

RECREATION, LEISURE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
4TH NOVEMBER 2009

LAWN CEMETERY

1. The cemetery was designated as a Lawn Cemetery in order to assist with maintenance and improve its overall appearance.
2. In essence, this means that headstones are permitted on all graves, and existing kerbs may be retained on those graves last used prior to designation of the cemetery as a Lawn Cemetery.
3. Whilst there is a limit on the overall size of any headstones and the area they can occupy, the regulations do allow a wide variety of different styles and colours. This allows maximum flexibility for the bereaved, whilst maintaining good management practices.
4. The Council has now been approached for consent to inter ashes into an existing grave. There is insufficient space on the existing headstone to identify the name of the person whose ashes are to be interred. The Council has been asked whether it would permit a small flat tablet in the grass on the area of the overall grave.
5. There is no legal definition of a Lawn Cemetery, but the generally accepted one is that headstones are permitted with the remainder of the grave being grass to allow full maintenance by machinery without obstructions. By using this definition it would, subject to conditions, be possible to accede to the request now being made. For certainty and consistency in the future, the Council should also amend the Cemetery Regulations for future use. It is suggested that a new regulation number 23a be inserted within the existing Cemetery Regulations to provide:-

“Small memorial tablets or plaques set level with the ground, but not protruding above the ground, will be permitted in the Lawn Cemetery subject to :-

- a) the tablet not exceeding 12” (300 mm) x 18” (450 mm) set level with the ground and placed immediately adjacent to the existing headstone,
- b) no vases, flowers or any other object or plant that protrudes above normal ground level shall be permitted on the tablet, and
- c) the Town Council shall not be responsible for any damage caused to the tablet during ground maintenance operations.”

It is **RECOMMENDED** that the Cemetery Regulations be amended in accordance with paragraph 5 above.

For further information, please contact :

Terry Simpson, Town Clerk, Ringwood Town Council, Greenways, 71 Christchurch Road,
Ringwood BH24 1DH
Telephone: 01425 473883 E-mail :Town.Council@ringwood.gov.uk