

news

Knowsley Marks Black History Month 2023

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Knowsley Cemetery – Sharing of Inaccurate Information

October 6, 2023

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The Council has been made aware of some inaccurate comments which are sadly, once again, circulating via social media. To clarify the position:-

Planning Applications for Knowsley Cemetery

Specifically, some individuals continue to circulate a map/plan which formed part of an original planning application from 1994 for the creation of Knowsley Cemetery. The plan in question shows phase one of development and references possible expansion land (referred to on this map as “future phases”).

Knowsley Council only ever granted planning permission for “phase one” of the development – when the Council’s Planning Committee considered the 1994 map, it did NOT approve any of the potential future phases. The land depicted as “future phases” was specifically **excluded** by the Planning

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As a result, the plan which is currently being circulated has never had any planning status. It is a map of a proposal which was rejected almost 30 years ago.

In 2012, planning permission was granted for an expansion of the Cemetery and some further land was incorporated into the Cemetery.

In 2016, and following extensive public consultation as part of Knowsley's adoption of a new Local Plan, Knowsley Cemetery and the surrounding land was formally allocated to be part of Halsnead Garden Village.

In 2017, the Halsnead Garden Village Masterplan and its associated planning documents formally designated a third expansion for Knowsley Cemetery, with the remaining land allocated for development purposes. Planning permission was granted in 2018 for the third phase and the land in question now forms part of the Cemetery as it exists today.

For the avoidance of doubt, at no time has any land other than that which forms Knowsley Cemetery today ever been formally designated for the expansion of the Cemetery.

Published Decision

In addition, a post has been shared on social media which claims to quote from a Cabinet decision made on 13 July 2022. The post states that this alleged decision says that, "*The report proposes an allocation of capital receipts from the sale of existing cemetery designated land in Halsnead Garden Village to enable the provision of core cemetery infrastructure which will provide the Council with long term cemetery capacity at Whiston Woods.*"

This post is completely untrue. The quote above is not taken from any Council or Cabinet decision – it is instead a description (published in May 2020) of a report which was being considered for potential consideration at a Cabinet meeting on 29 July 2020. In fact, the report in question was subsequently found to be incorrect as all of the designated cemetery land within Halsnead Garden Village had already been utilised for cemetery expansion and land was therefore not available for disposal or as a potential source of funding. As a result, the potential report was never considered by the Cabinet, and nor was any such decision ever made

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The true position is that the Council's Cabinet agreed on 13 July 2022 to purchase land from the Forestry Commission (subject to obtaining planning permission from St Helens Council) and furthermore agreed investment of £1.342m from future capital receipts to support any proposed extension of Knowsley Cemetery.

[You can read the actual decision here.](#)



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Decision details

Knowsley Cemetery Extension - Whiston Woods (*)

- [Find out more about this issue](#)

Decision Maker: Cabinet

Decision status: Recommendations Approved

Is Key decision?: Yes

Is subject to call in?: Yes

Purpose:

Any extension to Knowsley Cemetery has a community impact across all wards as it will provide for burials and memorials across the Borough.

The proposal involves the previously approved funding to enable the purchase of land from the Forestry Commission. The report also proposes an allocation of capital receipts from the sale of existing cemetery designated land in Halsnead Garden Village to enable the provision of core cemetery infrastructure which will provide the Council with long term cemetery capacity at Whiston Woods.

Decisions:

The Cabinet considered the report of the Executive Director (Communities and Neighbourhoods) which set out details of a project to extend and develop Knowsley Cemetery, at Fox's Bank Lane in Whiston, by seeking approval to acquire and develop additional land.

Councillor Mrs S Powell, Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods, reported that the proposed extension would create a 100-year burial capacity for Knowsley and provide a continued Council burial offer for Knowsley residents. In this respect, the overall project costs were £2.692m, including the purchase costs of the Whiston Woods site from the Forestry Commission, the costs of expanding the Cemetery's capacity, and the investment required to establish the required infrastructure on the full Whiston Woods site.

Councillor Powell highlighted that Cabinet had previously agreed to allocate £1.350m towards the purchase of the site and the Cemetery expansion works and a further allocation of £1.342m had now been required to fund the overall infrastructure of the full site, including highways works and public access walkways. In this respect, the report proposed that this requirement should be funded from an allocation of the capital receipts which are expected to arise in future from the Council's previously approved Housing and Commercial Land Disposal Strategies.

RESOLVED – That:-

- (i) Agree in principle to purchase land from the Forestry Commission (subject to securing the necessary planning permission from St Helens Council); and,
- (ii) Agree to fund a further investment of £1.342m in extending Knowsley Cemetery through an allocation of future capital receipts as explained in paragraph 5.1.5 of this report, resulting in an overall funding package of £2.692m.


Publication date: 15/07/2022

Date of decision: 13/07/2022

Decided at meeting: 13/07/2022 - Cabinet

Effective from: 21/07/2022

Accompanying Documents:

[Knowsley Cemetery Extension - Whiston Woods](#)  PDF 779 KB

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