

**REPORT TO: PORTCHESTER CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE
Monday 14 March 2016**

REPORT BY: THE HORTICULTURAL CONSULTANT

CREMATORIUM GROUNDS – GENERAL UPDATE

The grounds are looking good as we come out of winter.

The crocus and daffodils are looking good and will receive a dose of fertilizer before they die down; this will store nutrient in the bulbs for next year's flowers. I arranged for continued grass cutting during the winter as it didn't stop growing - this seems to be a recurring theme as the weather changes.

The spring bedding plants have suffered as a result of the warm and wet weather. They are now recovering and I hope that we get a good display for the spring.

The bulb border at the front of the grounds has been fully restocked and will continue to look good in future years.

The replacement shrub planting has been completed. It has been undertaken to replace shrubs past their best and to maintain and in some instances improve the access for ashes scattering.

The topping up of the bark mulch on the shrub beds has been completed. A third of the beds are treated each year on a rolling program.

Following contact from residents in the mobile home site to the north of the new garden I undertook some minor tree work involving topping out a conifer and clearing some branches from a street lamp. The overall condition of the trees has improved over the last three years with an inspection of each tree and remedial works being undertaken as required.

The contractor Brighstones continue to perform well and I am pleased with their work.

Ashley Humphrey
Horticultural Consultant

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

AH/jh
4 March 2016