

CHERISHING SIDMOUTH CEMETERIES – Report to STC Environment Cttee 8/12'25



CHERISHING SIDMOUTH CEMETERIES
MANAGED BUT NOT MANICURED

GREEN: POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *The Cherishing Sidmouth Cemetery volunteers have been working at the cemetery for nearly 2 years. It has proved to be an interesting, rewarding and challenging experience. We are a small group of 10 volunteers and attendance fluctuates according to other commitments and the weather.*
- *The positives this year have been numerous. The EDDC Horticultural Officer has provided tools, dumpy bags and plants and the Streetscene team have provided a store and continued to remove the many bags we fill.*
- *Members of the public continue to thank us for what we are doing including donations of money and wildflower seeds. The First Sid Vale Explorer Scouts recently did a fantastic job clearing and bagging brambles and raking grass.*
- *The East Devon Tree Team have put up bat and bird boxes. Wildlife observation by the volunteers has seen many species, showing how important a site it is especially if it gets a sympathetic helping hand.*
- *The Volunteers have continued to find out more about the history of the cemetery and the people buried there. Two of the EDDC Officers from the Burial's team have accepted our invitation to meet with us to exchange information of mutual benefit.*
- *The most positive aspect is how rewarding it is to see the difference we have made. We would love more volunteers to join us and there is a diverse range of tasks and roles that need to be undertaken.*
- *Finally without the support and the existence of the VGS none of this would happen so a big thank you from the CSC Volunteers.*

RED ISSUES: 1:

The Volunteers appreciate the Councillors making site visits this year, to learn more about what we do and the issues we face. However, the lack of engagement, extremely poor and sometimes non-existent communication by some East Devon Council Managers, has left us disillusioned and frustrated at times.

At a meeting in January 2025, it had been agreed that EDDC's legal department would be asked to amend [EDDC's new but imbalanced Volunteer Policy](#) and consider the [VGS's more balanced version](#).

We would be grateful, therefore, if Cttee members, in particular EDDC Cllrs, could help us approach EDDC management to **update the Volunteer Policy** as part of the [2024 Management Plan](#) – which has also not been updated these last two years.

RED ISSUES: 2:

The CSC would like to confirm that the STC Environment Cttee have agreed that we can approach the Town Clerk to arrange for a contractor to help with the heavy work at Sidmouth Cemetery which the working party is unable to undertake, especially raking in area 2 and strimming with mechanical tools in area 3.

We understand that the regular STC contractor is currently too busy to take on any more work; however, we do have **alternative reliable contacts** to propose, as it is important to the health and state of the Cemetery that this work is undertaken.

We would be grateful if Cttee members were able to confirm this procedure.