

PURCHASING THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL TO PLOTS IN BRIDGNORTH CEMETERY

GUIDANCE NOTES

- The Exclusive Right of Burial (EROB) to a grave or cremation plot in Bridgnorth Cemetery is purchased at the time of an interment but can be transferred at any time either while the owner is still alive (with their consent) or following the death of the owner.
- By purchasing the EROB, the purchaser does not own the land or plot itself, but they do have the right to say who is buried in that plot or to be buried in that plot themselves (subject to there being adequate room).
- The owner of the EROB also has the right to apply to have a memorial placed on that plot.
- In line with our adopted policy, only the owner of the EROB has the aforementioned rights. Following the demise of the owner, no one else has the right to be buried in that plot or to apply to have a memorial placed on that plot or to have an additional inscription added to that memorial without the ownership being transferred (Transfer of Rights).
- You may wish to consider multiple ownership e.g. husband/wife; husband/wife and a son/daughter; two or three siblings etc. In these instances, as long as there is at least one surviving owner of the EROB when the plot is full (two cremation caskets/urns in a cremation plot and normally two coffins in a grave plot) there will still be a living owner who has the right to place a memorial on the plot.
- If there are multiple owners however they will *all* have an equal right to be buried in that plot, *should they so wish*, until such time as it is full.
- Also, should there be multiple owners, any application for an a memorial/additional inscription would need to be made by *all* those owners.
- Should an interment be due to take place, but the owner of EROB is deceased and the person being interred was not that owner, it may be necessary to arrange for the Transfer of Rights to take place by means of a legal process such as applying for probate or letters of administration before any application relating to the grave plot can be considered. This legal process could potentially delay opening a grave plot for an interment or placing a memorial on a plot but could be avoided if there is still a living owner. As an alternative, completion of a Statutory Declaration form would be acceptable, but in some cases this is only a temporary solution. If the deceased owner left a Will, this form should be completed based upon instruction left therein.
- Should the only owner(s) of EROB be deceased and you want to go ahead with the Transfer of Rights you should seek guidance from the Town Council's Cemetery Administrator (email: cemetery@bridgnorthtowncouncil.gov.uk or telephone 01746 762231) to discuss the circumstances relating to your application. To establish the best way forward it may be necessary for the Administrator to ask you questions such as 'Did the owner leave a Will'; 'Has Grant of Probate been obtained and if so who was named as Executor' etc.
- It is possible to add an owner or to transfer ownership whilst the owners or sole surviving owner is still alive by means of completing a simple form.
- There will be an administration charge of £41.00 (subject to an increase from 1 April annually) for the transfer of Exclusive Right of Burial.