



Issues with tree plantings in Belfast Cemetery

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Request

I'm reaching out because I had a conversation with someone on a door knocking round last week who was concerned with the impact that the trees in the older part of the Belfast Cemetery were having on their daughter's gravestone.

As Belfast Cemetery is not in Papanui, I can't do anything directly about that, but I was just wondering if there was any information about the future of trees in the cemetery I could pass back to them? They indicated that over longer periods the trees were causing the writing on the markers to degrade, which was costing them personally to maintain, and wondered if there was something in the works.



Council Response

The standard across all cemeteries is that all trees are inspected and maintained on a 5 yearly cycle.

Apart from the cyclical maintenance, there are no future plans regarding trees in the older section of Belfast cemetery.

In regard to the maintenance of the headstones, without knowing the particular headstone in question it is difficult to assess the impact caused by the trees. However, every autumn when the trees drop their leaves, the maintenance teams clear any fallen leaves from the headstones to minimise any potential degrading.

Lastly, as headstones are owned by the right of burial owner any maintenance requirements are the responsibility of the owner. However, if staff can be provided with the exact headstone which the constituent is concerned about, they will be willing to assess the situation directly to see what can be done in this specific situation.

