

WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

Cemetery Report for November 18th 2024 with Recommendations A and B

1. Cemetery work parties take place last Thursday most months

Tasks undertaken on 31st October with six people, twelve volunteer hours:

Litter and stray faded tributes: flowers, wreaths and damaged receptacles collected'

Extra hedge plants added in gappy stretches and mulched

Young plants in boundary hedges and young trees tended.

Lower boughs pruned from trees such as beech, lime, holly.

Prunings chopped and stacked tidily to rot down slowly

New beetle Log (donated) heap filled with woodchip and ferns added

Self-sown elder pruned out of Irish yew tree avenue

(Poppy and Christmas wreaths will be collected at the appropriate time)

2. **Tasks to be carried out in 2024/2025 winter months:**

The Parish Council were successful in the ESC Blooms scheme application. In 2023 we acquired 500 Narcissi Carlton with about 200 planted in the cemetery around the trees. This year's supply list is as follows:

A 'Bees Mix' of bulbs flowers from February to May and includes crocuses, chionodoxas, scillas, muscaris and naturalising tulips.

The 'Butterfly Mix' flowers between May & July and include camassias, nectaroscordiums, irises and alliums.

Some of the spring flowering bulbs will be planted in the cemetery and meadow borders, some around the trees, They will provide visual amenity and increase biodiversity and will not interfere with other management operations to any significant degree. The grass where bulbs grow is not cut whilst the bulbs are flowering early in the year/spring, so the effect creates a pleasing soft look as the bulbs are flowering and whilst the leaves slowly die back and feed the bulbs.

Below the native narcissi: Narcissi pseudonarcissi (planted 1999) alongside the driveway railings and naturalising cyclamen under the 25 year old beech tree.



Bulbs previously planted over the last few decades are daffodils (including our British native variety), and snowdrops. The 2024 varieties supplied by ESC will increase the range of species present although some (tulip in particular) may not naturalise quite as well as narcissi, neither will they have such a long-life span.

New (free) trees to be added including small leaf lime (great for bees), Indian Chestnut and field maple. I have two donated yew trees to plant into the memorial garden hedge.

3. **Memorial Garden:** Box hedge (*Buxus sempervirens*) was last cut and mulched (mushroom compost) in 2023 by volunteers, it was left during 2024 due to risk of box blight and box moth/caterpillar. Gravel has been weeded several times by volunteers.
There is a need to remove and replace a short stretch of dead box hedge with yew and native privet (approx 12 plants). Yew and privet will blend reasonably well with box (compact, evergreen with small leaves) and may need to be used if / when the box hedge declines further. At present the landscape industry are not using box for hedges due to risk of infestation and blight.

Maximum cost £45 (plants and mulch) I have put out a request for privet through the Suffolk Tree Warden network (*possibly* freely available from local tree warden nurseries)
Yew bushes (two) are free, labour will be free.

A. Recommendation to WMPC: That WMPC agree to fund new privet plants & mulch at a cost of £45.00 and note that other plantings and volunteer time come at no charge.

4. 'Older' Garden of Remembrance Seat Men's Shed group still have this seat for repair.
5. Tree works for 2024 There is a need to prune the height and shape up the large box and holly bushes close to Bier House and lift selected lower boughs (too large and high for volunteers) on the oak nearby.

ESSL will provide a quote to carry out this work following a meeting to discuss detail due on **Tuesday 12th November.**

As outlined in Tree Report (16th September) and considered at the last E&L working group. I will ask ESSL to look at one of the mature beech trees with me too in case of possible disease causing early leaf loss this year.

The quote from ESSL for tree work will also include the cost of removing tree and bramble prunings on the Pightle (allowing bulbs to be added), Village Hall playing field (some bramble, blackthorn & also bowling green debris alongside the ditch) and the restricted byway south side of the COOP (see photo below). The latter heap was the result of Green Gym prunings and litter pick on Sunday 20th October. This was to ensure that the path and trees were clear and tidy, further to the Footpath Wardens initial clearance. The heap contains bramble, buddleia stems, and other woody shrubs. If left the arisings will attract more litter and excessive bramble growth which impedes the trees, and the attractive nature of the walk.

B. Recommendation to WMPC: That WMPC agree to action the removal of vegetation debris in locations at Byway 19, the Pightle and VH playing field) and to prune the box, holly and oak close to the Cemetery Bier House. Likely to be 2 days, max £1200 for this work. Cost quote to be confirmed prior to meeting date of 18th November.

6. Rabbit control, options for winter 2024/5 As agreed at E&L working group in October a quote will be sought for possible rabbit control early in 2025.
7. Cemetery green gym volunteer work parties generally last Thursday each month but sometimes amended at 10.00am for 2.5 hours maximum.
Next dates Thursday 28th November and Thursday 2nd January 2025.

8. Quick summary of other Tree Warden and green gym activities

Other planting projects and tree care to continue winter 2024/2025 on both WMPC open spaces and perimeter farmland (with J Hayward Pettistree PC tree warden). All established and ongoing projects are aimed at increasing biodiversity, amenity value and tree cover.

Other Bulbs from ESC to be added to the Pightle and Churchyard.

Memorial 'bee' garden is being cared for by Karen and Anne with an extra tidy by ESSL prior to Armistice Day. Village Hall Planters being tended by Jennie and Anne.



Green Gym team working to tidy up alongside Byway 19 on Sunday 20th October, hence a pile of prunings needing to be cleared.

Anne Westover Parish Tree warden 11th November 2024

Report for WMPC Full Council for November 18th 2024