



**REPORT TO: PORTCHESTER CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE -  
Monday 23 March 2020**

**REPORT BY: THE HORTICULTURAL CONSULTANT**

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

The Grounds have taken a real battering in the recent storms during which we lost two small trees and two large trees. The smaller trees were in cramped positions and this contributed to their early demise so I do not intend replacing them. The two larger trees were well developed and I intend to replace them in the late Autumn of this year.

The Spring bulbs are showing well and the Tulips in the bedding displays should start showing colour soon. When these are finished I shall arrange for them to be planted in the bulb border.

The Rose bed replanting is completed and it has made a noticeable difference along the site frontage. All the Rose beds have been mulched with manure which helps to maintain the right pH balance in the soil. This improves the health of the plants and improves their disease resistance, reducing the reliance on chemicals to control blackspot and similar diseases.

During the Winter replacement shrubs have been planted at various locations around the site and the Pine Bark mulching program was completed.

Grass cutting has recommenced where ground conditions allow and we are in the process of cutting down the Hydrangeas around the site; the flower heads are left through the Winter months to offer protection.

Brighstone the grounds contractor continues to work well and I am very pleased with their performance particularly their very positive help and assistance in the recent storms.

The tree contractor Gristwood and Toms were very efficient especially given their high workload in the storms. They were on site very quickly and cleared damage and potential dangers with minimal ground damage or interruption to the Crematorium.

*Ashley Humphrey,*  
Horticultural Consultant

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