

Cabinet Member for City Services

15 September 2026

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for City Services – Councillor P Hetherton

Director approving submission of the report:

Interim Director of City Services

Ward(s) affected:

Cheylesmore

Title:

Petition – **e56-25/26 Cemetery Footpath- London Road Cemetery**

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive summary:

This report relates to a petition of 69 signatures titled “Cemetery Footpath”, requesting a footpath between the paved walkway from the London Road Cemetery pedestrian gate that joins the roadway inside the cemetery. There is currently a pathway that leads from the corner of Frankpledge Road and Courtleet Road down to the pedestrian gate, but after the pedestrian gate the access is unpaved and muddy for around 12’ before reaching the roadway.

Justification:

The access to the cemetery is used by walkers, cyclists, dog walkers and school pupils. The gate is at the bottom of a hill so becomes waterlogged and muddy. Coventrians have tried to make it better by adding scrap pieces of masonry as stepping stones, but a long-term solution would be a permanent paved connection between the asphalt path prior to the gate and the asphalt road within the cemetery.

In accordance with the Council's procedure for dealing with petitions, those relating to Bereavement Services are heard by the Cabinet Member for City Services. The Cabinet Member had considered the petition prior to this meeting and requested that the petition was dealt with by letter (determination letter) rather than a formal report being submitted to a meeting, to be able to deal with the matter more efficiently

On receipt of the determination letter, the petition organiser requested that the issue be considered at a Cabinet Member for City Services meeting.

The determination letter explained:

Bereavement Services have inspected the area and as part of our fact finding obtained various quotations regards the options available to us including an asphalt footpath and a 'woodland walk'. After consideration we have made the decision to install a woodland walk which will include edging and a layer of contained bark chippings. This option we believe is going to offer the path you desire but also be in keeping with the overall environment.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for City Services is recommended to:

1. Note the Petition Organisers concerns.
2. Advise that after further consideration, it has been agreed an asphalt path between the pedestrian gate, London Road Cemetery and the roadway inside the cemetery will be installed which will be 1200mm width to ensure accessibility.

List of Appendices included:

The following appendices are attached to the report: N/A

Background papers:

None.

Other useful documents

None.

Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Cemetery Footpath London Road Cemetery

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1. The petition was received by the City Council and the request was reviewed by the Bereavement Services Manager. It reads as follows:

“We the undersigned petition the Council to create a footpath between the paved walkway from the London Road Cemetery pedestrian gate that joins the roadway inside the cemetery. There is currently a pathway that leads from the corner of Frankpledge Road and Courtleet Road down to the pedestrian gate, but after the pedestrian gate the access is unpaved and muddy for around 12’ before reaching the roadway”.

Justification:

The access to the cemetery is used by walkers, cyclists, dog walkers and school pupils. The gate as at the bottom of a hill so becomes waterlogged and muddy. Coventrians have tried to make it better by adding scrap pieces of masonry as stepping stones, but a long-term solution would be a permanent paved connection between the asphalt path prior to the gate and the asphalt road within the cemetery.

- 1.2. This review led to an assessment of the location within the cemetery between the pedestrian gate and the road located inside of the cemetery. The area was assessed regards the current informal pathway and the undulating terrain.
- 1.3. Assessments were made to located existing graves in the immediate vicinity and any other impacts on the immediate environment.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

The Cabinet Member for City Services is recommended to:

1. Note the Petition Organisers concerns
2. To approve the instillation of an asphalt path (1200mm) between the pedestrian gate and the internal road in London Rd Cemetery.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 No consultation undertaken

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1. The decision will be implemented after Cabinet Member’s decision, and the availability of external contractors.

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Resources and Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities

- 5.1. Financial Implications

The costing to instal the path will be between £8000-£10,000 approx. funded by Bereavement Services.

5.2. Legal Implications

There are no legal implications as a result of the contents of this report.

6. Other implications

6.1. How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan?

(<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/strategies-plans-policies/one-coventry-plan>)

This decision contributes to the One Coventry Plan – Tackling the causes and consequences of climate change. By protecting cemetery environments.

Improving outcomes and tackling inequalities within our communities.

How is risk being managed?

Slips trips and falls risks will be reduced by providing a sound level footpath for walkers, wheelchair users and cyclists.

6.2. What is the impact on the organisation?

None.

6.3. Equalities / EIA?

Path installed will be a minimum width of 1200mm for accessibility

6.4. Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment?

None

6.5. Implications for partner organisations?

None.

Report author(s):

Mandy Thomas
Bereavement Services Manager

Service Area:

Bereavement Services,

Directorate:

City Services

Tel and email contact:

Tel: 02476 97 8280

Email: mandy.thomas@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person

Contributor/approver name	Title	Service Area	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Caroline Taylor	Governance Services Officer	Law, Governance & Safer Communities	02.09.26	2.9.26
Paul Rayner	Asst. Bereavement Services Manager	City Services	02.09.26	7.9.26
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Cath Crosby	Lead Accountant – Business Partner	Finance & Resources	02.09.26	7.9.26
Rob Parkes	Team Leader Legal Services	Law and Governance & Safer Communities	02.09.26	7.9.26
Mark Adams	Interim Director of City Services	City Services	02.09.26	7.9.26
Councillor P Hetherton	Cabinet Member for City Services	-	02.09.26	7.9.26

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