
CLEAN STREETS, RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT

Garden Waste Collections

Garden waste collections in the city are due to restart from Tuesday 15 March 2022. Collections will only accept leaves; grass cuttings; plant and flower cuttings and small twigs and branches, and this garden waste will only be collected if it fits within the usual container provided to households. Residents are asked to not leave excess waste next to their container or in green bags as it will not be collected. Further details and information about garden waste collections can be accessed by downloading the CardiffGov app or by check the Council's website.

Pop-Up Recycling Centres

A Pop-Up Recycling Centre was opened at Ty Glas in Llanishen on Saturday 5 March 2022 and I'm pleased to say that this new service was really successful and well received by local residents. This pilot will support the development of a programme of Pop-Up Recycling Centres being provided across the city to support the recycling of household waste.

Registration Services

The Registration Service remains extremely busy – nationally, there has been an 11% increase in deaths and 3% in births compared to previous years. In Cardiff, the demand for marriages and civil partnerships has increased by 28%, with couples keen to firm up plans and marry as soon as possible over the spring/summer period now that Covid-19 restrictions are being lifted.

The easements contained within the Coronavirus Act 2020, which has allowed deaths to be registered over the phone during the pandemic, will expire with the sunset of the Act at midnight on 24 March 2022. After this date, all deaths will have to be registered in person in a face-to-face appointment at the Register Office as they were pre-Covid.

Over the last two years, telephone registration has been very positively received by both our customers and Registration Services staff, with customers registering the death of their loved ones by phone from places such as Leeds, Scotland, Romania and as far away as Canada, rather than having to travel to Cardiff Register Office to do so in person. The Registrars have also been able to work from home and other locations, rather than their usual City Hall office base. This has afforded greater resilience, supported a hybrid working model and ensured business continuity for the service throughout all stages of the pandemic. It is therefore disappointing that the service has to return to a face-to-face service only on 25 March 2022.

However, looking forward positively, there are plans to change primary legislation to allow online and telephone death registrations to be made available permanently to customers should they prefer to register in that way. The primary legislation is just starting its journey through the UK Parliamentary process, and we will know more on its progress and possible implementation later this year.

I am also pleased to confirm that, as of 14 March 2022, Registrars will begin to return to registering births in some of the city's Hubs, starting with Llandaff North Hub on a Monday and Ely Hub on a Wednesday. It is hoped that we will be able to extend this to other Hubs as Covid-19 restrictions are further relaxed over the coming months.

Northern Cemetery

The new Northern Cemetery is now fully operational with funerals taking place at the site on most days. We have received very positive comments from the public and funeral directors in relation to its sympathetic layout and appearance. We are also working with the Believe charity to look at setting out a memorial garden at the new site that remembers those who have died and donated organs to others. Believe will begin fundraising for this project later in the year.

Cathays Cemetery

The Council's Bereavement Services Team has worked collaboratively with the A48 Theatre Company and Living Lines writers' group for a number of years, with annual 'Graveyard Voices' performances being held at Cathays Cemetery where actors play out instances of the lives of some of the cemetery's residents. The group has held a fabulous series of events recently to showcase their 'Stories from the Cemetery at Cathays', with twelve short films from their 'Graveyard Voices' performances being shown at two events at Cathays Cemetery chapels, both of which sold out and were oversubscribed. The films were made during the Covid-19 pandemic and allowed the company to meet and perform within the restrictions in place at the time. Each film is individual and highlights the diverse range of stories of those buried at Cathays Cemetery and further widens the community's knowledge of the heritage of this wonderful site. The films were shortlisted for the Creative Lives People's Choice Awards and can be viewed on the A48 Theatre Company [YouTube site](#).

Cardiff Dogs Home

Demand on the services provided by Cardiff Dogs Home is very high currently, with full kennels and staff being extremely busy. The Dogs Home is now seeing the full effects of the huge numbers of dogs that were bought by people during the Covid-19 pandemic as, sadly, owners are returning to work and finding that they don't have the time they did previously to care for their dogs.

There are currently 55 dogs at Cardiff Dogs Home, with some Dogs Home volunteers being asked to help foster dogs while the kennel space is fully taken up. There is also a waiting list of another 8-10 dogs waiting to come to the Dogs Home. It is difficult to predict how long this is going to last, but the position has been getting worse in recent weeks and could go on for some months.

The veterinary service continues to be very busy and is seeing large numbers of people getting their dogs neutered, vaccinated and flea and worm treated, mainly because there is no capacity for other veterinary practices to take on any new cases. The vet will be moving to work three full days per week at The Rescue Hotel Health Centre at Cardiff Dogs Home in the coming weeks.

The Dogs Home is now inducting between 30-50 people as volunteer dog walkers each week, with demand continuing to grow for both volunteer dog walking and corporate volunteering days with local businesses. To help accommodate this, the Dogs Home has applied for a grant to allow staff to develop the volunteering programme further to include social prescription to benefit people's health and well-being. This will also help staff to provide a volunteering forum and conduct some detailed customer surveys to inform future plans for the service.

Water Safety Talks in Schools

Work to develop a water safety talk/activity session for rollout in Cardiff schools is nearing completion and we are looking to trial this session initially at Willowbrook Primary School. The talk will include a presentation on water safety and a fun practical exercise to ensure that the pupils understand the importance of water safety. The session will also align with National Drowning Prevention Week, which takes place this year on 18-25 June 2022. A lessons learnt and refinement session will then be undertaken and, once completed, officers from the Council's Flood and Coastal Risk Management and Resilience Unit Teams will offer this session to other schools across the city. I want to join with officers from the Flood and Coastal Risk Management Team in thanking Willowbrook Primary School for being involved in the development of these sessions.

Councillor Michael Michael
Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment
11 March 2022