



HEADSTONE/MEMORIAL STONES IN **AMBLE WEST & EAST CEMETERIES**

Regular inspections within the cemeteries may conclude that some headstones/memorials are in a poor condition. To address the potential safety issue, contractors carry out a detailed survey of a proportion of headstones/memorials in the above cemeteries on an annual basis.

[This follows the advice set out in the Association of Burial Authorities 'Safety in Burial Grounds', HSE, ICCM and the Ministry of Justice.]

If memorials are found to be very insecure, action may be taken immediately to make them safe, sometimes by lying them down on the ground. However, wherever possible, defective memorials will be clearly marked to give the surviving family members the opportunity to have them repaired or made safe by qualified Memorial Masons. Where details are available, attempts will be made to contact surviving family members to notify them of defective memorials, but given the age of many, the Council is likely to be forced to act in default in some cases.

We wish to avoid any possible distress to members of the public who visit our burial grounds, and we would therefore seek your help in notifying us of contact details if you are already aware that a memorial you visit is insecure in any way. Similarly, we would ask that anyone finding a memorial marked as defective, should contact us as soon as possible.

Legally, those holding the Rights to the grave space or having the permission to erect a memorial are responsible for the maintenance of any erected memorial, and when you arrange for its repair, we would ask that you contact us beforehand as only those Memorial Masons registered with us are allowed to work in our cemeteries.

The council has no obligation to repair private memorials and it is purely our intention to make any defective ones safe by whatever practical means available.

The contact details for further information regarding this announcement is:

Amble Town Council 01665 714 695

Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble, Morpeth. NE65 0DT