

**REPORT TO: PORTCHESTER CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE**  
**Monday 11 March 2013**

**REPORT BY: THE HORTICULTURAL CONSULTANT**

### **CREMATORIUM GROUNDS – GENERAL UPDATE**

It has been a busy time in the grounds recently with a lot of improvements undertaken.

The rose beds by the Brian Kidd summer house have been refurbished.

A path has been installed to link the pond with the main path and this will allow easier access without having to cross the grass.

The slate chippings at the side of the pond have been replaced with turf. The chippings have been reused to mulch the bamboo beds adjacent to the waiting rooms.

Following several incidents of damage (cars misjudging the entrance and knocking down bollards) the entrance to the main car park was widened at the loss of 1 metre of the flower bed. This has allowed easier access and hopefully will prevent damage to the flower bed and visitors vehicles.

Some tree works are taking place during March. This will consist of deadwooding three poplars on the northern boundary and removal of a large conifer that is obstructing the path on the southern side, which will be replaced with a more suitable shrub.

There are three poor quality cherries at the entrance to the gardens. These are diseased and showing signs of decay and they will be removed and replaced with shrubs as the area is already planted with several trees.

The bulb areas in the grass are beginning to flower. These will be assessed and plotted on a plan and any replanting or gapping up can be programmed for the autumn.

The wet weather has resulted in the loss of several Alpines on the rockery by the pond; these will be replanted during March.

The weather has been difficult with some snow as well as rain; despite this the grounds contractor Brighstone, continues to cope well and I am very pleased with their performance.

*Ashley Humphrey*  
Horticultural Consultant

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

AH/jh  
23 February 2013