



Comhairle Cathrach  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council

## Report to Arts, Culture and Recreation SPC

16<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Item No. 12

### REPORT ON COLUMBARIUM WALLS

Parks and Landscape Services carried out a feasibility study to determine if it is possible to erect Columbarium Walls in graveyards under their control as it is deemed that cremation has become the preferred method of internment in Ireland with approximately 60% of all recorded deaths now followed by cremation.

It is perceived that there is a desire by communities to be interred in their own locality. In relation to Dublin City Council, many of the older cemeteries have now reached full capacity and there is a need to identify other internment options. Arising from the study, it is recognised that there is merit for a number of Dublin City Council owned graveyards to have Columbarium Walls thereby providing choice for people to be interred in their own locality which in many cases are now closed for burials. Dublin City Council own the following Graveyards Bluebell, Clontarf, Killester, Raheny, St. Canices, Donnybrook and Merrion.

In the context of the study, relating specifically to Columbarium Walls, Bluebell Cemetery presents the greatest opportunity for a Columbarium Wall. There is scope for Columbarium Walls in other cemeteries, namely Donnybrook, Clontarf and Merrion. Many of Dublin City Council cemeteries have significant heritage value of national importance, and any intervention must be done sensitively in conjunction with Dublin City Council Heritage Section and prescribed bodies.

It is therefore recommended that a cemetery master plan be drafted which will include Columbarium Walls. This will act as a focus for the future sustainable management and maintenance of the cemeteries under our control. A progress report on this matter will issue to a future SPC meeting.

**Leslie Moore,**  
**City Parks Superintendent**