

Southam Town Burial Ground Consultation Results 2018

Every household in Southam Town Council area was posted two response forms to be completed by adults only (18 plus). Residents were asked to download further copies off the Town Council website if more were required for the household.

3347 properties were posted two forms using the unedited Electoral Roll. 46 of those posted were returned to sender for a variety of reasons, leaving 3301 households receiving the forms (6602).

2302 forms were completed and the results were as follows:

Question - Do you want a new burial ground to be developed in Southam and pay for it by way of an additional increase in your annual council tax?

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| 482 (21%) | Yes |
| 1812 (79%) | No |
| 8 | No Response |

| Comments – 113 responses |
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| Cemetary |
| I'd rather have a crossing on the by-pass at Daventry Road! |
| Definitely NOT. BIG FAT NO |
| But not as proposed above! Why no consultation? |
| But not the option presented above which appears to be a done deal without consultation |
| Not enough detail on this! Poor communication |
| Like other local villages (e.g. Stratford and Bishops Itchington) a graveyard should be somewhere family can think with a stone, the loss of their loved one. Why should people pay now - and then be expected to pay again when they are laid to rest? Why hasn't the problem been addressed before now - it is several years since the churchyard was declared full? |
| Large property developments in Southam should cover this cost. Cannot keep increasing number of residents without developing amenities for town. |
| Suggest that property developers around Southam contribute the cost of this development! |
| I don't want a say for the proposed burial ground, I will not be buried in Southam I will be buried with my late husband in Ryton on Dunsmore. I have to pay £219 a month now and cannot afford to pay for something I will never use. I'm 84 years of age I work hard all my working life I get no help. I cannot afford to pay any more to my Council Tax. |
| I feel the money could be far better used for the living. Yes it is important to respect and remember the deceased but there are many plots in Southam Church that are never tended; so I assume no family left. So could you not ?/exhume this area? |
| Surely it is a residents right to have a place of rest - why a stealth tax?? |

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| What alternative plan is available?? |
| We are being buried in Kineton so do not wish to pay for it |
| This method of consultation is inappropriate, poorly devised, lacking in background detail and subject to voting abuse |
| 1. Why did church sell land which was ideally situated for burial purposes? 2. How long is the loan for? 3. Do estimated costs take into consideration all the new properties being built in Southam area? |
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| This issue has been known about for years and the cost could have been recouped by now. Surely this should also have been thought about before so many homes were built recently - very short sighted. Just like there is no policing or extra schools or GP surgeries. I would rather increase in Council Tax pay for these sort of facilities. Surely it is my right to be buried where I was born and where my family lay. Where was the consultation first? Stratford Council what a joke! |
| Not being buried in Southam |
| This is not satisfactory. We need to know a lot more about the project before voting either way |
| Under no circumstances. Stop wasting money. Haven't you got better things to spend our money on? |
| Definitely not! Waste of money! |
| We already pay too much to Stratford Council for very little return. Perhaps the C of E could spend some of their land profits on the remaining land they own in Southam |
| I am concerned this may be interpreted by people to be an additional £95 p.a. if they read it quickly instead of only £15.55 p.a. per house! |
| We are running out of land to service the living - isn't it crazy to be setting land aside for the dead? |
| Provisionally yes, but need more info. Where will it be located; most people who want burials want to have a gravestone |
| I do not wish to be buried! |
| Definitely NOT. This should come out of Council funds! |
| Too many of us - cremation is more efficient |
| Surely this could be covered by a Cemetary charge for those who want to be interned in the new grave yard? Or with all the extra development occurring in Southam these funds could be secured by way of a S106 agreement / all the extra homes paying a 'new council tax' 18% per year...this is ridiculous |
| Not this type of burial ground (headstones reqd) |
| Not this type of burial ground headstones (reqd) |
| Running expenses too high |
| Running costs too high |
| We pay a lot already, this should be included!! |
| We have already lost Police Station and are still paying the same amount of Council Tax - we shouldn't be paying for a new burial site |
| This is a joke. Already people struggle to pay their Council Tax. |
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| Stop building more houses in the area which doesn't have the space and capacity!! |

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| Perhaps if the Council and Church didn't keep selling land off to developers for more housing in Southam there wouldn't be an issue |
| Why not equal lump sum payment per person per month? |
| Not without more detailed information |
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| I do want a new burial ground but feel it should be funded from the various developers who are building locally |
| OHF |
| Don't sell church land for profit and ask the locals to pay more tax |
| Are you joking? |
| Insufficient information - need to ask questions! |
| 1. How long till the loan is paid off? (Initial £300,000). 2. What will the extra parish tax be after the loan is paid off? (i.e. for £30,000 pa ongoing maintenance fee) (How much will that increase the council tax by?) 3. How is maintenance cost £30,000 ps cal'd? (Justified). 4. How big will the burial ground be & how long is it likely to take until it is full? (again) 5. Where will it be? 6. How much will the plots cost for people who want to be buried there? 7. Which local institution will benefit from the income from selling the plots? 8. Can the income from the plots go towards the annual maintenance fee? |
| No No |
| No No |
| What happened to the new burial ground having paid for by the development by the Shell Garage? |
| I have heard of private companies that run natural burial grounds, alternatively house builders can provide them as part of the S106 |
| Land was given for housing, by the church, that some years ago was supposed to be the next burial ground!! The ground should be local enough so that people can visit without driving - not all have cars!! |
| Being born in Southam in 1950 I think it is a disgrace to have to pay for a churchyard on our poll tax when a lot of people are already struggling with bills already. Also I know a lot of church owned fields have been sold for building what a cheek! |
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| Would like to know why money from new housing developments can't contribute to this. Would be yes to running costs |
| I would prefer a more conventional burial ground where a memorial stone could be added! |
| Not enough information. Where is it to be? When? |
| Need to know more. Poor data given. |
| Do you want a new burial ground in Southam - Yes and pay for it by way of an additional increase in your annual council tax? - No. Where? Shouldn't need to pay. |
| The church has sold enough land in Southam for building on that could have been used for burial ground. At that price!! |
| For me not enough information |
| Headstones for all family members required? |
| Need headstones for al family members? |
| We are both in our mid 70's and feel this maybe for us |

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| 1. Where do you intend to site burial ground? 2. How many years will we be paying extra council tax? 3. Surely with the number of new properties the tax should be lower? Council Tax needs to be lowered not increased! |
| I already have my plot where I am going to have my ashes put |
| The Church should pay as they are the richest land owners in the country |
| Why so much??? Need to have grave stones on. We have had no say before now very bad |
| Parish of Southam = £62.57p + 18% = £73.83p less 25% discount |
| It costs enough to be buried now let alone pay more on Council Tax. Church have got enough money why do we have to pay. So sad! |
| This is outrageous |
| The cost of burial ground should be paid by those using the new ground |
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| Our Council Tax is already very expensive and we pay separate fees for our estate to be maintained |
| Where is this burial ground going to be situated as Southam is becoming increasingly populated by houses. More information required |
| Need to have more information to make decision i.e. location |
| But I would like to see justification of what appears to be a very high figure |
| Yes would like new burial ground developed but not at any price! Not enough information has been provided to make an informed decision. A breakdown of the costs is required. |
| It's unhygienic - bad for the environment - and damage to the water table. Cremation makes more sense |
| Disgraceful to even suggest this |
| Totally unacceptable. Council Tax is high enough |
| Totally unacceptable |
| This is not a 'Yes or No' question. This idea of human burial ground is fantastic. I might even consider a small price hike in Council Tax but this? It seems extortionate. Are you not selling the Police Station then? And The Grange? Where is that money going? |
| A cemetery without memorials is pointless, like a pub with no beer |
| We need a cemetery!! |
| I find this disgusting. How dare you. |
| We pay too much Council Tax already! |
| Already pay for policing and see very little with increasing crime |
| We could not afford extra payments |
| No more burials. Cremation is better. |
| Should come from developers contributions |
| GLEEB Church land has just been developed for building ADD IT TO 106 |
| Our Council Tax is a small fortune already! |
| No, that's a huge amount of money for families who may never benefit from the venue |
| Could capital purchase come from 106 monies from recent building developments? Preferably on a brown field site. Not on green belt agricultural land |

Do not appreciate this at all. As a single female, council tax is expensive enough. Please confirm process to appeal.

Just a thought you are selling the Police Station correct. Funds from that could cut costs down

Far too expensive both to set up and maintain. Idea lovely but cost should be found from the new estates builders and if it ever comes (which I hope it doesn't) from HS2.

But please see attached printed comment and respond

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The church had land in Southam and sold it for housing

I' am being cremated and scattered so why should I have to pay for it

Not if I have to pay for it

?? Where burial grounds

?? Where burial grounds

I would like to be informed about the data gathered please. Either way I would NOT pay extra tax.

Insufficient information supplied or available to make an informed or meaningful choice

We have reserved plots at Bishops Itchington

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Not enough detail provided