



A positive response to an MP's request for help

A constituent wrote a long letter to MP for Chelmsford, Simon Burns, describing the dilapidated and overgrown state of the churchyard opposite a residential area in the county town. She asked for his help in getting something done about it.

Approaching Probation, the MP acknowledged the positive response he had received in the past, and hoped that his constituent's request would be considered. Members of the Community Payback team in Chelmsford did a risk assessment of the site, which was problematic, but set about finding ways of acceding to the request.

It wasn't long before workers were on site, strimming, cutting back, heaving mounds of debris into piles for collection, and revealing a substantial area of old gravestones and pathways in-between.

Commenting, Simon Burns said: "I am extremely grateful to Essex Probation for agreeing to tidy up and cut back the weeds at the cemetery, following a complaint I had from a constituent. I also appreciate the work that the members of the Community Payback team did in carrying out this cleanup. It is a good way in which the local community benefits."