



Hail Weston Parish Council – Open Forum

Tuesday 19th October

The impact of Climate Change and Global Warming is a challenge that needs addressing now.

Our ambition is to develop a Natural Burial Ground which will help protect the environment.

Converting an arable field to wildflower meadows and woodland will contribute to reducing the impact of global warming, benefit the health and wellbeing of our community and will protect the local rural landscape.

Natural Burial Grounds (NBG)

- NBG's were first established in 1993 by Ken West OBE under the slogan '**Return to Nature**' (Ken was manager of the Carlisle cemetery and awarded an OBE for services to the funeral profession).
- NBG's are fundamentally different to a traditional cemetery. With a purely **environmental** focus they are the most **ecological** burial option, allowing us to '**give back to nature**'.
- A NBG can help our efforts to combat climate change. They provide for **nature** and the **environment**.
- An NBG can help to protect our rural landscape.
- The NBG is a blend of wildflower meadows and native woodland.
- An NBG does not permit burial of non-biodegradable materials, nor embalmed bodies. (E.G., plastic, metals & chemicals).
- Only biodegradable coffins are permitted.
- Memorialisation is in the form of tree planting and ground-level wooden plaques.

The Process – Surveys etc

Ecology Survey

Ecologists have surveyed the field and are excited to help develop a diverse natural wild habitat.

Environment

A Natural Burial Ground is better for the environment than a traditional cemetery. The proposed field has an excellent geological profile suitable for natural burial. The Environment Agency has communicated a positively to our proposal.

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Archaeology

Cambridgeshire County archaeologist department have asked us to investigate the field. This exploratory work is important to establish which areas, if any, are not suitable for burials.

Highways Access & Parking

We have full highways access and do not need to increase the current provision for parking.

Flood Risk - South Brook (Northerly side of the field)

Burials will not take place within 30 meters of the Brook. The Brook has no history of flooding. Any flood risk 'modelled' by the environment agency would be mitigated by tree planting.

Timeline

Monday 18th October- Archaeological exploration.

This is a necessary and lengthy process. We would hope to discuss results in due course and be concluded within a few weeks. Thereafter the field will be sown with winter wheat.

November/December – Full Planning Application submitted.

Benefits to the local community

- Protecting the rural landscape
- Protecting the environment
- Tree planting
- Greater choice of end-of-life burial options
- Reduced tariff for residents of Hail Weston
- Potential employment opportunities

Arial view of the field identified for the Natural Burial Ground

sacred stones



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