

Battery operated equipment demonstration report

On 21st April 2022 Ian Boler, Product Specialist for EGO, visited the cemetery to demonstrate battery operated grounds maintenance equipment to 2 members of the groundstaff and the assistant town clerk.

EGO offer a wide range of equipment, all equipment is operated by the same batteries which are available in a range of ampages. There is a range of charging options including a rapid charge option. Most of the equipment has variable speed controls.

Batteries have a 1 year guarantee and equipment has a minimum 1 year guarantee with the professional range having a 3 year guarantee.

The expected life of a battery is 3 years and equipment is 5 years. Servicing can be carried out by the local supplier at Heathfield.

Some equipment has a back pack option for carrying the batteries. A 'dummy' battery is used to connect the equipment to the back pack. There are also different harness options. A battery can also be used with an adaptor to provide a portable power source.

The equipment reviewed included trimmers, hedge trimmer, blower, lawn mower and a multi tool which has trimmer, hedge cutter, polesaw and broom attachment. Equipment is available which is suitable for tree surgery work. The power cable is in the lanyard as a safety feature.

The double handed trimmer is similar to the unit currently used at the cemetery and would be considered a good suitable replacement when required.

The trimmers have an automatic loading head which are easier than the current machines, the line capacity is also increased reducing the time needed to refill heads.

In summary, the staff agreed battery operated equipment is better than expected and a mix of battery and petrol machinery would be wise.

The equipment is quieter than the current petrol operated items.

It is accepted that equipment can only be purchased as part of the normal replacement programme but the cemetery does not currently have a power propelled push mower. The demonstrated 19" mower cut the grass well and has a mulching blade which eliminates the need to lift the arisings. The 5 amp hour battery offers approximately 40 minutes mowing time or 500m area.

The multi tool would be considered a useful addition to the grounds maintenance equipment with it's range of tools. There are 2 standard kits, the most suitable one includes the following attachments: line trimmer; hedge trimmer; pole saw; edger and brush cutter blade. This pack includes a 5 Ah battery, rapid charger and single shoulder harness. Additional attachments available are a bristle brush attachment, rotacut, brush cutter blade and a small cultivator.

Other trimmers and hedge cutting tools could form part of a rolling replacement scheme as required.

The full catalogue is available for reference in the office.