

Allotment report March 2026 (End Financial year)

Wem Town Council currently has 66 allotments located at Love Lane for the residents of Wem.

Currently all allotments are let, we have 9 new tenants since April 2025 and have a waiting list of 2 people.

This year we have had 3 formal inspections to date.

Cllr Paul Johnson accompanies an officer on inspections. Our last formal Inspection was in December 2025.

In the event a plot is not being maintained and is considered to be in breach of the tenancy agreement a letter is sent to the tenant requesting improvement unless there are mitigating circumstances such as poor health. Following Decembers inspection 6 plots are being monitored for improvement.

Our next inspection is due in April 2026.

Allotment rent to date is £2,509

Allotment Community

There is a thriving community at Love Lane and some great networking among the Tenant's, which supports health and wellbeing.

Allotment rent

Rent letters will be sent to all tenants the week commencing 6th April for rent 2026 / 27

Following the Council's review of fees and charges there is no increase to allotment rents.

Allotment Activity**Promotion possible events**

We are keen to work with allotment tenants to organise a seed swap meet your allotment neighbours' event in the spring.

Love Lane Cemetery Report March 2026 (End of Financial year)

Wem Town Council managed and attended 17 burials from April 2025 to date.

12 of which are new graves, 5 interments into existing graves. 4 interments were for people who lived outside of the parish.

Cemetery capacity

We are currently on row 26 which is the last row before the path, we have space for 6 burials on this side of the path before we start to bury in the next section.

On average 15 new graves are dug per year and considering the space left in the cemetery for future new graves we estimate that we have approximately 17 years of new grave space left at Lovel Lane.

This calculation is made on the basis that the remaining area available for new graves is 41m long x 28m wide. As there are approximately 20 graves per row, based on estimated space we have 260 grave spaces remaining which equates to approx. 17 years.

Cremated remains

We now have a dedicated area of the cemetery for cremated remains, located after row 26 and the path. This provides a choice for residents and requires less space than a full burial plot.

We have notified the main funeral directors in the area that we are now able to offer and manage this service.

We have our first interment of ashes on this dedicated row on March 30th.

Memorial Permits

We have issued 17 memorial permits

Income

For this financial year to date we have an income of £19,105 from the cemetery made up of interment fees, plot purchase, memorial permits and transfer of exclusive rights.

Head Stone Inspection

An inspection of the Headstones in the cemetery took place on February 10th, all headstones were checked, following the inspection we have identified 7 headstones that require repair to ensure they are safe, these are currently staked for safety whilst we try to contact the grave owners. To date we have one owner who has contacted us and who is arranging for the head stone to be repaired.

Training

Our Groundsman and Facilities Officer have attended the ICCM (Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management Training Course on Headstone / memorial inspection which was held in Wem. The course covers Health & Safety and how to carry out inspection of headstones and the legal responsibility. As the course was held in Wem there was no charge to the Town Council for the training.

Public Toilets

Recreation Ground - Legionella Testing and Risk Assessment review booked for recreation ground toilet which will reopen when these have taken place.

Car Park Toilets - 3-year Legionella Risk Assessment review booked March 2026.

Financial information to 28.2.26

Income: £1,211

Expenditure: £14,290

Markets

This financial year, we will have run 50 weekly markets and 2 seasonal markets (Summer and Christmas). In addition, we have issued 7 market licences for small and large events.

The weekly market has grown this year. It is weather-dependent but at its summer peak, nine pitches were in use.

Financial information to 28.2.26

Income from stallholders: £3,127

Income from licence fees: £1,490

Expenditure: £1,043

Surplus: £3,574

Our market infrastructure needs ongoing investment, and we recommend reinvesting £1,375 of the surplus on a new gazebo and two replacement gazebo covers. Additionally, we recommend earmarking £1500 of market surplus each year specifically for market infrastructure improvements.