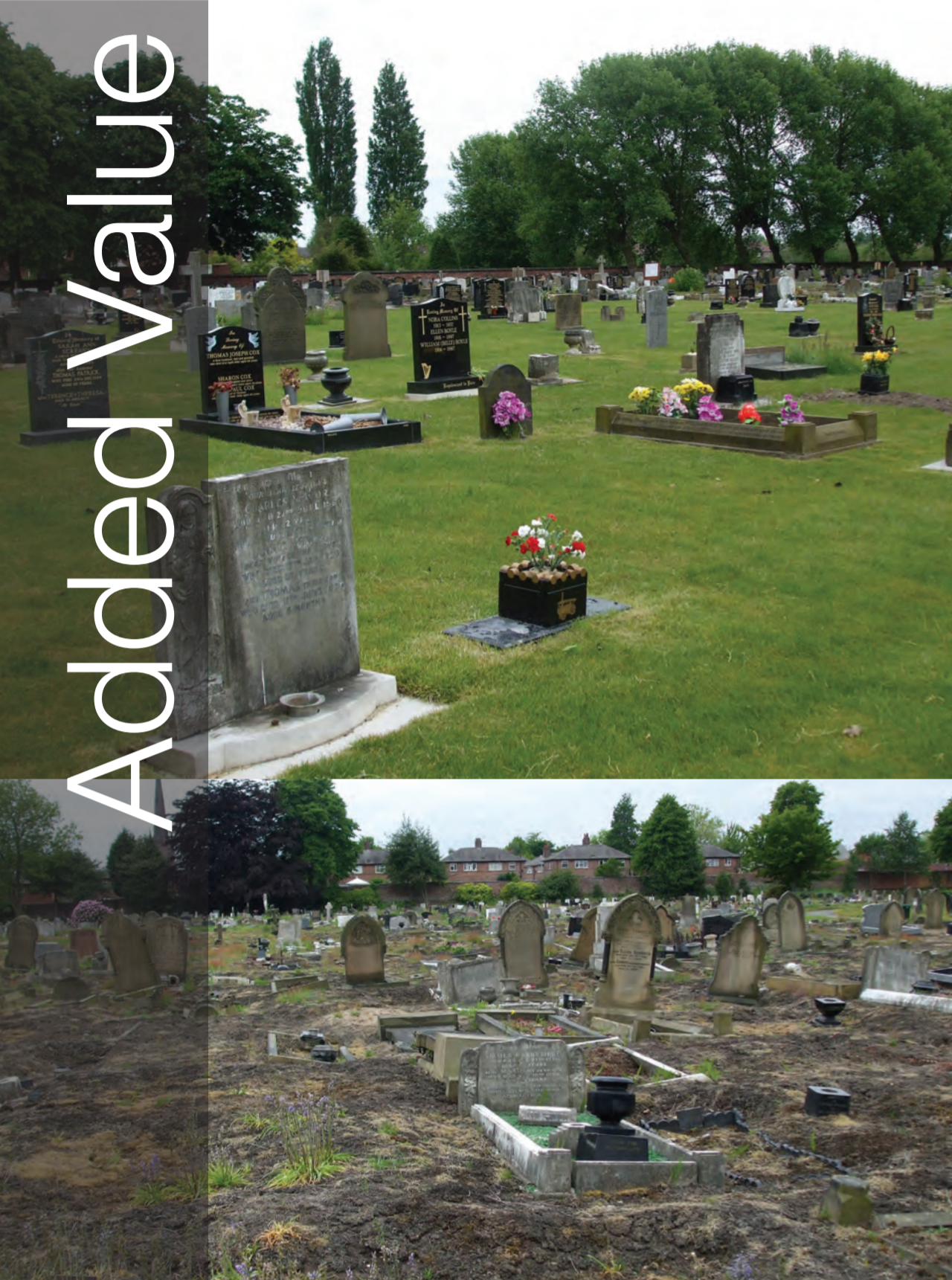


Good Scrutiny Awards 2010

Added Value



Warrington Borough Council

On receiving numerous complaints by the public regarding the town's largest cemetery, Warrington embarked on an ambitious project to raise standards and enable the bereaved to bury their loved ones with dignity and respect. By meeting with the citizens of Warrington who visited the cemetery and identifying realistic measures to deliver improvements, scrutiny has achieved success not only with significant long term savings but also with addressing an issue of real local concern.

“ I felt like I was burying my children in a tip but when I saw what the council had achieved I cried, I was so happy to see the plot all green. ”

Mrs. O'Malley, bereaved resident

Impact

- Scrutiny secured £15,000 for a project to improve its appearance; using this to demonstrate the potential impact of additional expenditure.
- The committee secured a further £85,000 from the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.
- Members saved £1 million, which would have been spent in finding and developing a site for a new cemetery, by proposing a more economical approach.
- The much improved appearance and maintenance of the cemetery provided emotional added value to the citizens of Warrington who had buried departed loved ones there.

Why shortlisted

- The judges were extremely moved by this valuable piece of work which had a profound impact on local people's lives.
- Scrutiny delivered significant savings for the authority.
- This example demonstrates the ability of scrutiny to find a solution to a local problem that has caused significant concern.
- The project added value to an often forgotten public service.

“ [Scrutiny's] work has added value because they have secured valuable limited resources to extend the life of the cemetery by 8-10 years. Their work heavily influenced our decision-making and as a direct result we changed our plans for the 2010/11 budget. ”

**Cllr Ian Marks,
Leader of the Council**