



## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **DEEDHOLDERS FOR CHILDREN'S PLOTS** **LAWN CEMETERY (Plots NNB and Q)**

You may have heard or seen notices about the lawn cemetery rules and the enforcement of those rules being carried out by the Council over the past 12 months. The Council will now be taking steps to enforce the rules in the parts of the cemetery where the children's plots are located.

The reason why the Council has taken this action is because the staff work hard to maintain the cemetery on the London Road, as a place of peace and remembrance for 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 Q, R, W 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 placed in front of the gravestones, making the cemetery cluttered and causing difficulties in maintenance. The Council understand this is a difficult and sensitive request, but we have to be consistent with everyone who uses the cemetery, and, therefore, respectfully ask you to return your plot to a lawn cemetery plot. This may involve removing treasured items and the Council would like to give you the opportunity to do this yourself, if you wish. These items may include, but are not limited to vases, kerb sets, statues, stones, shrubs, plants, ornaments and personal items. If your child's grave has a foundation stone and headstone, items may be placed on the foundation stone but not on the grassed areas in front. A small cross or single vase is allowed if there is no headstone.

Please note that any items that have not been removed by **30<sup>th</sup> June 2018** will be carefully 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 up to and including **31<sup>st</sup> August 2018**, after which they will be disposed of.

While the Council recognises the sensitivity of this request, it has become necessary, due to the increasing amount of personal items that have appeared over time, and the impact that is having on both the aesthetics of the cemetery and the maintenance time required to mow around specific plots individually.

To avoid confusion we have detailed below what is and is not allowed on our lawn cemetery plots. This information is displayed prominently around the cemetery and forms part of our rules and regulations which are given when deed of grants are issued.

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, or by email on [mail@thetfordtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:mail@thetfordtowncouncil.gov.uk) or at the address below.

15<sup>th</sup> February 2018