

## **The Ware Town Funeral Bier – Needs a home!**

The Ware Town Bier was built by a local cart-maker in 1909 to provide any Ware resident to have a dignified way for their body to be transported to their funeral and burial. It was funded from the collection at a charity football match organised by an organisation of Ware traders.

It was lodged in the Watton Road Cemetery Chapel until 2001 when WTC sold the chapel for redevelopment as housing. (The chapel needed c.£80,000 of repairs and was practically operating merely as a cemetery equipment shed).

Since 2001 it has been housed for a few years at our home in our garage, then in a garage used by Ware in Bloom, it was taken apart and housed in the Southern Malting store before recently being taken to the Hoe Lane garages that are on loan from Network Housing to Community Alliance (formerly the Council for Voluntary Services).

Network Housing plan to replace the garages with a terrace of social housing so before much longer the Bier will need a new home or to be disposed of.

Ware Museum do not have sufficient space to house it.

### **Proposal**

It has been proposed that it could be housed either in the Watton Road Cemetery or the Priory Grounds, in a custom-built display shelter (similar to at housing the Wickham's Railway Trolley in the Museum's garden).

The Bier needs some minor restoration and reconstruction.

John Wing -05 June 2023

