

THETFORD TOWN COUNCIL PRESS RELEASE 01/02/2017

LONDON ROAD CEMETERY – LAWN CEMETERY PLOTS

Thetford Town Council staff work hard to maintain the cemetery on London Road as a place of peace and remembrance for the enjoyment of all. The purpose of lawn cemeteries is to provide tranquil surroundings for its occupants and their families. Some parts of the cemetery are designated as lawn cemeteries (Plots N and P in the older part of the cemetery and plots R and X in the cemetery extension) meaning that all graves within these sections are to be grassed with no ornamental items being placed on or in front of them. Over a number of years we have had an increase of personal items left on graves, causing the cemetery to become cluttered and unkempt.

In order for Thetford Town Council to manage and maintain the cemetery, we respectfully request that any such items be removed by the deed of grant holder. These items may include, but are not limited to vases, kerb sets, statues, stones, shrubs, plants, ornaments and personal items. Please note that any items that have not been removed by 30th April 2017 will be removed from the cemetery by the Town Council and the grave spaces will be returned to lawn. Any items removed will be stored for a period of two months (to 30th June 2017) after which they will be disposed of.

While the council recognise the sensitivity of this request it has become necessary due to the growing range of personal items that have appeared over time and the impact it is having on both the aesthetics of the cemetery and the maintenance time required to individually mow around specific plots.

The Council have issued new guidelines of what is and is not allowed on our lawn cemetery plots to avoid confusion. This information will be displayed prominently around the cemetery in the future and it forms part of our rules and regulations which are issued when deed of grants are purchased.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter. Should you have any further questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact the council on 01842 754247, by email on mail@thetfordtowncouncil.gov.uk or at our office in King Street.



RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR LAWN CEMETERY (PLOTS N, P AND THE CEMETERY EXTENSION)

In order to keep our lawn cemetery plots neat, tidy and well maintained, please observe our rules:

- No headstone can be erected until a period of at least six months from the date of burial has elapsed.
- A wooden cross (0.46m x 0.76m max), available from funeral directors will be permitted on new graves until a headstone is erected.
- All headstones must conform to the following maximum sizes (1.07m H x 0.46m W x 0.08m D).
- If there is an apron for a flower stand it must not exceed 0.51m W x 0.31m D and the receptacle for flowers must be sunk in the apron.
- A maximum of two loose standing vases, approved by the Council, are permitted but these must be located on the foundation stone in order that the mowing and strimming of graves is not hindered.
- No headstone should overhang the foundation stone.
- The maximum foundation size is 0.91 x 0.46m and must have a 0.05m projection to serve as a mowing stone.
- The maximum foundation stone may be increased to 0.91m x 0.52 m if loose vases (maximum of two) are to be placed on the foundation stone.
- Inscriptions are subject to approval by the Council and names of living persons will only be permitted if there is reference to their relationship to the deceased.
- If no headstone is erected a single vase, approved by the Council may be placed at the head of the grave.
- Other receptacles, other than approved vases, are strictly not allowed on the graves.



RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR LAWN CEMETERY CONT'D (PLOTS N, P AND THE CEMETERY EXTENSION)

- No commemorative objects should be placed in the area in front of the headstone.
- No plants, shrubs bushes, flowers, bulbs are permitted in the lawn cemetery.
- Please remove cut flowers in vases once they have wilted.
- No railings of any type are permitted around graves.
- Wreaths can be placed on the apron of the gravestone for the period starting 1st December and ending on 8th January. Any wreaths remaining at 15th January will be removed.

Please note that the Council reserve the right to remove and dispose of any items that are not permitted as detailed above.

These regulations are in addition to the full rules and regulations relating to the cemetery which can be viewed on our website www.thetfordtowncouncil.gov.uk or obtained from our offices at Kings House, King Street, Thetford, IP24 2AT tel. 01842 754247 or mail@thetfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Thank you for your co-operation
Thetford Town Council
January 2017