

## Bedford Borough Council Mausoleums

Bedford Borough Council has been supplying mausoleums and burial chambers to the community for almost 20 years. They are extremely popular.

To date, the Council has installed 711 mausoleums, 300 double burial chambers, 65 single chambers and assisted 8 families with bespoke mausoleum designs.

The Council recently tendered for the installation of mausoleums and burial chambers.

The contract includes:-

- Supply
- Delivery
- Installation
- Maintenance

The specification for mausoleums and burial chambers are that:-

All mausoleums and burial chambers must be sympathetic to the existing design of burial chambers and mausoleums.

Mausoleums must be installed in a modular design, i.e. 3 high grouped in numbers yet to be determined and be capable of a back to back construction.

All the side loading mausoleums must be capable of accepting American caskets. The front aperture must be covered in black granite.

All granites plaque facias' must be black and in keeping with the existing granite at the existing installed mausoleums.

The plaque must be fitted at the time of the installation of the mausoleum; therefore must be easily removed by hand by two operatives.

The contractor must also be able to deal with requests for individual mausolea e.g. family mausoleum for 4 interments, or bespoke mausolea for maximum of 6 interments.

All burial chambers must be made from pre-cast concrete and must be easily accessed i.e. by the removal of lids by hand by two operatives.

The use of lifting equipment as a method of access will be prohibited due to access/surface conditions. All burial chambers must be available as single and double depth chambers.

We also requested that the concrete used should be glass reinforced or other suitable equivalent material in order to prevent discolouration and erosion of the mausoleums.

We ask that all construction works and installation of mausoleums and burial chambers must be compliant to current legislation i.e. under Article 19 of the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977, all mausoleums and burial chambers shall be:

- (a) Embedded in concrete, and covered with a layer of concrete not less than six inches thick,  
or,

(b) Enclosed in a separate cell or compartment of brick, slate, stone flagging, or precast concrete slabs of a 1:2:4 mix, in any case not less than two inches thick, in such a manner as to prevent, as far as possible, the escape of any noxious gas from the interior of the cell or compartment.

The annual pre-planned maintenance should include the following:-

- Removal of debris from roof
- Unblocking of drain pipes
- Full inspection of all blocks to ensure no movement, subsidence and/or cracking
- Maintenance and upkeep of existing structures

### **SALES TO THE PUBLIC**

- Mausoleums are sold with the exclusive right and right to erect memorial within the price, together with £125 towards inscription costs.
- Burial Chambers are sold with exclusive right and right to erect memorial, along with the first interment if double chamber – additional fee for second interment.

### **INTERMENTS**

All coffins being interred into a Mausoleum must be zinc lined

The mausoleums have front fascia's on them, which allows for the interment to take place, the front panel sealed back on and a further panel including granite plaque installed.

2 thin strips of wood are positioned in the cells, to allow for easy access for the coffin to slide in, keeping noise to a minimum.

Burial Chambers, the concrete slabs are installed at time of installation both middle and top. The chambers are not sealed at this time.

Once a chamber is opened for interment, water is removed if there is ingress, and prepared for burial, a small layer of gravel is laid and the putlogs are put into position over the chamber. Coffin placed into position and rested on putlogs. FD or Cemetery team will remove the putlogs when given the "nod" and the coffin is lowered using webbing.

Once mourners have left, the middle slabs are positioned inside, sealed with appropriate mastic and then the top slabs are re-positioned and sealed to stop any further water ingress.

The families can then arrange for the granite to go onto the chambers, we also allow headstones on the chambers.

I know it's a fair distance away but you/ your officers are very welcome to come and visit the site if that would be helpful.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Kind regards

**Paul Pace**  
**Chief Officer - Environment**