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C/- 95 Brookdene Road  
Bishopsbourne TAS 7301

23 May 2019

(Ref: bishopsbournechurch-002)

Attn: Mr Des Jennings,  
General Manager  
Northern Midlands Council  
PO Box 156  
Longford TAS 7301

Dear Mr Jennings,

### **Future of the Bishopsbourne Cemetery and Church**

On Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> of this month the Bishopsbourne Progress Association held a public meeting at Bishopsbourne to enable discussion of the future of the Bishopsbourne cemetery and church, as the Anglican Church have indicated that they wish to divest themselves of this property. Close to fifty people attended (including two representatives of the Anglican Church), and apologies were received from another ten people – which indicates the significance of the property to the community. As you can imagine, a robust discussion was had.

It was agreed (unanimously) at the meeting that the church building, cemetery and grounds should **remain in community hands**, with the grounds to continue to be developed as a cemetery.

Furthermore, at the meeting it was felt the most sensible owner of the property would be the Northern Midlands Council, as the council structure is ongoing and represents the wishes of the community in a formal way. An elected committee would be the day-to-day manager of the cemetery and could be structured to be either a sub-committee of the Bishopsbourne Progress Association, or a committee directly answerable to Council. This model – of council ownership and community management – has been shown to work well at Bishopsbourne, as evidenced by the successful arrangement

between Council and the Bishopsbourne Progress Association for the Bishopsbourne Community Centre and Recreation Ground.

Funding of the purchase price and ongoing management costs were also discussed at the meeting. It was considered that the purchase of the property could be realised by way of the raising of donated funds - and this appears to be guaranteed from families of people interred there. It is envisaged that the cemetery would be self-funding with forward selling of plots if necessary, to give immediate maintenance funding. The grounds have been maintained voluntarily by the community for many years and this is expected to continue with some minor funding.

A working committee was established at the public meeting, to chart the way forward and to manage the process of purchasing the property. This will include negotiating a sensible purchase value from the Anglican Church.

The working committee met yesterday to progress the proposal. We write to you now to ask the Northern Midlands Council for **in-principal support** at this stage for the proposed ownership and management model. This in-principal support will allow us to enter negotiations with the Anglican Diocese with this being our preferred option.

Please feel free to contact me with any queries you may have.

Kind Regards,



**Kerrie McGee**

**Working Committee Members:**

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