

A member of the Federation of Burial and Cremation's Executive Board has the opportunity to:

- ❖ Influence Ministerial Policy decisions on matters relative to Bereavement eg The code of practice for provision of management of public graves in local authority cemeteries. The draft has been produced by the FBCA for consideration by the Ministry of Justice and members of the Executive Committee have contributed to the contents. This code is now being considered by Ministry of Justice and if agreed one of the recommendations would be to increase fees for interment in public graves by £50.00, this would have a positive impact on Cheshire East's income.
- ❖ At the present time the Executive are looking at the Guidance for the Development of Closed Churchyards. This will also have financial implications for Cheshire East, as it will determine what the minimum standards are (local authorities are legally required to maintain closed churchyards if requested to do so) prior to take over, and what the standards should be once take over has been completed.
- ❖ Coroner's Bill – Executive members have been heavily involved in this consultation and the new arrangements, and were the first to be informed that with the demise of the PCTs (who were originally expected to take over responsibility of death certification) it will now fall down to LA's – this again will have financial consequences for the local authority. As a member of the Executive Committee which will be involved in these arrangements, exactly what will be required and how much it is anticipated to cost, plus start date will be made known at a much earlier stage. This means that the Borough will have the benefit of advance knowledge and planning.
- ❖ Health and Safety issues surrounding Bereavement services are discussed at the Executive Committee and again advanced information can only be of benefit to our staff and visitors eg
  - Investigation of woollen coffins – they give off hydrogen cyanide when they reach 580 (which is also the flash point). Health and Safety Executive are carrying out risk assessments at the moment to determine if these gases are dangerous to our staff or if they are contained within the cremator. The Executive Committee are reviewing the way forward with the HSE. However until the risk has been investigated it is up to the LA if they wish to risk their staff being exposed to it and possible claim for damage to their health. This information is only privy to those on FBCA committees.
- ❖ Updated on the financial implications related to CAMEO (burden sharing scheme for mercury abatement). The discussions that Executive Committee have had have been instrumental in setting the fee for members to join and

also the environmental fee which CE levy to everyone who requests a cremation service. As a member would have an input in what the fee should be each year.

- ❖ Members are also made aware of any legal implications that may have an impact on an authority in advance eg
  - Public Liability Insurance for family arranged funerals. Discussions have taken place on this issue and also the possible implications for Local Authorities that may have gone unnoticed.
  - NAMM v Cardiff City Council for operating restrictive practices in only accepting BRAMM accredited members to fix memorials.