



Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee

Cremator Replacement Project Update

April 2011

Issue 2



Project Board meetings have been held on a regular basis with key representation to plan and review progress on the operation and finance, this supports and guides the regular project team meetings that have been continuing from last summer.

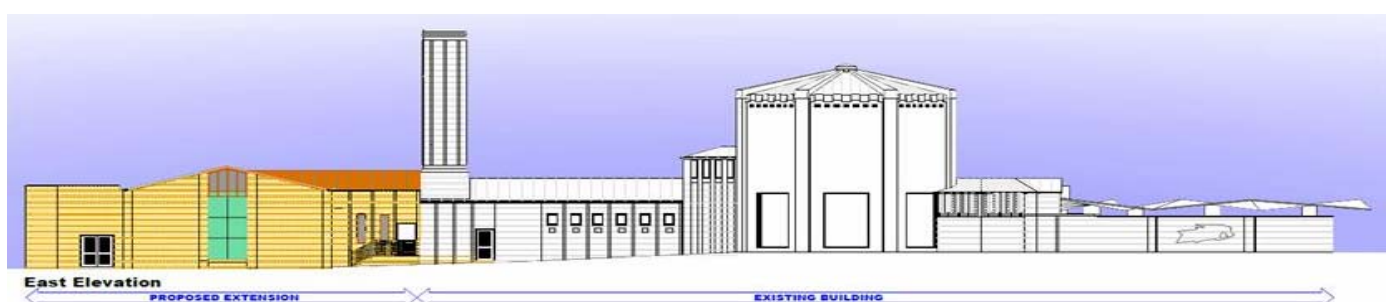
As per programme the boiler house was demolished 26th March (photo below-right) with the gas main being re-sited to allow for the foundations to progress for the new cremator building. The electric sub station work is progressing well with the new foundation & walls being built with completion due at the end of next week (21st April)

The foundation works have been dug for both the car park and building requiring in excess of 600 tonnes of earth to be removed and allow hardcore to be laid and provide a base for the concrete foundations to be poured onto. Over 1 metre of hardcore was required for building to protect against ground movement with it being sited on the side of the hill and allow for changes following the trees being removed. The topsoil from site has been reused elsewhere on site and subsoil being reused through other waste companies.

The sub base for the car park has been completed and for the building the steel cages have been constructed on site (photo overleaf-right) and the damp proofing is in place.

Fortunately the weather has been dry allowing for the access roads to be kept cleaner and reducing the impact on those who use and visit the site. Although in the event of poor weather road sweepers and other contingencies are on call to ensure the impact is minimal.

Photos 'from behind the scenes'





The orders have been placed for many items required for the build with the majority being within the expected amounts and project expenditure is as per the planned budget, further details will be presented at the forthcoming Central Durham Joint Committee Meeting.

Ongoing daily liaison is happening between Alan Jose and the contractors to ensure any impact on the ongoing services are minimised. To date there has been one complaint regarding music being played by an external contractor 'Freedom' who are undertaking the works on the electric substation.

What is coming up?

The 1st concrete pour for the building foundation will happen this weekend (16th April) and is the first of three concrete pours. This is all part of the preparation works in anticipation for the steel works to be erected prior to the 15th May deadline for works to comply with the requirements for the roosting bats. For the car park the installation of drainage and kerbs is imminent with the lighting and final surfacing due for completion by the end of May and ahead of schedule.

Communications

Member briefings will be issued on a monthly basis giving up to date details of progress across the project. Future issues will also summarise the budgetary position. Notices have been placed in the Crematorium grounds advising visitors of what is happening and why.

A turf cutting ceremony happened Tuesday 29th March 2011, at 12 noon, with press coverage in the Northern Echo and Journal along with the BBC.

The open evening on Wednesday 6th April 2011, was attended by approximately 30 Funeral Directors, Clergy, Funeral Celebrants, together with all members of Durham County Council and the Vice Chairman of Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee. The evening was successful and a good opportunity for discussion about the ongoing development along with ensuring that key stakeholders are given the opportunity to see first hand the changes and understand further how the works are being managed to minimise the impact on mourners and visitors to site. Many of the questions and points related to the current development with some focusing on the areas of further development to increase capacity of the chapel.

Further press releases are planned at key times with the opening of the new car park being the next opportunity.

