

WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

Cemetery Group Report E&L Committee 12th February 2024

1. Cemetery work parties taken place last Thursday January

Tasks undertaken:

Litter and stray faded tributes collected by S Harrington and I Webster

Extra hedge plants added in gappy stretch

Frontage footway cleared by S Harrington

More hazel coppiced

November: Planting approx. 160 daffodils Narcissi Carlton supplied by ESC were planted and will start appearing soon.

2. Further detail given to Clerk by Dick/Anne regarding wildlife margins and the need for habitat retention in management contracts. Cllr Niki Fowler plans to place two hedgehog homes (funded by ESC Enabling grant) in the margin areas. These will replace or supplement the original homes made by Mr Peake.
3. Signage: 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 (southwest corner of the meadow) for spoil.
4. Carried over from September: Rabbit control, options for winter 2023/2024 To be covered by Cllr Jenkinson and J Hopps. No control took place over last winter/spring season. Agreed 2 treatments (as quoted previously) may be needed early 2024. Rabbit activity is increasing and there has been winter damage to trees and bulbs.
5. Artificial tributes We have 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. Ideally there would be encouragement for people to reduce usage of artificial tributes in the first instance.
6. The litter problem really needs addressing on a more regular basis in addition to volunteer time given each month.
7. 'Older' Garden of Remembrance Seat Men's Shed group have this seat under repair, will complete when their new electrics have been sorted.
8. Volunteer work parties last Thursday each month 10.00am. Next dates February 29th and March 28th.
9. Snowdrops: I have donated event funds for snowdrops (£100) for 500 to be supplied by Clare Bulbs. I can get these ordered if the Committee are supportive of more snowdrops. Just to confirm approx. 3000 have been planted in the last 20 years and are naturalising well despite some rabbit destruction (dig and eat).
10. Enabling grant from ESC was awarded to WMPC/ Cllr Fowler and Tree Wardens in January 2024.
Total grant: £629 for trees, tools, bird boxes and hedgehog homes.