



Spring 2022

# Oak Hill

LAWN CEMETERY & CREMATORIUM

## BEREAVEMENT SERVICES COMPLEX

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council has recognised that it requires to update its bereavement services in order to tackle the escalated waiting times and distances needed to travel to existing local crematoriums.

The development will provide a new larger chapel for both burial and cremation funeral services, as well as combining the facilities needed for both of these services. The chapel will also serve as a space for remembrance services throughout the year.

The Council's Bereavement Services team will be located in the new complex with a reception making access to staff easier as well as improving the facilities for visitors.

From the outset, the intention for the new bereavement complex was to avoid the one size fits all approach that characterises many new crematorium developments. The character of the place will be reflected in a design that sits comfortably in its context and respects the dignity of the occasion.

The new building will sit below the tree line when first viewed from the



entrance, minimising its impact on the openness of the greenbelt. When visitors enter the site and reach the top of the ridge, rather than finding themselves amongst a group of buildings as they currently do, they will be in an open area, landscaped with new planting and trees. This

newly revealed vista provides long views across the cemetery and the valley beyond.

The current buildings in the entry way of the cemetery will also be substituted with new landscaping and will provide additional space for burials.

### THE TEAM AT HATFIELD

Donald Mackenzie – Project Manager • Greg Bowden – Site Manager • Richard Houghton – Quantity Surveyor

## CARTER

### WHO ARE RG CARTER?

Founded in 1921, R G Carter have been delivering high-quality building, construction and engineering services for public and private clients for over 100 years.

They are passionate about sustainability and supporting communities, and continue to work hard to create, revitalise and renew the very best places and spaces for the benefit of the future generations. They are currently carrying out work on two other Council sites within the borough and are supported by a trusted design team

with extensive knowledge and experience in the field of crematoria.

They have been proudly providing high quality construction services for a century. "Offering experience and specialist knowledge, we combine family values with a passion for innovation. Our approach is based on honesty, trust, and the development of long-term sustainable relationships with our colleagues, clients, suppliers and with the communities in which we work. Together we are building for the future."



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## BEREAVEMENT SERVICES COMPLEX

### FURTHER INFORMATION

#### When did work start?

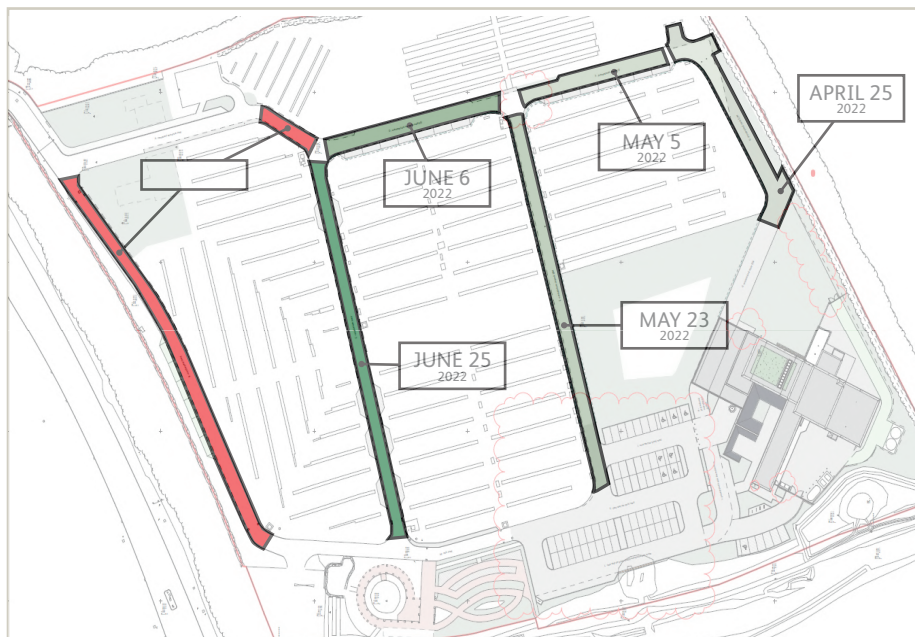
RG Carter Construction commenced their work **10th January 2022**.

#### Work to date?

To minimise disruption from the construction traffic, we have widened the exit road and introduced some temporary turning points to aid vehicles passing. The area where the new buildings are to be built has been screened off with timber fencing, which has been sensitively painted to blend in with the landscape. Images and details of the development have been affixed to the fencing. Within the fenced area, the ground has been excavated and the foundations for the new building are being installed.

#### Road widening

This map (right) shows the different dates for the road widenings.



*Amendments to the roads in sections to minimise disruption.*



#### What is happening in the next quarter?

We are working on installing the foundations for the new building. So far we have poured 330m<sup>3</sup> of concrete which is the equivalent to 330,000 litres or 580,000 pints.

Once complete, work will begin on erecting the frame of the building. This will be a mixture of steel and woodwork which will give the chapel its unique structure. The form of the building will start to be visible in early June.

Gardens and landscaped areas for reflection, will be planted in place of the existing chapel and lodge buildings. To facilitate this, we will be demolishing the buildings this summer. Signs will be installed closer to the time to aid access to the grounds and mitigate any disruption.

During May, some benches will need to be removed to allow for construction works, including road widening. The Bereavement Team will contact all customers who currently have a bench memorial in locations affected to advise of next steps.

For more information contact the Bereavement Team:

Telephone 01707 357000 Option 6

The new facility is due to open in Spring 2023

More information about the new crematorium can be found on [one.welhat.gov.uk](http://one.welhat.gov.uk) or email [propertydevelopment@welhat.gov.uk](mailto:propertydevelopment@welhat.gov.uk)

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