

**Culture, Recreation and Economic Services Department
Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services Section**

**To the Chairperson and Members of the
South East Area Committee**

**Update for information purposes only re development of columbarium walls, at
Donnybrook Graveyard, Donnybrook Road.**

Further to the previous updates on the Donnybrook Graveyard Columbarium Wall, please find below an email update on such.

Background Information

A draft Burial Places Strategy was presented to and noted by the Arts, Culture, Leisure and Recreation SPC, in May 2021. One of the primary actions of the draft Burial Places Strategy is the provision of Columbarium Walls.

Donnybrook Graveyard is the first of four potential sites selected for the installation of columbarium walls. The historical graveyard is located in the heart of Donnybrook. This site is considered to have the optimum characteristics for an initial columbarium wall proposal and therefore was chosen as the pilot project. As per best practice, a Conservation Management Plan and an archaeological assessment were commissioned to better understand the Donnybrook Graveyard site and consider detail design issues such as specific wall positions.

Conservation

Following the recommendations of the Conservation Management Plan, the (retaining) boundary wall was reinforced and conserved, as a priority action, through Community Monuments Fund 2020 Grant funding. Additionally, Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services funded some grave repairs and conservation works. A tree survey and essential tree works were also completed in 2021. The research and the subsequent conservation work was an important precursor to the proposed columbarium walls.

Design Strategy & Approvals

The proposals for the columbarium walls are informed by the site's heritage context. The pilot project comprises 3 no. walls, near the boundary entrance. There will be localised alteration of the area around the walls to provide access to the niches. There are plans for overall accessibility improvements to the graveyard by visitors.

This columbarium wall project was granted Part 8 approval in 2022. It also requires Ministerial Consent for the National Monument, before the pilot project may be installed. In order to procure a contractor for the works, a framework of suppliers for columbarium walls was established. A supplier for the initial contract at Donnybrook Graveyard has been recently appointed.

The 3 no. proposed Columbarium Walls will be constructed of natural stone. There are three size niche options; small (for individual urns), medium (for couples) and large (family) size niches, as shown in typical elevation below. The photographs show a sample of the walls and the granite, blue limestone and engraving on niche door are clearly legible, in site conditions.

Construction Programme

The columbarium walls are estimated to be installed in Q4 2023 with specific programme and dates to be confirmed once an installation programme is provided by the supplier.

Operational issues

In parallel with the process of columbarium walls delivery, the details regarding cost / purchase of the niches and the management of such, are being progressed. Each of the three walls will provide 56 no. niches, totalling 168 no. niches for the pilot project.

Delivery

Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services intend to deliver columbarium walls, ready for purchasing in Q2 2024.

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