



Cemetery Lychgate Refurbishment: Progress Report and Request for Additional Funding Approval

Background

Work is progressing well on the Lychgate project. The Lychgate structure is now in a safe and refurbished condition, thanks to the installation of new oak support bases, which have been secured using both traditional methods (dowels) and modern techniques (reinforced rods and chemical adhesives).

The new gates have been manufactured and are ready for installation.

This has been a complex and specialist project, as expected given the age and historic nature of the structure. It has not been without challenges, including concerns about timber quality, the significant weight and age of the lychgate canopy, and associated logistical and health and safety considerations. These issues have inevitably added time to the project, but each has been carefully managed to ensure the integrity of the work.

The additional complexities meant the original quotation for the supply of the gates has been difficult to adhere to. It has required support from the Amenities team for the treatment of the gates and the purchase of extra timber (£495) to ensure the gates are properly constructed and supported.

Current Position

The use of additional timber, while necessary to achieve the appropriate quality and durability, has increased the weight of the large gate positioned next to the Lychgate. It has become clear that the existing gate post is not sufficient to bear this additional load, nor are the originally specified hinges suitable.

To ensure the project is completed to the required standard, both in terms of safety and longevity, quotations have been obtained for the supply and installation of a heavy-duty gate post and appropriate hinges.

This additional work represents a sensible investment. A properly installed, high-quality gate post, with suitable fittings, will ensure the structure should remain fit for purpose for over a century with appropriate maintenance.

Financial and Legal Considerations

To complete this work, two separate contractors will be required to undertake different elements of the project:

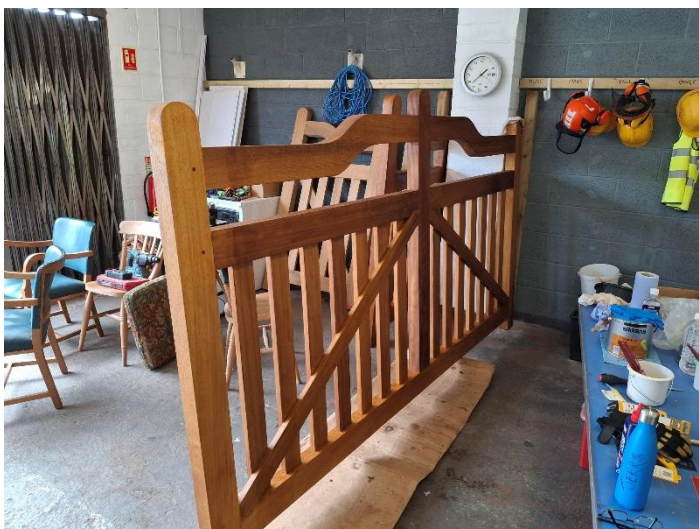
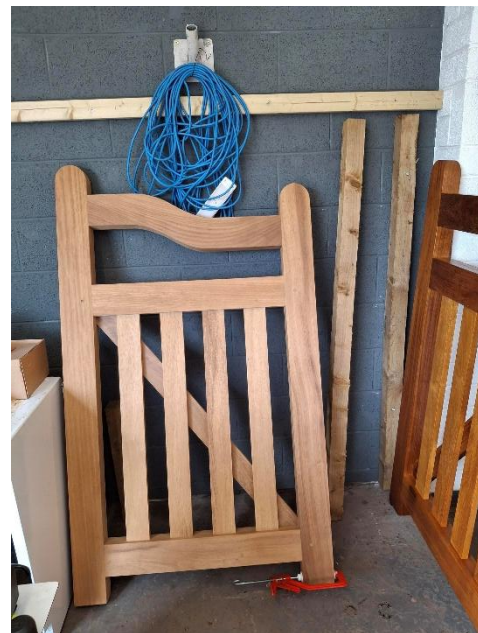
- Supply of gate post and hinges: **£860 + VAT**
- Installation of gate post: **£395 + VAT**

The original project was estimated to cost **£11,785.00**, and to date, the project has cost **£11,930.39**. The additional expenditure proposed for the supply and installation of the heavy-duty gate post and hinges can be met from the same Cemetery Improvements EMR budget that is funding this project. This budget was set aside with this type of work in mind, and sufficient funds are available to cover the additional costs.

There are no significant legal issues arising from this additional expenditure. The works will be carried out by contractors who meet the council's standard requirements, including insurance, risk assessments and compliance with the council's contractor handbook.

Recommendation

To approve the quotations for the supply and installation of a heavy-duty gate post and appropriate hinges, ensuring the successful and safe completion of the Lychgate project without compromising on quality or functionality.



Completed Gates Ready for installation