



## Ware Town Council

**Report of** Cemetery & Allotments Officer  
**Report to** Community & Environment Committee  
**Date** Monday 12 February 2024  
**Subject** Cemetery and Allotments Report

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### Allotment Waitlist Report

There is currently a total of **32** people on the waiting list covering both sites.

Site	# on Waitlist	# of Vacant Plots
Crosspath Field (King George Road)	3	2
Warehouse Field (Widbury Hill)	29	15

There are 4 people on the Warehouse Field waiting list who do not feel in a position to take on a plot at this time. There is also 1 person who already has a plot but would like an additional one.

The 2 people on the Crosspath waiting list who do not feel in a position to take on a plot at this time. The other person is waiting for a particular plot to become available.

During our last meeting with the Ware Allotments & Garden Society (WAGS) Committee, we discussed implementing a new system to show potential plot holders round the vacant plots. As the plots are offered on a first come first serve basis, we currently move down the waiting list one by one, which causes a delay as we are reliant on people responding or being unable to arrange a time to view in the very near future. We are looking to offer a bulk viewing to a set number of people within a set timescale, making it clear this is the case and that plots will be tenanted to the first people who requests it.

### Allotment Invoices

The annual rental invoices were issued to all allotment tenants on 01.10.2023, and these have now all been paid, bar one tenant. Various attempts were made to contact the tenant to discuss this but it has been without success, resulting in the eviction process being implemented.

## **Memorial Stability Testing**

This was a larger piece of work than anticipated due to the unexpected high volume of memorials identified as unstable, and because certain information needed to be individually obtained from the Deed books. There were also many registered owners who had passed away and found to be buried in the said grave space.

All letters have now been sent to the identified registered owners, but we are receiving some back where the person is no longer living at the address we hold. In some cases, this is over two decades.

There are also 30 memorials where further investigation has been required by the Cemetery Team, either due to the memorial inscription being unreadable or the information detailed in the report not matching the burial records. We are in the process of working through these.

We are aware that some families have undertaken the repair work themselves, which has been against the advice of Ware Town Council. Where known, I have recorded this on the necessary burial records.

The testing process and the outcome has, understandably, caused some families distress. There has also been many who have queried the results, stating they have been unable to move the memorial themselves. In these cases, we are able to provide them with a video demonstrating either the Contractor or the Cemetery Team moving the memorial with ease by hand.