

Town Hall Meeting Lookout Community Centre on 9th August 2023

Total persons registered at the Lookout Community Centre = 16 persons attended

Summary of issues raised at town hall meeting

Principal Environmental Health Officer-He pointed out the need for the extension of the cemetery in Lookout. The area on which the cemetery was proposed was zoned for residential in the Physical Development Plan, hence part of the process was to get it changed. The cemetery has been opened for nine years and there were nearly 400 persons buried at the cemetery. The plan was to use the new area which can serve for a few decades. The Ministry of Health has plans to make the site more environmentally friendly by the planting of more flowers and trees. In order to preserve the space for a longer period other options were proposed for the disposal of bodies. One option was for a crematorium for persons who may wish to have crematorium. The present legislation stated that person had to be buried underground. The legislation would need to be modified to accommodate other disposal methods. The church cemeteries were also been filled up except for St. John’s Anglican Church. The landscaping would also play an important feature going forward. Another plan was for a mausoleum but would depend on the interest of the public.

Chief Physical Planner outlined that the area was zoned for high end residential and for the time no development was committed to the area. The Ministry of Health and Social Services would have applied to the Planning and Development Authority for a Modification of the Physical Development Plan for the extension of the cemetery which was 2.89 acres. The cemetery extension was located north/north east of the mini football pitch. The existing cemetery had crypts that were constructed from concrete located underground that can accommodate at least two persons which utilize the physical space with more bodies per spot. In order to modify the Physical Development, Plan the Authority has to notify persons in the general public on there views in line with the requirements of the Physical Planning Act.

The land was owned by the Crown.

The initial period runs for 17 days and The Planning and Development Authority would review the comments and provide responses. Once the Modification is agreed the Planning and Development Authority would have to go back out to the public for 60 days for further representation on the proposed cemetery. Once the Planning and Development Authority agrees to the Modification for the cemetery it would then go to Cabinet for final approval. Publications would then be made to the Gazette and two consecutive running in a local newspaper.

Issues raised from town hall meeting	Responses
One resident indicated that the cemetery would be located in close proximity to her residence near Ocean Drive. The concern referred to the current state of the cemetery. The area seems to be untidy. The need for the cemetery to be esthetically pleasing to include trees, properly laid out. I am not opposed to the cemetery since we need more space for the dead. Persons need to	Ministry of Health official response. Plan to do master plan for the layout of the cemetery. The approach for the new option would be different from the existing. When master plan becomes available the Ministry of Health would be willing to share with residents. The approach to planning the extension of the cemetery. This was the first step to securing access for the land to be used as

<p>take ownership of the spot where the family members are buried. Reference was made to Guadeloupe where houses are built for the dead. The need to explore other options for the layout of the cemetery.</p>	<p>a cemetery and then details would be provided. Appropriate foliage and trees would need to be identified for the area. Plans for erecting tables and benches as part of the plan.</p>
<p>The question about the valuation of properties and if the cemetery would devalue the properties around the area.</p>	<p>The Chief Physical Planner said that he spoke to an individual who did valuation of property in Plymouth next to the cemetery and the property was going for a value of \$45.00 per square foot. A assessment of the property values would be required to see if the cemetery would impact property values. This information would be required as part of the discourse from the Inland Revenue.</p>
<p>It would be good to see a model of what the Ministry of Health is proposing.</p>	<p>The scheme of land use was for residential and the need to modify for cemetery purposes in the first instance. The detail arrangement can come at a later stage when developed.</p>
<p>I don't have no problem with the existing site. I have been to Jamaica, Guadeloupe and the cemeteries are well managed. If this site is not approved is there an alternative site.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Health did indicate that the site will be better managed. If this site was not approved an alternative site would need to be found.</p>
<p>I support the expansion of a cemetery since we need more space. The crematorium, would Government build a crematorium or encourage private enterprise. Does the 2.89 acres allow for a Chapel. Funds for crematorium at the Catholic church was an issue. There was also a plan for people to place their ashes at the church compound. In your plan the Ministry of Health can encourage the other churches to do the same. The church was still having difficulties obtaining permission for a cemetery. The encouragement was there to revive the proposal for the Catholic Church. There was some doubts about the length of time the new cemetery would last. In Plymouth people use to bury in the same grave after ten years. Is there a time limit for the reuse of the cemetery. The tombs there was only two been used. What is the problem with the take up of the crypts.</p>	<p>Principal Environmental Health Officer with the respect to the re use of graves. He indicated that it was against the law which does not allow for re use of grave sites. There are proposed amendments to make that legal. Suggestion amendment would be ten years before it can reopened.</p> <p>Concrete crypts once you bury a person in a crypt it can be reopened the following week since it has slabs on each part which is sealed. The uptake may be due to cost of a crypt which would be more than an earth grave. Cost would be \$6000 EC for one.</p> <p>Space for the Chapel would need to be re examined to see how it fits into the space.</p> <p>Place to hold cremated remains don't see an issue with that.</p> <p>Salem cemetery was reopened for burial however it was never closed.</p>

	The cemetery would last longer there has been areas where fill soil was placed which can be reused at the existing cemetery.

NB.

Inland Revenue was contacted on the valuation issue.

Response from Inland Revenue.

The Inland Revenue has indicated that based on the information provided the Unit don't foresee any fluctuations in the value of properties in the area due to the proposed extension of the cemetery.