

Crematorium Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Questions	Answers
Where will the site be located?	Chingford Mount Cemetery
When will on-site construction commence?	<p>Estimated: 2025. Construction work will not start until the planning process is completed; this will include consideration of informative notes and the discharge of conditions.</p> <p>The first of three stages of public engagement took place in winter 2023. Stages two and three will take place in 2024 (subject to programme approval in late spring 2024 to proceed with stages two and three of the project).</p>
When might operations of the crematorium commence?	Estimated - 2026
What stage is the development programme?	We are at the conceptual design stage of the process and the project team is looking at new crematoria being built, the technology and issues that have arisen and how they have been responded too. Once developed further, there will be additional engagement sessions prior to Planning submission in Summer 24.
What time of day will the crematorium operate?	Cremation services will be available Monday to Friday during off-peak hours 9:30 and 16:30. These would be the same operating hours as the current burial service at the cemetery.
How will traffic be managed?	An extensive transport and traffic survey is to be carried out to assess the impact on traffic and neighbouring roads, and whether there will be any marked changes from the current traffic experienced at the site from funerals taking place at the cemetery. Services will be sufficiently spread out between the day to prevent services conflicting and sit within off-peak hours.
What parking facilities will there be available?	As part of the next stage, we will undertake transport assessment that includes review of the existing parking provision within the cemetery grounds and surrounding areas. A transport consultant will conduct analysis and produce a report for planning assessment and review.
How far away from the nearest properties will the crematorium be?	<p>Any new crematorium on the site will have to adhere to strict planning and environmental controls, strictly limiting its effect on the surrounding area. The proposed development conforms with regulations and guidelines as the proposed area is developed further than 100 yards from dwellings. *</p> <p>*Source: London County Council (General Powers) Act 1935 Section 64, and 1971 Section 7</p>

<p>What emissions will come out of the crematorium stacks? Will there be any smoke or smells?</p>	<p>Modern filtration equipment has allowed modern crematoria to be significantly more environmentally friendly than they have been historically. There are strict abatement and emissions controls that govern crematoria, including ensuring that there will be no smoke or odours.</p> <p>Electric cremators are proposed for the development. Electric cremators operating on a green electricity tariff do not release any CO2 emissions from the fuel source. Abatement equipment attached to the cremator will process and filter 99.9% of particulates. Materials are separated, then collected by a recycling company for processing off-site. The design and height of the stack will be informed by the dispersion modelling that is set to occur in the coming months.</p> <p>Emissions from the cremators are monitored through PG 5/12 (2) legislation which is set by DEFRA.</p>
<p>What landscaping will be provided?</p>	<p>One of the project's objectives will be to ensure any landscape proposals enhance the existing mature environment with natural planting; primary sources of inspiration will be greater biodiversity and harmony with nature and will also address the need for green screening to form a natural visual barrier at the cemetery boundaries.</p>
<p>How will this project impact green space</p>	<p>Through the first stage of engagement, we wanted your ideas to help us start to think about how we might improve existing green space and nature at Chingford Mount as part of this project.</p> <p>We know that Chingford Mount Cemetery is a valued green space.</p> <p>We've already started to think about ways nature and green space could be enhanced and feedback on these opportunities will be sought through the stages of public engagement, as well as other suggestions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initiating community-led nature conservation projects. 2. Sustainable urban drainage solutions to manage flood risk. 3. More planting 4. Enhancements to biodiversity
<p>Can any faith use the crematorium?</p>	<p>Those of faith and no faith will be welcome to use the facility.</p>
<p>Is there provision for the display of the flower tributes?</p>	<p>Yes, as part of the stage three of the design process, a flower court and memorial gardens will be considered in the landscaping design.</p>
<p>Can pets be cremated?</p>	<p>Due to legislation, pets cannot be cremated in a cremator designed and licensed for use on humans, so there are no plans to provide pet cremation at the proposed crematorium</p>

Will there be any noise?	As part of the stage three of the design process, we will need to undertake further assessments to ensure best practice acoustic design for the scheme and to satisfy planning. A noise assessment is planned to help ensure noise levels from the facility are very low during operating hours.
When is the planning application going in?	It is anticipated that a planning application will be submitted in Summer 2024.
What features will the development have?	A service hall, flower court, outdoor service area, maintenance yard, porte cochere (a porch where vehicles stop to set down passengers), memorial garden, native woodland area, ash interment and parking provision are to be considered as part of the next stage.
How big is the crematorium going to be?	In line with the existing temporary hard standing located at the centre of the cemetery, it is anticipated that it will be approximately 550m2
What interment methods are being considered?	There are various new and innovative methods of interment available for ashes, such as mausoleums for above-ground interment or the provision of concrete interment chambers, which are similar to traditional interments except that the grave is lined and a portion of it stands above ground. During the design stage, various above-ground and below-ground chamber designs will be assessed. Along with the current plots interred at the cemetery, families may choose to keep the ashes themselves, which reduces the demand for interment space. The team will assess, review, and seek approval to satisfy planning and environmental guidelines.
Why is the council building a crematorium?	<p>Space for new burials in Chingford Mount Cemetery is running out and it's estimated there is only enough space for eight to 10 more years.</p> <p>Chingford Mount Cemetery is the only council-owned working cemetery in the borough. Creating a crematorium at the heart of an established cemetery that the council owns has substantial advantages over researching, purchasing, and developing another site, as well as helping to ensure the future of the current, much-loved cemetery as a final resting place for local people. Over 75 per cent of people now opt for cremation over burial; in 2022, 82% of people that died opted for cremation over burial across Great Britain, and Waltham Forest doesn't currently offer this facility to residents.</p> <p>There is a proven quantitative need for a crematorium in this region to serve the needs of the people within this community who are currently unserved by any other crematorium within an approximate 30-minute drive time at cortege speed. We'll need to undertake further assessments to satisfy planning, as part of this process, a sequential test report will be compiled to support the location chosen.</p>

<p>Hasn't another crematorium in Sewardstone Road just been given planning permission to open. Does the area need two?</p>	<p>An application for a crematorium at Sewardstone Park Cemetery is still in the planning process, with several conditions to be met. The granting of planning permission does not automatically allow the development to commence. The applicant has submitted several discharges of condition applications, but these are not yet formally discharged by the Waltham Abbey Local Planning Authority.</p> <p>The location of the proposed crematorium is outside Waltham Forest and difficult to access by public transport for Waltham Forest residents and would not solve the current issue of residents having to travel outside the borough for cremation. The construction of a crematorium at Chingford Mount Cemetery is a strategic move to ensure its future as it reaches its capacity for burials.</p>
<p>What has happened so far?</p>	<p>Last summer (2023), Waltham Forest Cabinet approved the conceptual design for a new crematorium. It was agreed that the next step should be to investigate preliminary suggestions, exploring early ideas for a new crematorium at the Chingford Mount Cemetery location and how Chingford Mount Cemetery could be improved.</p> <p>As a part of the initial round of engagement in winter 2023 the council gathered comments via early drop-in sessions to explore the conceptual designs. The council also commissioned a multidisciplinary design team, comprising of subject matter specialists, to conduct invasive site and scheme studies.</p>
<p>Has any engagement happened already?</p>	<p>Significant engagement has taken place during the early stages of design including 4 in-person engagement events, newsletter drops, and information provided at the Cemetery Office notice boards. Feedback from residents have all been addressed and queries directly responded to. The feedback received thus far has helped inform the next stages of design. Further engagement is planned for May 24 prior to planning submission in Summer 24.</p>
<p>How can I share my feedback?</p>	<p>Further engagement sessions are being planned for May 24, the local community will be invited to attend to see how the design has progressed and will have the opportunity to provide feedback.</p> <p>Further detail of timings and location of the future engagement events will be shared in due course.</p> <p>Comments & queries are still welcome using the Crematorium Enquiries inbox at Crematorium.Enquiries@walthamforest.gov.uk</p>
<p>How will you respond to my feedback from this consultation?</p>	<p>Your feedback as part of this stage of engagement will help inform early ideas and a business case to be agreed to seek funding for the next stages of the project. There will be future opportunities to get involved.</p>

<p>Will any new activities have a noise impact? Have you considered the impact of this on nature?</p>	<p>The vision for the scheme will demonstrate our commitment to provide biodiversity enhancements and ensure sustainability is at the heart of the project – this extends to potential noise impact and ensuring that as the proposals are being further developed, consideration is made to the sensitivities of the natural context of the preferred location’s surroundings.</p>
<p>Will this project be harmful to wildlife and biodiversity?</p>	<p>The vision for this scheme will demonstrate our commitment to provide biodiversity enhancements as a part of this project. This might include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Habitat features and measures to support wildlife species. 2. Improved links between existing greenspaces and habitats. 3. Creating opportunities for learning about nature.
<p>Will there be late night activities on site, and will this disturb residents?</p>	<p>We anticipate opening hours to be in line with those of a traditional cemetery and crematorium facility and therefore expect no late night and weekend operations.</p>

Any questions please email: Crematorium.Enquiries@walthamforest.gov.uk

More information on the proposed crematorium is available on the Waltham Forest Council website: www.walthamforest.gov.uk/births-deaths-and-marriages/deaths/cemeteries