

# Update on the Provision of Cemetery Spaces 2020

Presentation to  
Climate Action, Environment, Recreation & Amenity  
SPC Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020

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Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe  
Galway City Council

# Cemetery Status at start of Covid 19

- Bohermore Cemetery
  - At capacity
  - Development of areas for cremated remains
- Ragoon Cemetery
  - Existing Site Development
  - New Cemetery Extension

# Bohermore Cemetery

## At Capacity

- In 2019, Galway City Council advised Councillors, undertakers and members of the public that Bohermore Cemetery was at capacity with no new grave plots available.
- The R&A Department reviewed the existing Cemetery layout and identified areas that were suitable for the interment of cremated remains.



# Bohermore Cemetery

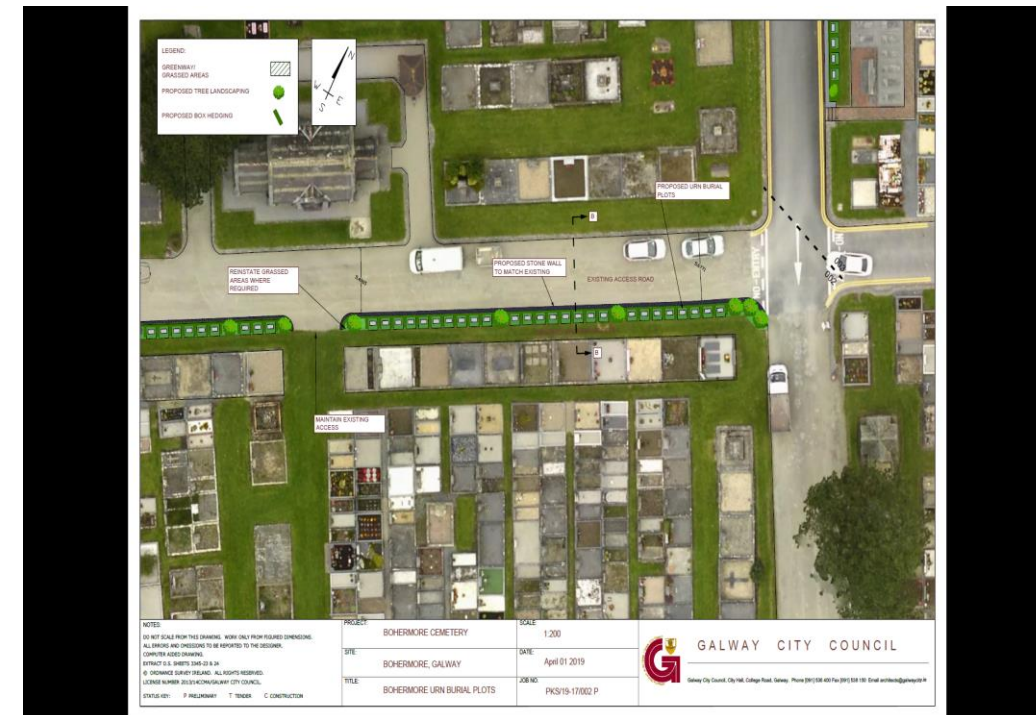
## Development of areas for cremated remains

- Cremations in Ireland have steadily increased from 18% of all deaths in 2016 to 21% of all deaths in 2018
- The Cemetery had no designated areas for the interment of cremated remains.
- The R&A Dept. designed and developed areas within the Cemetery as Urn Burial Plots.
- A total of **25 urn burial plots** are currently in development.



# Bohermore Cemetery

- A number of inquiries have already been made in regard to these plots since their completion in March 2020 with 7 sold to date.
- Other design options are being considered for the next phase of these urn plots which will eventually be accommodated in Ragoon and the proposed new Cemetery.



# Rahoon Cemetery

## Existing Site Development

- On the 29<sup>th</sup> of February Ireland recorded its first case of COVID-19 with Rahoon Cemetery having **71** plots available.
- There was now an urgent need to provide additional burial plots.
- The R&A Department was tasked with developing additional spaces within the remaining area of the site. We immediately published a Request For Quotation through the restricted procurement procedure and appointed a Contractor in mid March.
- Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic lock down on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March works on the project were expedited to ensure a speedy delivery of new grave plots. This involved additional consultations with the Contractor & Suppliers to ensure supply of plant, labour and materials were procured whilst adhering to HSE guidelines.



# Rahoon Cemetery

- Works were completed within 2 weeks including:
  - **excavate to a depth of 2m throughout the entire site;**
  - install soakaway drainage trenches and form new access tracks;
  - **complete RC works to headstones foundations**
  - import topsoil, landscape and grass seed site.
- ***In light of Covid 19 and the immediate requirement to have additional plot spaces, the R&A Dept. made great efforts to deliver additional grave spaces within a 4 week period including procurement.***



# Rahoon Cemetery

- Additional **367** grave plots
- Ensured continuity of available burial plots during this COVID-19 pandemic.
- Current capacity of the Cemetery now stands at **438** grave plots.





# Rahoon Cemetery



# Rahoon Cemetery

## New Cemetery Extension

- an area of adjoining land immediately northeast of the existing cemetery.
- an undeveloped greenfield site with an area of approximately 0.6 hectares.
- proposed **lawn Cemetery**
- will provide an additional circa 640 plots.



# Rahoon Cemetery

**New Cemetery Extension – Part 8** planning was approved in April 2019.

- **The development of an extension which would consist of:**
  - Provision of approximately 641 lawn graves spaces.
  - **Approximately 45 urn plots.**
  - A memorial garden which included an area for cremated remains
  - **An access road and appropriate landscaping throughout the site.**

# Rahoon Cemetery

## **Cemetery Extension – Detailed Design Stage**

- Tobin Consulting Engineers were awarded the Contract for detailed design and delivery of the project at the end of March 2020.
- Currently reviewing all existing preliminary designs, reports and specifications to assist in the detailed design.
- Galway City Council have cleared the site to facilitate additional trial holes.



# Rahoon Cemetery





# Rahoon Cemetery

## Cemetery Extension – Site Issues

- Sloping Site which requires a detailed Cut/Fill analysis
- **Unsuitable clay material present**
- High rock levels
- **Hard granite rock**
- Varying and high water table
- **Proximity to existing properties**
- Access & Egress to the site
- **Compliance with Part 8/HSE/Hydrogeological Reports & Government Burial Regulations**

# Rahoon Cemetery

## Cemetery Extension – Proposed Timeline

- Appointment of Consultants – Q1
- **Detailed Design & Preparation of Tender Documents – Q2**
- Publish Tender – Q2
- **Tender Evaluation & Contract Award – Q3**
- Commence works on-site – Q3
- **Completion of the project – Q4 /Q1 2021**





**Thank You**