



NEWS RELEASE

FROM

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

Sandy Cemetery Meeting Follow up

For immediate release 16.9.2014

A public meeting arranged by Sandy Town Council took place on 11 September 2014 following a request from residents for this opportunity to express their views about restrictions on the placing of memorabilia on graves. The council has also invited people to express their views in other ways eg through letters, private meetings and informal discussions with councillors.

The cemetery is next on the agenda at a meeting on 22 September 2014 when it may be referred to a committee for further consideration. Therefore definitive changes to the regulations should not automatically be expected next week. In the meantime the council will continue to listen and will not remove items from graves.

After the meeting Mayor Cllr Will Jackson said

"Our members are very aware of the deeply felt emotions of mourners and we have already expressed our regret and concern that mishandled activities in the cemetery distressed them. At the meeting we wanted to hear views about whether the cemetery regulations should be amended for the future. Inevitably some residents also used the meeting to criticise aspects of the council's activities both current and historic as well as making allegations about councillors and staff members. The meeting was not the right time or place for the council to respond to these.

We will take on board what has been said when we come to decide whether to change the rules. We have noted all the criticisms of our management of the cemetery although we do not accept them all and I remind residents that we have a formal complaints procedure which is there to be used if necessary." ENDS –

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Notes: Sandy Town Council Burial regulations are available on request from the Town Council or on the Town Council website www.sandytowncouncil.gov.uk