

**REPORT TO: PORTCHESTER CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE
MEETING - 22 JUNE 2009**

REPORT BY: MANAGER AND REGISTRAR

**PERIODIC CLEARANCE OF UNAUTHORISED MEMORIALS AND
ORNAMENTS**

Purpose

1. To inform the Joint Committee of the clearance of objects left in the grounds.

Recommend that the report be noted

Background

2. At the briefing of members last December it was agreed that new signs would be erected detailing the garden regulations, and that the Manager should continue to use his discretion as to the frequency of clearances of unauthorised memorials and ornaments, in accordance with the policy contained within the Development Plan, previously approved by the Joint Committee. These new signs have been completed and are in place. The application form for cremation has also been amended to highlight the regulations.

3. We are constantly getting feedback, both verbal and written, about objects left in the gardens, and as discussed at the briefing it is a very delicate balancing act between those that have a need to leave objects and those who complain of the untidy appearance this leads to. On the 5th May notices were placed within the gardens informing the public of the intention to conduct the periodic clearance of the entire garden on the 8th June. This process has now been undertaken and all such objects have been retained for collection.

4. A photographic record has been kept of various parts of the garden for reference should the need arise.

5. Immediately following these clearances we do receive an adverse reaction from the public when collecting their items. At this time we try to explain the ethos of the gardens and try and persuade them not to replace the objects, but unfortunately this is often to no avail.

6. From articles written in trade magazines it is clear that this is not an issue local to Portchester, and that nearly every crematorium has similar problems to a greater or lesser degree

7. It is my intention in the future to increase the frequency of these clearances.

James Clark
Manager & Registrar

**Background List of Documents –
Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972: None**