

SUTTON ST. JAMES. Graveyard Consultation update.

The Joint Working Party (JWP), was set up after the public meeting held on 8th September 2021 to agree the future of the Sutton St. James graveyard. It is made up of representatives of the Parochial church council (PCC), the Parish Council and the wider community.

We wish to thank everyone who responded to the consultation questionnaire 'have your say'. The responses received showed strong support for a Memorial Garden and an extension to the existing graveyard; there was some, but less, support for the idea of an Independent Trust. The full breakdown of results as well as the PCC's responses to some of the questions/comments left can be found on the Sutton St. James website here:

www.peakparishes.org.uk/our-churches/st-james-church-sutton/graveyard

We were guided by the consultation and agreed upon recommendations to be put to the PCC. The PCC has now approved our recommendations, (The full proposal can also be found here www.peakparishes.org.uk/our-churches/st-james-church-sutton/graveyard)

A brief summary of the agreed proposals:

1. A site investigation to investigate the ground conditions will be carried out on Field one. If the results are favourable:
2. A planning application will be made for a joint scheme for an extension to the graveyard similar in size to the present 2007 extension with an additional area for a Memorial Garden and;
3. If approved, the cost of the graveyard element of this is to be met by the Community and funds have already begun to be raised for this. The costs relating to the Memorial Garden and the maintenance and control of the completed project will remain with the PCC.

The future

The sustainability and lack of burial grounds is a national issue and one that will not get any easier with time. Therefore the PCC expects any further future extension of the graveyard to be unlikely so this is something for everyone to bear in mind. However, the final decision of course will be one taken at the appropriate time by the PCC of the time after discussion with parishioners.

What is happening now

Arrangements are now being made to begin the site investigation process the initial outcome of which will determine if and how the proposal can be progressed and a clearer idea of the likely costs that will need to be raised. We will keep the community informed of our progress.

Contact the JWP: Any queries may be addressed to questresponses@gmail.com