

ecclesiastical cemeteries in Northern Frisia situation and measures



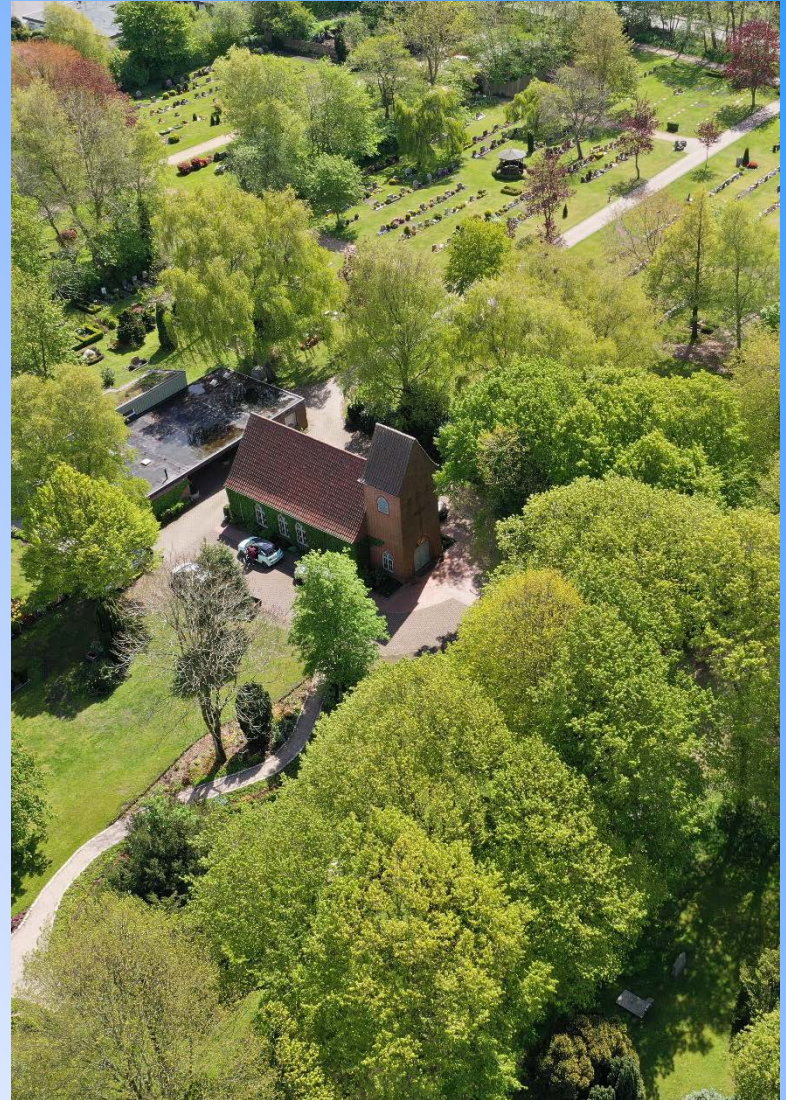
Tasks of (church) cemeteries

- Ensuring burial,
Mandatory task of the state for public services and public safety and order,
vgl. §§ 10, 14 BestattG Hbg,
§§ 9, 14 BestattG M-V,
§§ 13, 20 BestattG S-H
- Places of dignified burial,
vgl. §§ 17, 18 BestattG Hbg,
§ 19 BestattG S-H
- Graves as places of mourning
- Local cultural site and green area



Social framework

- The burial culture has been changing permanently since 1980s
 - Reasons for the changes:
 - Slow change in burial culture recognized as common
The „classic“ burial is no longer perceived as „mandatory“
 - Trend towards small easy-care graves
„I don't want to be a burden for the bereaved“
„Especially in the country, where the youth migrates“,
Binding to the church wears off
 - The steady increase in funeral expenses due to general cost increase as well as the amalgamation and then on January 1st, 2004 the death cease completely (§§ 58,59 SGB V a F) due to the GKV-Modernisation Act



Impacts

- Fewer coffin burials and increasing number of urn burials (sometimes over 80%)
- More burials at sea
- New forms of private burial (Friedwald/Ruheforst)
- New legal framework for burials in private and public spaces („Bremer Modell“)

„First family to scatter grandpas ashes in the garden!“



Framework



- Basically, the cemeteries should pay for themselves with fees
 - Cost recovery principle
 - Principle of directness of dues
 - Municipalities may use tax revenue
- Area shares too high with decreasing space requirement
- Legally required reserves (especially grave use reserves)
- Partly high debts from previous years
- Participation of the municipalities in the uncovered costs, §§ 14 (3) BestattG M-V, § 22 (2) BestattG S-H, not in Hamburg, because there are no monopoly church cemeteries



Cemeteries in the „Nordkirche“

- Mecklenburg (ehem. LK) 646
- Pommern (ehem. LK) 330
- Schleswig-Holstein 437
- Hamburg 36
- church cemeteries 1.449

- area ca. 1.650 ha.

Evangelische Kirchen
im Norden



Gemeinsam auf dem Weg

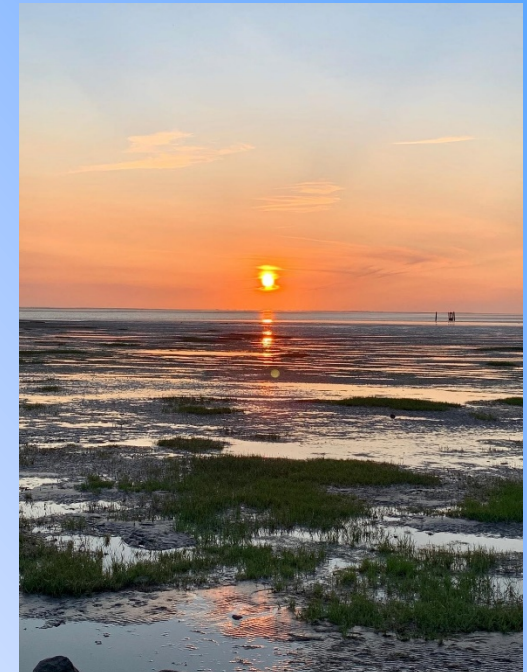
Situation in „Nordfriesland“



- There are 63 parishes in the church district of Northern Frisia
- 60 parishes have at least one cemetery
- There are 85 church cemeteries with a total area of approx. 97 hectares
- The church building is placed in the cemetery at 62 locations
- 38 cemeteries belong to the Northern Frisian „Friedhofswerk“ of the church district
- In Northern Frisia there are already 55 co-financing contracts with 103 municipalities (several contracts with some municipalities)

first contract on May 14, 2012,

last contract on July 9, 2018



Future models



Possible alternatives:

1. Closure or handover of the sponsorship to municipalities
2. Co-financing contracts between municipalities and parishes, establishment of joint cemetery committees for support and control
3. Takeover of the cemeteries into the cemetery-work of the church district, there also set up joint cemetery committees to support and control the respective cemetery



Decisions on numbers 2 und 3:

- Preservation of the cemetery in church sponsorship
- Co-financing contracts with the municipalities
- Establishment of cemetery committees to prepare decisions, consisting of a local and ecclesiastical representatives (parietal)

Decision on number 3:

On April 1st, 2017 establishment of the Northern Frisian „Friedhofswerk“ as a dependent AöR of the church district of Northern Frisia and assumption of sponsorship from the parishes.



Main reasons for a cemetery-work

- Fees that cover costs as far as possible with a uniform service at all cemeteries
- Uniform management, accounting and annual accounts
- Uniform fee notices and invoices
- Uniform standards for dunning und enforcement measures
- Uniform personnel management, personnel development planning, as well as target-controlled training, measures of work time recording
- Demand-oriented, coordinated space management. Introducing coordinated land use and land development concepts, in order to counteract undesirable developments at an early stage. Reduced excess capacity
- Coordinated machine und device management. Relief for employees from hard physical work
- Demand-oriented opening hours as well as advice und funeral offers, significantly improved accessibility



Thank you for your attention!

