



An Award-Winning Approach to Achieving Environment and Financial Sustainability

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London Borough of Lambeth



Developing and embedding strategies to tackle industry wide issues

Project Electric

- The gas cremators at Lambeth were approaching end of life and Capital funds had been allocated.
- Replacing the gas-powered cremator at Lambeth Cemetery with a new electric one was agreed to reduce the council's carbon footprint and increase energy efficiency.
- Lambeth Council's Borough Plan promises to "Reduce carbon emissions, significantly cut waste and encourage re-use." The electric cremator will bring us closer to becoming a carbon neutral borough, reducing costs and using less energy
- The electric cremator promises to cut out 30-35 cubic metres of natural gas in each cremation, significantly decreasing pollution.
- Carbon emissions from an electric cremator on a green energy tariff are over 90% lower than gas (source DFW)
- The machines are pending independent emissions testing in late 2024/early 2025 to compare data.



Project Electric



- Works to replace the cremator began 18 July 2022 and ran to October. No cremation services took place, but we were able to offer an alternative at West Norwood
- Lambeth has commissioned one specialist contractor to disassemble the old gas cremator.
- The works was procured to source an electric cremator in the Netherlands.
- It was be shipped to Lambeth and lifted directly into the crematorium via crane.
- A specialised route from the port was devised and permits sought, the machine was delivered in the early hours of the morning.
- The works were complicated by the need to place in an existing building, had this been a new build it would have been much more straightforward and without the need for building alterations

Implementing Financial Sustainability in the service

Lambeth Bereavement Services team are very aware of dwindling burial space and funeral poverty within our Inner London Borough.

We have developed a wide range of initiatives, founded on the need to extend and sustain burial choices whilst offering more environmentally friendly options.

We are currently converting an underused soil yard at one site for bespoke mausolea.

We have converted several underused pathways across our three cemeteries into new graves.

We are also beginning works on two large areas of Public Graves at Streatham for Grave Re-Use (lift and deepen)

A new casket area was created to promote and allow choice for all cultures.

The Lambeth Simple Funeral was launched in 2019 to offer choice for those who may otherwise need a Public Health (Section 46) funeral.

A Pet Cremator is currently close to launch in one of the underused chapels at Streatham Cemetery.

The Lambeth Simple Funeral

- **The Lambeth Simple Funeral was introduced in 2019, all aspects are delivered by the Bereavement Team.**
- **This offers families the option of a fixed price funeral service and choices not availed with some other lower priced funerals.**
- **The service is offered end to end in either of our crematoria and burial is possible.**
- **This is designed to address funeral poverty by offering a streamlined, dignified package at a reduced price point.**
- **This is offered currently at £1612, the average cost of cremation in London is £4184 (source – The Funeral Guide)**
- **This allows families to retain control of their loved one's arrangements and has reduced the number of Public Health funerals as this is often suitable for families with limited means who cannot afford to engage a traditional funeral director.**

The Simple Lambeth Funeral

Our prices

£1612.00

£1745.00 out of hours
current fees valid until 31 March 2024

We will

- Arrange the funeral - cremation costs included ✓
- Collect the deceased in working hours ✓
- Organise statutory medical papers if required ✓
- Provide a coffin suitable for cremation ✓

Find out more

bereavementservices@lambeth.gov.uk
lambeth.gov.uk/bereavement-services
Monday - Friday, 8am-4pm 020 7926 7999
Out of hours 020 8695 9500



Lambeth

What's been achieved
and our vision for the
future

- We have achieved a reduction in Public Health funerals
- We have introduced over 40 new services based on benchmarking, new offers and assessing client requests
- We can offer a number of burial choices – we have extended the life of one cemetery by 3 – 4 years when it was due to be full in 2019
- Service has hit income target in successive years

- To continue innovating and assessing new technology or funeral changes
- To implement grave re-use in Streatham and then begin work at West Norwood Cemetery
- To open the Pet Crematorium for use
- To develop and offer more traditional funerals if needed in the community