NEWS RELEASE
FROM
SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

For immediate release 29.7.2014

Sandy Town Council is responsible for the management and maintenance of Sandy cemetery for the benefit of the whole community. Many residents tell us how much they appreciate the cemetery as a peaceful and beautiful green space where they can reflect on their memories of loved ones. The cemetery is governed by a set of burial regulations which are provided to all those who choose to use the cemetery for interments. The regulations prohibit the placing of solar lights, toys, trinkets or any other items on graves with the exception of flowers. It has never been permissible to place these items on graves and our regulations have not changed recently although they were last reviewed in May 2014. On that occasion members gave careful thought to current mourning practices and noted that many mourners do wish to leave tributary items on graves. However they also noted that others do not appreciate this practice and object to such items. With this in mind, the existing regulations were retained. Members also took into account the fact that the proliferation of objects on graves both impedes maintenance of the cemetery which is mainly laid to lawn and presents a hazard to staff. Also the council has received reports of theft of objects from graves which also causes considerable distress to relatives.

Sandy Town Mayor commented "The council does not remove objects from graves close to the time of interment or without giving notice but we do need to remove the large quantity of items which are being left, particularly during the summer months. We recognise this is a sensitive issue and regret any upset caused but our regulations are very clear and we make every effort to ensure that funeral directors and families are well aware of them from the outset." ENDS –

For further information contact:

Delia Shephard
Town Clerk
Sandy Town Council
10 Cambridge Road
SANDY   SG19 1JE
Telephone: 01767-681491 Fax: 01767-692527
Email: clerk@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk