

SECTION 2d.

REGULATIONS 2014.

Decoration of Graves and Memorials

- (1) It is recognised that the issue of grave and memorial decoration is a very personal and sensitive issue. The following regulations have been designed to allow bereaved families the opportunity to decorate their family grave and memorial, which does not impact on safe access to graves and areas of the cemetery/crematorium grounds and that, does not prohibit or restrict works or maintenance of the grounds.
- (2) In order to avoid any additional distress it is advisable that before any items are placed on a grave/memorial, you should contact the cemetery office to seek guidance.

(i) Lawn Graves

- (1) Immediately following an interment within a grave the soil will be mounded over the excavation, this is to allow for settlement. We will also place on all new graves a temporary marker, stating the name of the deceased. This will be removed following the erection of a permanent memorial, after twelve months from the date of the interment or at the time of laying the turf, whichever is the sooner.
- (2) Families are permitted to personalise the mounded area of the grave with temporary vases, and other decorative items, including wooden fences, not exceeding 6 inches (150mm) in height, 3 feet (915mm) in width and 7 feet (2130mm) in length. However, all such temporary items shall allow for safe access to all other graves/areas. The maintenance of all such works will be undertaken by the family. Where it is clear that the area is not being maintained or has become neglected, dilapidated or where the works pose a health and safety hazard the Council reserves the right to remove any or all items placed at any such time as is convenient to the Council..
- (3) All new and re-opened graves will normally be turfed 12 - 18 months following interment.
- (4) Notices will be placed in the areas of the cemetery giving details of when the turfing programme is due to commence this is to allow families time to remove their temporary memorials and other personal and decorative items.

- (5) Items not removed by the family at the commencement of the turfing programme, will be removed by the Councils' Contractor. We cannot take responsibility for the safe keeping of any items removed.
- (6) Following the completion of the turfing programme, decorative items will only be permitted on the slabs/concrete beam or gravelled channel located at the head of the grave.
- (7) No items will be permitted on the turfed area of the grave. This includes; fences, vases, planters, statues, ornaments, toys, wind chimes or lanterns or similar items. The turf on a grave shall not be cut away, removed or interfered with by any person.
- (8) No fences, stones/chippings, etc of any kind will be permitted on or around any part of the memorial or grassed area of the grave.
- (9) No wooden, plastic or metal stakes (this includes flags, shepherd crooks, windmills, or similar items) above 6 inches (150mm) of any kind will be permitted on any grave/memorial following the turfing programme.
- (10) The Council will not be held liable for any damage to these items, whether caused during our maintenance of the grounds or by any other works or activities.
- (11) The Council reserves the right to remove any item placed on any grave that is considered unsuitable, damaged, dilapidated, dangerous etc. Where appropriate, items removed will be stored for collection by the family, however the Council cannot be held responsible for their safe keeping.
- (12) Should there be any infringements of these Regulations which present a potential health and safety hazard, impair the maintenance operations or which, in the opinion of the Council be in a state of disrepair or unsightly, the Council reserve the right to remove or alter any works or items following adequate notice to the persons concerned.

(ii) Cremated Remains Graves

- (1) On the area set aside for interment of Cremated Remains, no decorative items including; vases, planters, statues, ornaments, toys wind chimes or lanterns, or similar items will be permitted on the turfed area in front of the memorial slabs. All items placed must be located on the slabs/concrete beam located at the head of the grave.

- (2) No fences, stones/chippings, etc of any kind will be permitted on or around any part of the memorial or grassed area of the grave.
- (3) The turf on a Cremated Remains grave shall not be cut away or interfered with by any person.
- (4) No wooden, plastic, or metal stakes (this includes flags, shepherd crooks, windmills, or similar items) above 6 inches (150mm) of any kind will be permitted on any grave/memorial.
- (5) The Council reserves the right to remove any item placed on any grave that is considered unsuitable, damaged, dilapidated, dangerous etc. Where appropriate items removed will be stored for collection by the family, but the Council cannot be held responsible for their safe keeping. All items will be removed at a time convenient to the Council.

(iii) Cemetery/Crematorium Grounds

- (1) The placing of unauthorised memorials, markers etc. is not permitted anywhere within the grounds without permission of the Manager.
- (2) The planting of trees, shrubs, plants, flowers, bulbs etc. and the placing of fencing or similar, in any Shrub bed, Rose bed, Gardens of Remembrance, or any other part of the Cemetery or Crematorium grounds is not permitted and the Council reserve the right to cut down and/or remove and dispose of such items.
- (3) The placing of any metal, wooden or plastic stakes anywhere within the cemetery or crematorium grounds is not permitted.
- (4) The placing of vases and floral tributes in any shrub bed, rose bed, around the base of trees, within the Gardens of Remembrance, is not permitted. The Council reserve the right to remove and dispose of any such items placed
- (5) Attaching any item including, floral tributes, wind chimes, cards etc. to any memorial seat, tree, shrub etc. or anywhere within the grounds is not permitted. The Council reserve the right to remove and dispose of any such items placed
- (6) The placing of any items around the perimeter of the Above Ground Vaults or on any gravelled area set aside for the interment of cremated remains is not permitted.

(iv) Contact

- (1) Where it is necessary to remove any items placed, the Council will, where possible make reasonable attempts to contact the Deed owner or the applicant for cremation, and/or place notices within the area affected explaining the action taken. This will give the family the opportunity to remove the items.
- (2) If items placed on a grave are considered to pose a significant hazard to visitors or staff or prohibit the maintenance of any area of the cemetery grounds, items will be removed and we will then make reasonable attempts to contact the Deed owner or the applicant for cremation explaining the action taken.
- (3) We appreciate that the person or persons placing the items may not be the Deed owner or the applicant for cremation; however, the Deed owner or the applicant for cremation may be aware of the persons placing the items and be able to explain the action taken.
- (4) We will in all cases make reasonable attempts to contact the Deed owner or the applicant for cremation at the address shown in our records, it is therefore important to keep us informed of any change of address to ensure that contact details and our records are kept up to date.