

**DEVELOPMENT AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

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**CEMETERY HEADSTONE SAFETY PROJECT - CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS**

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**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Previous reports, the last being to the Business Day on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011 described the position regarding headstone safety in Bute and Cowal.
- 1.2 This report advises of the current position in this area.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Members note the information contained and the remedial actions proposed.

**3. DETAIL**

- 3.1 The April 2011 report listed a number of proposed actions at cemeteries, subject to staff and resource availability and trials of new materials. These are summarised in Table 1.
- 3.2 "Wet Grab" adhesive has been trialled and is now considered appropriate for use on smaller stones as a short term fix to eliminate the need for lowering headstones until a more permanent proposal can be identified and funded. This is being utilised at the sites shown in Table 1.
- 3.3 Further discussions have taken place with the Employability Team and external funding is being sought to allow their continued involvement with this project.
- 3.4 Information is now available to be sent to monumental masons and lair holders requesting them to rectify problems with loose headstones at their own expense. It should be noted that some lair holders have already had their headstones repaired to the appropriate standard when requested.
- 3.5 As staff are now available and have been trained in headstone inspection, following completion of summer maintenance, works will commence to lower the worst of the loose stones for subsequent re-erection.
- 3.6 In the worst affected areas, where loose stones are widespread, then sections of cemeteries will be closed to public access, with visitors having to make appointments through the area office prior to gaining access to the site.
- 3.7 4 members of the B&C team have been given formal training by NAMM in the inspection of headstone memorials and procedures for identifying unsafe headstones.
- 3.8 Repairs in Cowal cemetery are complete.



For further information, please contact:

*Sandy MacTaggart, Executive Director, 28 March 2011.*