

PRESS RELEASE - CROMER CEMETERY - TRIBUTES ON GRAVES

Cromer Town Council is responsible for the maintenance of the two cemeteries on the Holt Road including the upkeep of all grassed areas, walls, paths & buildings. It is the responsibility of the next of kin to ensure that memorials are kept in good order and that mowers and machinery are not obstructed by incorrectly positioned flower containers and other tributes. With this in mind, the Council has agreed regulations to keep the burial grounds in a clean and well-ordered condition – the best mark of respect.

It has been noted that an increasing number of unauthorised tributes are being placed on graves which is making it difficult to cut and maintain the lawn areas. Please could all visitors to the cemetery be reminded that all tributes should be placed on the plinth of the headstone/memorial. Other than during the four weeks following interment, if there is no headstone the tributes should be restricted to an area at the head of the grave in line with other memorials and not exceeding an area covering 2'6" x 1'. In respect of the baby grave section, authorised tributes are permitted on the entire area of the grave but must not extend beyond the edge of the individual grave area.

Tributes are not permitted on the cremated remains plots except for flowers placed in vases inset into the memorial tablet. Tributes are not permitted in the walled Garden of Remembrance other than for a period of 4 weeks after the scattering of ashes.

To retain the natural ambience of the cemetery, items which emit sound or light or incorporate movement are not permitted. In the interests of health and safety no breakable items are permitted in the cemetery. No fences, kerbing or edging are permitted on any grave, however in order to protect floral tributes from rabbits, small fences/cages may be erected on the condition that they fit snugly around the plinth of the headstone/memorial and do not interfere with the grass cutting. Small fences/edging will be permitted around the edge of graves in the baby grave section but must not extend beyond the individual grave area. The Town Council reserve the right to remove any items which in their opinion present a health and safety risk.

To help avoid and alleviate any distress, the Town Council would like to work together with the families concerned over the next 12 months to bring all tributes back within the cemetery guidelines. The Council ask that all unauthorised memorials and tributes are removed by 30 April 2014. After this date a small label will be attached to any remaining items requesting that they are removed within 1 month. If after this period the item has still not been removed, the item(s) will be removed, stored and kept securely for no longer than 8 months to allow for the owner to collect it. After this time, the items will be disposed of. Whenever possible, the family concerned will be contacted directly and asked to remove the items.

Anyone wishing to discuss this further is invited to contact the town council office on 01263 512254 or email admin@chromertown.org. Extracts from the rules and regulations are displayed on the noticeboard outside the cemetery chapel. Full copies are available on the Town Council website (www.chromertown.org) and on request from the Town Council Office.