

TEIGNMOUTH CEMETERY DRAFT PLAN

“Saving Cemeteries” book gives some lessons:

1. Don't underestimate effort required – break down into manageable bites
2. Know your limitations (size of project/ knowledge)
3. Need members! Need to get membership up quickly and then keep numbers up
4. Need PR plan – keep at it
5. Need overall management plan – guidance for members and essential for grant funding
6. Tips – make photographic records; guided walks
7. Set up project groups (e.g. working parties, historical research, natural history)
8. Involve other local organisations
9. Get figurehead as president and a patron + professionalism of a Trust
10. Education project – involving schools, potential for grants
11. Funding essential
12. Three helpful organisations: British Trust for Conservation Volunteers; Wildlife Trust; National Federation of Cemetery Friends

OUTLINE PLAN

| Projects | Components | Issues/ Notes |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Buildings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 1 – all background work: survey, specification, grant application, incorporation Phase 2 – commissioning: selecting developers; managing development Phase 3 – Operation: building maintenance; manage community activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do we take this on or just support an independent initiative? Depends on decision from Teignbridge |
| Grounds – long-term | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscaping plan: gardens, wild-life Maintenance plan Masonry Grant funding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get advice |
| Grounds short-term | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearance plan Establish working groups Insurance Risk assessment Tools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link to PR Work with other organisations – Dawlish Gardens Trust, Foresight Gardening |
| History | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify all graves by location Set up photographic record Genealogy research Historical research Document, create “stories” | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link to PR |
| PR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PR plan Leaflets etc Web & social media News media Events Contacts – local organisations, council, MP, businesses. Local residents | |
| Funding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants Fund-raising Membership fees Living relatives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May need specialist advice for grants (CVS?) |
| Membership | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attract Retain Replace | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do members get? Identify any living relations of ancestors buried in cemetery |

GENERAL APPROACH TO CLEARANCE

1. Select small areas to clear rather than individual graves – more visual impact and probably more effective use of resources
2. Focus at this stage on areas of marked graves and leave the unmarked grave areas as grassed areas. However, these grassed areas could be used differently in the future – e.g. creating small garden areas (herb areas, scented areas, butterfly areas etc)
3. First area identified as a group of family tombs which has already being partially cleared (of bramble and ivy) by Dawlish Gardens Trust.
4. Before starting work, survey the area:
 - a. Detailed photographic record
 - b. Record the written epitaphs on each grave
 - c. Make note of anything unusual (nature, design etc)
 - d. Lichen survey (?) – at least before any stonework is cleaned
5. Assess whether there could be any living relatives in the area and, if necessary, try to track down
6. All graves to be cleared within their kerbstones (and margins created outside the kerbstones to make subsequent trimming easier?)
7. Decide on a planting regime
8. Option to use gravel within kerbstones?
9. Option to use weed matting and put new topsoil on top?
10. Clear weed/grass from strips between adjacent grave kerbstones?
11. In parallel do basic genealogy research on those buried there, especially trying to identify any likely story of interest.
12. Once area cleared take photographs again
13. Once area planted take photographs again
14. Add all documentation to web-site
15. Write up and publicise the work if considered newsworthy.