

MEMORIAL SAFETY 2025



PUBLIC NOTICE

Sheringham Town Council's ongoing safety programme involves the inspection of all memorials at the SHERINGHAM CEMETERY.

Inspections will be undertaken throughout May 2025

ALL MEMORIALS WILL BE TESTED

Any memorial that has not met the health and safety requirements will be provided with a notice and we will contact the registered owner for the grave, giving details of the action required by them to make the memorial safe.

If your memorial has a notice on it but we have not contacted you, it may be because we've not got up-to-date contact details for you. To update your personal details please contact the team. For your own safety and that of all visitors to the cemetery, DO NOT attempt to test memorials yourself. ALL work to repair memorials must be undertaken by a qualified monumental Mason.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding a memorial or this notice, please contact the team: info@sheringhamtowncouncil.gov.uk

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1 Who is responsible for keeping memorials in a safe condition?

The grave owners are responsible for memorials and have a duty to keep the memorial repaired and in a safe condition. The grave owners are the named person(s) on the Exclusive Rights of Burial certificate.

2 Why are these memorial safety checks needed?

Sheringham Town Council has a responsibility, under the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974, to ensure that risks within the Weybourne Road Cemetery are properly managed. As a result, the H&S Executive requires regular safety inspections to be carried out.

This cycle of testing, will take place during May 2025 and is anticipated to be completed by the end of June 2025. ALL memorials in the main Cemetery and the Memorial Garden will be inspected.

3 Who does the checks?

The checks are carried out by a Memorial Mason who makes sure that the work is carried out carefully and with due respect following ICCM guidelines. Each memorial tested will be recorded to indicate that the safety check has been carried out. The record will include the condition of the memorial and any action taken / proposed action to take.

4 What do the safety tests involve?

All headstones, plaques and tablets in all sections in the main Cemetery and the Memorial Garden will be tested during May 2025. Each memorial will have a visual inspection to assess its condition. Headstones will be given a hand test to check that the stone is not in any immediate danger of falling. If the stone does not move or does not show signs of instability during the test, it is passed as safe.

5 Is it safe to visit the cemetery during the testing?

Yes it is perfectly safe for relatives and members of the public to visit the cemetery whilst the safety program is in progress.

6 What happens with headstones/memorials that fail the test?

A headstone may be secured using a support and/or marked with a notice. The laying down of a memorial will only be undertaken in the most serious of cases. We will contact the owners to detail any remedial actions that are required. It is then the owners responsibility to engage a stone Mason.

7 Can I repair the memorial myself?

No. Please DO NOT attempt to repair or remove memorials yourself. They are very heavy and for your own safety and that of others, only accredited memorial Masons should carry out repair work.

8 How long do I get to resolve any repairs?

When we contact you, the issues and remedial action required will be detailed for you along with a timeframe for completion. You will then be able to take this information to your stone Mason.

9 My memorial has a notice on it but I haven't been contacted?

Our immediate priority is to make sure that our Cemetery is safe for the public and for our grounds team to work in. If we have not contacted you, it may be because we've not got up-to-date contact details for you. To update your personal details please get in touch with the team.

10 Will my memorial be subject to further tests in the future?

Yes, we will be carrying out similar tests at regular intervals in the future. It is recommended that your memorial is insured and regularly checked and maintained by your memorial Mason to ensure it is safe.

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