

Appendix B Neighbouring Authority's Memorial Policies

Blackburn Council Includes Blackburn, Pleasington and Darwen Cemeteries.

Policy: Rules and regulations do not permit kerbs or grave surrounds in the older cemeteries. However, new plots allow full length kerbs subject to permit application. Memorial masons must be member of BRAMM (British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons)

Enforcement: Blackburn Cemetery and older Darwen Cemetery now have no more space for new graves. Prior to mid 1990's the no kerbstone/planting policy was enforced, families written to and unauthorized kerbs removed. However, due to adverse publicity in the press etc. nothing has been done since to enforce the regulations and many more kerbs and plantings have appeared. The plots in the younger Darwen and Pleasington cemeteries that are under the same regulations and unauthorized kerbs and plantings are removed as they appear. In these cases where unauthorized memorials appear in the newer cemeteries, Blackburn Council will write to the grave owner stating that the memorials are not allowed. If the memorials are not removed then the council will remove them and put them in store. Marble kerbs are allowed in the newer sections subject to permit and appropriate fee.

Hyndburn Council Includes Accrington, Gt Harwood and Church Cemeteries.

Policy: Rules and regulations state that cemetery is lawn cemetery but is not specific about what is allowed. Memorial masons that are not members of BRAMM can still work in the cemetery providing they submit memorial application and gain approval. As common 12 inches at the head of the grave is allowed for gardens.

Enforcement: Up to 12 months ago the policy was well enforced, new full length grave plantings and kerbstones were identified. A first letter is sent to the grave owner then followed up with a second letter. After no response the kerbs and plantings were removed and stored for three months. However staffing issues have meant that this has not been enforced in previous year, this has resulted in many more grave plantings and garden kerbs.

Burnley Council Includes large sized Burnley Cemetery and also Padiham Cemetery.

Policy: Some areas of the cemetery allow kerbs and plantings, certain areas are strictly lawned and no plantings or kerbs are allowed. Purchasers sign to say they will adhere to regulations. Monumental Masons must be members of BRAMM.

Enforcement: The lawned section is strictly no plantings or kerbstones allowed whatsoever. Any kerbs or plantings that appear are graves are written to (addresses from grave book and electoral register), the unauthorized memorials/kerbstones are then removed. Fences are removed immediately. For the conventional plots unauthorized kerbs that appear on graves are not dealt with, officially these are not allowed and they will be removed if the situation gets out of hand. Burnley Cemetery has an on site office and enforcing the regulations is easier.

Pendle Council Includes Nelson, Colne Cemeteries etc.

Policy: Kerbs and plantings are not allowed apart from a 12inch square at the head. The two new plots at Nelson Cemetery are the only plots to allow full length kerbs subject to permit application. All masons must be members of BRAMM. Regulations are issued to purchasers of graves.

Enforcement: Over the years many unauthorized kerbs have appeared, mostly garden kerbs, full length grave plantings and fences. Some steps have been taken to address this however, this is a historic problem and so many plantings and kerbs now exist that it is difficult to target the problem without facing adverse publicity particularly from the children's section. For very problematic unauthorized memorials, families are contacted and the memorials removed.

Conclusion

Majority of authorities insist on BRAMM membership for monumental masons. Unauthorized memorials placed by masons or family will be dealt with promptly. Masons understand the rules of the cemetery and all monuments require approval. Usually, 12 inches at the head of the grave is allowed for grave planting apart from on strict lawn sections.

The majority of authorities do not permit kerbs or graveplantings. However, the situation in many places has got out of hand and is difficult to enforce without bad publicity. Authorities who enforce these regulations will write to the grave owner and then remove the grave plantings or kerbs if no response has been given, the kerbs and plantings are stored for a period should the owners wish to collect them.