

**Councillor Dave Sheppard, Deputy Leader and
Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion & Neighbourhood Working**

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Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
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30th May 2024

Ms Nida Khan

Dear Ms Khan

Question to Council – Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Thank you for the question you submitted to Council on 22nd May 2024. I have set out the question and my response below.

As we are all aware time is running out and we have no clarity on what is happening with the planning permission. What does RMBC start putting in place if the planning application is not successful? Where will the new site be for the burials for the Muslim community?

I can advise that an update from Dignity regarding the planning application was shared on 30th April by email with the quarterly meeting minutes. Dignity have informed the Council through their Operational Plan that there is burial space for 6 Years and 6 Months for lined graves, 4 years and 4 months for earthen graves and 3 years 3 months for children and baby graves in the Muslim burial section.

We recognise the importance of this for the Community and the Council are engaging with Dignity robustly to ensure that they discharge their responsibility to ensure that facilities are available to all of our communities.

We will ensure that we continue to communicate this through the regular meetings that we have. The next meeting is on July 25th, and we will ask Dignity to update publicly at this stage. In the meantime, the Council is pressing Dignity to ensure that there is a clear plan and that this is ready to be shared.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Dave Sheppard
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion & Neighbourhood Working