



Request for a Public Spaces Protection Order Limiting the Movement of Dogs through The Spinney, Market Deeping Cemetery

June 2020

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The Spinney, Market Deeping Cemetery

Market Deeping Cemetery is located between Church Street and John Eve Way in the heart of a Market Deeping recreational area (see attached plan).

The Spinney is a separate, attractive and peaceful area within the Cemetery set aside for the scattering of cremated remains.



There is a pathway through from The Rectory Paddock, of approximately 40m in length, which leads into the main burial area. This is one of three pedestrian access routes into the Cemetery and it is accessible for all users.



The Spinney is approximately 830m² and is planted with trees and natural woodland planting. Family and friends, if they wish to do so, are able to choose appropriate woodland shrubs and bulbs to add to the planting that has already taken place as a way of commemorating those loved ones whose remains have been scattered. Small granite plaques can also be purchased and placed on the kerbstones of the path to provide a more permanent memorial.

There is a wooden bench along the path where people can stop and sit for a moment of peaceful reflection before continuing their walk through the Cemetery or through The Paddock.



The route through the Cemetery and recreational grounds is a popular pathway as it provides a pleasant walk linking the two main areas of the town. There are currently no restrictions on the movement of dogs through either The Spinney or the main burial area of the Cemetery.

A Request for a Public Spaces Protection Order

The following matter has recently been brought to the Council's attention:

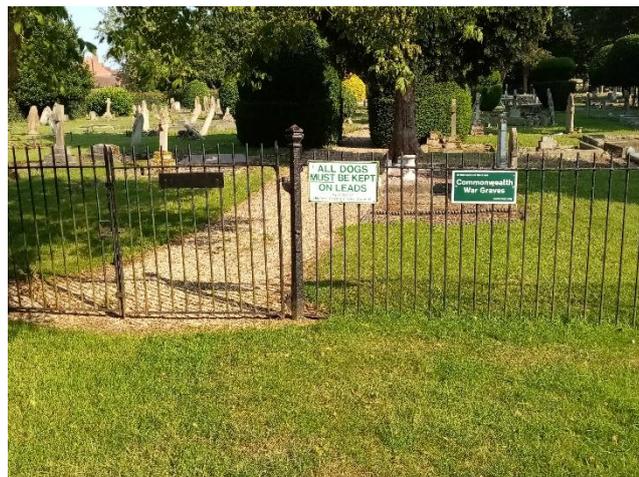
Over the course of a few weeks The Spinney was visited by a lady who had recently lost her husband and who wished to have his ashes scattered there. On several of her visits, while sitting quietly on the bench, she was passed by owners walking their dogs. On 2 separate occasions, and with 2 separate dogs, she was upset to see that the dogs were running free amongst the wooded, planted areas and disturbing and scratching around in the earth where the scatterings take place. The lady also witnessed a dog defecating in the area.

The Council welcomes dogs in both the Cemetery and The Spinney, but it is a matter of concern for the Council that these incidences caused the lady considerable distress. The lady has enquired whether something can be done to prevent this from happening as she cannot bring herself to scatter her

husband's ashes while there is a possibility that his ashes could be disturbed in this way.

The route via The Paddock, The Spinney and the Cemetery is a popular route by dog walkers accessing the larger recreational parks, and it is unlikely that these witnessed incidences would have been isolated occurrences. The disturbance of scattered cremated remains and the potential distress that this has already caused, and may cause in the future, to bereaved family and friends, is something that the Council wish to safeguard against.

The Council is keen to offer the lady reassurances so that she can carry out her wishes but, as there are no formal measures in place to restrict the movement of dogs, it is unable to do so. Currently there is only one sign, on the lesser used pedestrian access to the side of the cemetery.



The Council do not consider it necessary to completely exclude dogs from The Spinney, but it does consider it important, and respectful, that their movements are restricted by ensuring that owners keep them on their leads. The Council request, therefore, that a *Public Spaces Protection Order* is granted for The Spinney to restrict the movement of dogs and the appropriate signage be put in place at the earliest opportunity.



In the interim, the Council has placed laminated polite notices at either end of the pathway through The Spinney and has highlighted the issue on the Council's social media page. These are temporary measures, however, and the Council now seeks a more permanent solution for The Spinney. It requests that approval be granted as soon as possible.