

Client: Memoria
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South Leicestershire crematorium plan rejected

By [danjmartin](#) | Posted: December 05, 2014



David Jennings

Comments (1)

A funeral firm has failed in its bid to overturn a council's decision to refuse it permission to build a crematorium.

Westerleigh had wanted to build the funeral complex on a Leicestershire County Council-owned site of Welford Road in Kilby.

Blaby District Council's planning committee had rejected the scheme but the firm asked a Government planning inspector to reconsider it.

The inspector has now supported the council's decision, concluding the location was not sustainable for a public facility like a crematorium.

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The Westerleigh scheme was one of three proposed crematoria in South Leicestershire - all within a short distance of each other.

Another planning inspector has given the Co-op permission to [develop](#) a site at Great Glen which was originally turned down by Harborough District Council.

Another firm Memoria is poised to open its own crematorium in Foston Lane Countesthorpe after also getting planning permission on [appeal](#).

The area's county councillor David Jennings has opposed both the Kilby and Countesthorpe scheme.

He said: "The decision to reject Kilby is a very good one - it is far too small as a site - but the pinch is Countesthorpe has been allowed.

"I think if and when the [Great](#) Glen crematorium opens that will be the most used. of the two.

Great Glen's county councillor Kevin Feltham disagreed.

He said: "The Countesthorpe crematorium is set open in February and the one at Great Glen probably won't open for at least a year.

"The site has been cleared but not much else has happened.

"Funeral directors will get used to using the Countesthorpe one but there will end up being a bit of a turf war."

Memoria's £4 million crematorium and memorial park will open in February

Memoria chairman Howard Hodgson said: "We have identified a critical need for cremation [services](#) in the local area and believe that families will appreciate the opportunity to receive a distinguished service in a beautiful setting.

"We realise that we are unable to eradicate the pain of bereavement.

"However, we also know that it is our duty to be as efficient, kind, respectful and polite as humanly possible. The new Memorial Park will achieve this through the [service](#) quality of our dedicated staff. It will also help to alleviate the significant pressure on time slots, which is currently evident locally, by reducing waiting times for families who until now have not had a choice in the matter."