



**REPORT TO: PORTCHESTER CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE -
Monday 9 December 2024**

REPORT BY: THE HORTICULTURAL CONSULTANT

CREMATORIUM GROUNDS – GENERAL UPDATE

The Grounds Team has been working hard to keep the grounds tidy, preparing beds, planting new displays and preparing the grounds so they flourish in the coming year.

Autumn has provided a magnificent display of colour as the leaves turn but as they fall are giving the grounds team a constant challenge to clear the leaves from both paths and lawn areas.

The summer beds were emptied, and the winter/spring plants were planted in the middle of October. They should provide Spring Colour and include Polyanthus, Pansy, Cyclamen, Bellis (Daisy) and bulbs including Narcissus, Hyacinth and Tulips. What was formerly the water fountain was planted up at the end of October with a sustainable arrangement of perennial plants and shrubs which when established should give year-round displays of colour form and texture.

The roses have all been pruned and the soil in rose beds and flower beds has been topped up with compost.

There will be a necessity to fill some gaps in the rose beds where some of the roses have died. There is also an area shaded by Pine trees that needs some understory planting with shrubs. This will be scheduled in the dormant period of the year.

A large limb from a tree near the grounds team mess room fell and this tree is struggling with quite a lot of dead and dying wood. The survey of the trees at the Crematorium grounds has been brought forward and some trees have already been checked for safety. A report and recommendations for remedial works will soon be available.

The pond's large filter will be cleaned in December which is a major task and the ultraviolet lamps that help kill the build-up of algae will need to be replaced as part of the scheduled servicing. Currently it is a constant battle for the team to rake out leaves that get blown into the pond.

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