

Report to: Environment Committee

Report Ref: ENV1905
Meeting Date: 17th June 2019
Agenda Item: 11
Prepared By: Deputy Town Clerk



Subject: Town Centre Floriculture

1.0 BACKGROUND

In autumn 2018 the chairperson and treasurer of the Knutsford in Bloom community group stepped down from the group and no existing volunteers expressed a desire to fulfil the positions. The committee resolved to appoint Cllr Nicholson as interim chairperson and the Town Clerk as interim treasurer. Cllr Nicholson and the Town Clerk have agreed the custodianship is working and that a handover would be looked at once new volunteers are settled in.

2.0 UPDATES

North West in Bloom have confirmed that the judging date for Knutsford will be Wednesday 24th July, the week following the RHS Tatton Flower show. The Deputy Town Clerk will be preparing the Portfolio for submission in conjunction with Knutsford in Bloom members.

Summer planting in the entrance planters, barrier planters and hanging baskets is taking place from 10th to 21st June. KIB members and the Town Ranger will work on the other planters over the summer in the run up to the judging.

ANSA have been contracted to carry out the watering on a twice weekly basis through the summer.

3.0 POTENTIAL PROJECTS

3.1 REPLACEMENT OF CONCRETE PLANTERS

Knutsford in Bloom's grant application to Manchester Airport to replace the concrete planters with Amberol black/gold plastic planters to match the others in the town centre and provide better water retention, was unfortunately unsuccessful.

The existing planters are outside Arthur Lee, on the crossing at King Edward Road/Gaskell Avenue, near Aldi and outside Fisher German. The concrete planters are owned by the Town Council, and the Environment Committee resolved at their last meeting that they were happy for the planters to be replaced and re used in alternative locations if possible.



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A quote has been received from Amberol to replace the 8 concrete planters with the following metre squared self-watering design at a cost of £2343.60. The Committee should consider as to whether they wish to pay for the planters to be replaced. Sponsorship of the planters could be sought to reduce the cost.



3.2 NEW FLORICULTURE/NORTH WEST IN BLOOM ELEMENTS

Whilst the Town was fortunate enough to win Gold in the North West in Bloom competition last year, the marks to enable us to do so were very tight. As such additional elements of the floriculture display are suggested to place in the Town for both the RHS Tatton Flower show and the NWIB judging.

The focus of the Tatton Flower Show this year is Inspired by the RHS Greening Great Britain campaign and encouraging bugs and wildlife. In addition the theme for the Shop Window competition is The Green Trail – so think Green / eco /recyclable materials / green messages / climate change / air pollution /plants that are good for cleaning the air / eco travel – walking buses, cycling etc. / our planet.

As such the Deputy Town Clerk and Town Ranger have come up with the idea of using left over pallets that we have been collecting from deliveries and upcycling them into pallet planters, similar to the pictures below sourced from Pinterest. The paint used for the planters and the colours of the flowers used would reflect the Knutsford in Bloom chosen colour scheme of Purple, white and Yellow. The planters would be either affixed to the large empty wall spaces on Malt Street close to the Real Fruit Creamery and Princess Street by Simon Boyd entrance (subject to owners' approval). If approval was not forthcoming to affix them to the wall, freestanding versions would be produced.



Secondly, to tie in with the bug and insect theme and also fulfil a long-held wish of the Environment Committee, it is suggested that a bug house is produced, again from pallets to be placed in Wallwood. The bug house would be a similar style to the image below.





Pallet Bug House

It is anticipated that the cost of plants, paint and materials required would cost no more than £150.

4.0 DECISIONS REQUIRED

Does the Committee wish to pay £2343.60 to replace the 8 concrete planters with the Amberol planters pictured?

Does the Committee wish to task the Town Ranger with producing the pallet planters and bug house as additional elements to the Town's floriculture display with a budget of £150?



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