep the car park and maintenance depot in their existing locations
- Remove the secondary vehicle entrance from Honor Oak Park and add additional buffer planting
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- Existing vegetation and trees to the Honor Oak Park boundary retained
- Investment in biodiversity enhancements through additional native trees and planting
- Enhanced drainage system to control surface water run-off

SKETCH MASTERPLAN



Footpath and grave alignment indicative only



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SOUTHWARK, LIKE MANY OTHER BOROUGHs, IS QUICKLY RUNNING OUT OF BURIAL SPACE. IF NOTHING IS DONE ABOUT IT NOW WE COULD RUN OUT BY NEXT YEAR.

To avoid this, the council has previously consulted local people on the future of the burial service, who said that they felt that the best options were to provide for the re-use of existing graves (for which there will be a separate consultation later in the year) and bring unused land into use within our existing cemeteries of Camberwell Old Cemetery and Camberwell New Cemetery.

Local people have told us being buried locally, and burying their loved ones locally, matters very much to them.

The currently unused old nursery site at Camberwell New Cemetery, beside Honor Oak Park, has been identified as a space we could use for burial spaces in the short term. Our proposal for this site will:

- Make use of unused land in our cemeteries
- Bring the area back into public use and make it attractive and accessible to everyone
- Provide potentially up to 1,000 burial spaces for residents
- Include sympathetic landscape design
- Improve biodiversity

NEXT STEPS

We would like to hear your thoughts on the proposed designs for the area including any issues that may impact your use and access to the cemetery, play area, recreational grounds and neighbouring properties.

To find out more about proposals and share your views you can visit our website:

www.southwark.gov.uk/camberwellnewcemeteryhonorok

You can also drop in and see our proposals on the **29th of June** at the Chapel in Camberwell New Cemetery.

Feel free to turn up at any time between **10am and 2pm and 3pm and 7pm** talk to officers and experts involved in this project, view our proposals and pick up paper copies of the survey.

**Camberwell New Cemetery Chapel,
Brenchley Gardens
London, SE23 3RD**



For further information about our plans please go to our website: www.southwark.gov.uk/camberwellnewcemeteryhonorok
To contact us please email parks@southwark.gov.uk or write to **Tara Kelly, Camberwell New Cemetery, Honor Oak: Area B, Southwark Council, Environment and Leisure, 3rd Floor Hub 2, PO Box 64529, London, SE1P 5LX**

Quality Assurance

Quality is central to our work and our aim is to consistently provide a service that exceeds the requirements and expectations of our clients. To maintain this we actively pursue quality improvements that enable each member of the team to do their job right first time, every time.

We are proud to be a Market Research Society Company Partner and abide by the quality commitment required. Company Partners abide by the MRS Code of Conduct and publicly commit to the very highest research standards as approved by the MRS. This is an indication that the organisation provides high quality, trustworthy services. All staff abide by the Market Research Society's Code of Conduct. Our Director of Research is also a Certified Member of the MRS.

We also follow the code of Marketing & Social Research Practice of the International Chamber of Commerce/European Society for Opinion and Market Research (ESOMAR).

ISO 20252:2012

We are fully accredited to the international standard for the management of market research (ISO20252:2012). It is designed to drive quality improvements and our adherence demonstrates that Westco is an industry leader.

To meet this standard we have a quality manual, training and processes to ensure we can set and maintain standards for quality assurance, project management, data collection, preparation and processing. The accreditation process is on-going and repeat visits from the auditor will take place. All staff receive training on Westco quality standards and the implications for their job role.

As part of our ISO 20252:2012 accreditation Westco must ensure that all sub-contractors are compliant with our quality processes.

Contact Details

The authors of this report have sought to ensure that it is an accurate reflection of the research that has taken place. It is therefore important that the findings continue to be accurately reflected in any future internal or external publication. If you wish to reference the findings from this report, please contact the authors to ensure that your interpretation is correct.

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October 2016 2016