



**REPORT TO: PORTCHESTER CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE -
Monday 23 September 2024**

REPORT BY: THE HORTICULTURAL CONSULTANT

CREMATORIUM GROUNDS – GENERAL UPDATE

The summer bedding is providing a long-lasting display of colour and is well maintained with both weeding and watering by Brighstone. One of the borders is coming to the end of its best as a display and it may be worth looking at improving the soil to better retain moisture and nutrients. The winter bedding will be planted up in the middle of October.

The 'In Bloom' Judge visited in the Summer and seemed suitably impressed with the Crematorium Grounds and their maintenance. He liked the way that green waste is composted and re-cycled onto the grounds and the use of wood chip as a mulch between shrubs. He also enjoyed seeing the sculptures including the Heron and the new memorials including the Maple Tree, Landmark Freize and Naval Freize. We await the judgement.

He came up with a couple of areas for improvement including incorporating a small wildflower border/area to encourage wildlife and rainwater harvesting for watering plants. Brighstone staff reported that there had been less butterflies and bees on the flowers this year and this may help to support them.

He also felt that members of the team working on the grounds should be able to have the opportunity for their work to be celebrated possibly by attendance at the awards ceremony.

The former water feature will be planted up by the end of October with the design that incorporates sustainable planting which should make the area attractive and easy to manage.

The pond has become cloudy during the summer months and investigations are being made to discover the cause. The UV lamp in the filtration system is being replaced by Brighstone which may help with water quality. A pond expert has been invited to make a site visit to advise on how to improve the water quality and make it clearer.

An area shaded by pine trees that had formerly had Rosa Rugosa, a very thorny shrub rose will be replanted over the autumn/winter period. This will probably be with shrubs that will tolerate this dry/shaded acidic soil including Camellias, Azalea's and Rhododendron.

Again the Brighstone Team have worked hard to maintain the crematorium site to a high standard.

Stephen Uden
Horticultural Consultant

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