

# WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

## Cemetery Group Report

for E&L Committee 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023

1. Cemetery work parties taken place last Thursday of October and November amounting to approx 22 hours of free volunteer time.

### Tasks undertaken:

Tree mulching (mushroom and woodchip composts) and protection with hazel wands

Coppicing hazel for marker wands, more from the allotment would be useful too.

Tree pruning with loppers

Pruning of blackthorn/plum bushes suckering into the cemetery on southern boundary. This work will continue

Monitoring box hedge around newer memorial garden

Litter collection

Planting approx. 160 daffodils Narcissi Carlton supplied by ESC. These were placed around the beech tree in the older part and along the new tree line eastern section. It will be important to ensure that contractors do not mow down too soon after flowering.

*(Note remaining 300 daffodils planted on Pightle Green by 13 volunteers and 40 at end of Broadway on 25<sup>th</sup> Nov by 4 volunteers.*

Keeping flower vases contained intact i.e. replacing lids

Tidying rubbish bin area

Topping up sanitiser

Tidy up of older memorial garden

Bier House door repaired

2. Further detail given to Clerk by Dick/Anne regarding wildlife margins and need for habitat retention in management contracts.
3. **Additional note:** *Anne has sent Alison Renshaw the wording for a possible permanent notice (to replace the faded notice) on the main board to highlight the presence of the bunker (south west corner of the meadow) for spoil.*
4. Agreed it would be advisable to request that a light trim of the roadside (B1438) hedge. To be added to tree works to be carried this Autumn. This is to ensure visibility on exit from the cemetery.
5. Carried over from September: Grave levels it was suggested that an annual review of graves, late summer would be useful, to agree which graves are in need of topping up/or levelling down with topsoil and seeded. Suggest this item requirement goes into the contract wording.
6. Carried over from September: Rabbit control, options for winter 2023 No control took place over last winter/spring season. Agreed 2 treatments (as quoted previously) may be needed early 2024. Situation with rabbits to be reviewed over

winter. Activity is increasing and there will be winter damage to trees and gravestones.

7. Further burial space Linda M, Ian W and myself measured up/staked the burial space on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November. Allowing for tree and root growth there is space for approx. 80 max plots up to the current young tree line.  
We considered the possibility of placing the next memorial garden closer to the access drive with an opening for those on foot. Current gravel garden has capacity to cope with 8 - 10 years approx.  
We also discussed the possible banning of artificial flowers by the WMPC. Whilst none of us like artificial this could have serious implications for people visiting less frequently and also with Christmas wreaths. We would welcome discussion on this topic and how to introduce sensitively.
8. 'Older' Garden of Remembrance Seat Mens Shed group have this seat under repair. A seat on northern boundary will need replacing soon and relocated away from the trees. Anne has asked Cath if more can be done.
9. Volunteer work parties last Thursday each month 10.00am. All welcome. Next date due to be **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December** but this may not work for many. We will review.
10. Next jobs, monitor snowdrops, plant more if funds through donations are available and protect, tree management
11. Enabling grant to be submitted in December to ESC for new tools, bird nest box materials and for hedgehog boxes (Cllr Niki Fowler)