

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 29th MARCH 2006

BRITISH REGISTER OF ACCREDITED MEMORIAL MASONS (BRAMM) SCHEME

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To invite Committee to adopt the British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons (BRAMM) Scheme as a method of ensuring safe working practices to nationally accepted standards for persons wishing to carry out work on memorials within the Council's cemeteries and churchyards.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 East Ayrshire Council was the first Council in Scotland to introduce a Memorial Masons Registration Scheme. This scheme was then adopted nationally as a model document for other authorities.
- 2.2 The existing Memorial Masons Registration Scheme was approved by the Community Services Committee on 14th November 2001 and ensures that Memorial Masons work to the standards contained within the National Association of Memorial Masons (NAMM) Code of Working Practice and that they carry the appropriate insurances. Members of the scheme are also required to prove that they are competent and that they can demonstrate safe working methods.
- 2.3 The Registration Scheme and its members are monitored by managers to ensure that memorials/headstones are erected in line with the NAMM Code of Practice. Staff have been trained by both the Institute of Cemetery and Cremation Management (ICCM) and NAMM on safe installation and inspection of memorials/headstones.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Whilst the East Ayrshire scheme has worked effectively and has given the public confidence that their memorial is being erected to recognised and tested standards, it should be noted that the scheme now stands separate from other Councils as the BRAMM Scheme is now being adopted as the industry standard and effectively builds on the strengths of the existing Memorial Masons Registration Scheme.
- 3.2 Memorial Masons that join the BRAMM Scheme will be able to show that they have the necessary training and quality of workmanship necessary to work in East Ayrshire's cemeteries and churchyards.
- 3.3 A national register will allow Councils to carry out checks on those Memorial Masons applying to work within our properties and will also provide members of the public with details of local and national companies who operate to the highest standards, whilst also offering them more choice.

4. FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial or legal implications arising from this report.

5. POLICY/COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The BRAMM Scheme links well with the Community Plan particularly with “Improving Safety” and will build on the work already being done to improve safety and awareness of danger in cemeteries and churchyards.
- 5.2 The Council’s Cemetery Management rules would have to be updated to accommodate the move from a dedicated Memorial Masons Registration Scheme to the BRAMM Scheme.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The BRAMM Scheme would ensure that all Memorial Masons that work within the Council’s properties are properly certificated while also offering the public of East Ayrshire a wider choice and uniformity of fixing standards.
- 6.2 East Ayrshire Cemeteries’ staff would be trained to BRAMM certification levels as fixers so as to allow effective monitoring of Memorial Masons. This would also allow the Council to carry out repairs/safety work on memorials.
- 6.3 It is proposed that the BRAMM Scheme is introduced on the 1st January 2007. This would allow Memorial Masons time to achieve accreditation. The Council’s own scheme would operate until 31st December 2006.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Committee are asked to:-
- (i) adopt the BRAMM Scheme for those who carry out work on memorial/headstones within our cemeteries on 1st January 2007;
 - (ii) cease to operate the Council’s own Memorial Masons Registration Scheme at that time; and
 - (iii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JAG/KH

14th March 2006

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Cemetery Management Rules
2. East Ayrshire Council’s Memorial Masons Registration Scheme
3. BRAMM Information Guide

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 578179 and ask for John Griffiths, Head of Leisure Services.

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