



Cemetery Report

- a) **Update on the approval in principle of a small landscaping project to extend the baby section within the cemetery utilising the four trees funded by Green Shoots for Spring 2024. (From Full Council 31.1.24)**

Since the January 31st, 2024, Full Council meeting I have investigated the area of the Cemetery landscaped for an original plan in 2015 of providing a Childrens Ashes Scattering Area.

(See background papers in Dropbox).

In July 2018 the Council reviewed this plan and decided to amend their plan as follows:

(Minute Ref) P24 07/18 – Item 13 Cemetery

- a) *Ashes scattering area update from the cemetery working group meeting of 12th July 2018, the following recommendations were made.*

Children's Ashes Scattering Area

- 1) *Children's Ashes Scattering Area. This name is not to be used and the area in question is not to be used for scattering any ashes at all. Instead, it is to be retained as an additional quiet area with seating and incorporated into the general maintenance schedule for the cemetery.*
- 2) *The main ashes scattering area will be used for all adults and babies /children if requested.*

The present Ashes Scattering Area was opened on the 28th of April 2019.

Since 2019 there have been x9 ashes scattered – all adults.

Recommendation: investigate the principle of using the previously identified Children's Ashes Scattering Area as a Children's Burial Area once the existing spaces are full. This would include seeking advice from the ICCM and Diocese. The hard landscaping is in place but it may require a small amount of tidying

(There would be no room for the four Green Shoots trees so an alternative cemetery location would be sought with their approval -see b) below)

- b) To consider a report on planting of the Green Shoots Funded trees to offset trees being felled as part of the Town Council's Three-Year Tree maintenance programme.



Atherstone Town Council

Full Council – 14th February 2024

The Town Council were awarded Green Shoots funding to purchase 4 trees originally to be planted in large planters in the market square. The advice is that the planters are not suitable for the trees in the long term. The trees are currently stored with Smithy Farmshop awaiting planting and the Green Shoots Funders are pressing for a decision on where the trees are to be located.

As part of the first year of the Tree maintenance programme three Horse Chestnuts.T33, T34, T35 are to be removed.

“Due to the deterioration in condition of these trees since quoting and a team attempting to section down, we feel that to continue using standard methods could result in damage to gravestones.

These trees are brittle and unable to support the lowering of limbs off there structure.

We would propose to use a crane to sectionally dismantle these trees reducing the risk of any potential damage to gravestones”.

In addition subject to checking one of the two Silver Birches in the Adult scattering area has failed.

Recommendation: If Green Shoots are in agreement the four trees could be planted in Atherstone Cemetery to offset the 4 failed trees. The specific location to be agreed with guidance from the Town Council’s Tree advisor at Goulds to maximise their potential.

This report was prepared by the Deputy Town Clerk