

STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Date: Monday 21st September 2020
Title: Floral Displays Update
Contact Officer: Operations and Estates Officer - John Hickman

Background

The purpose of this report is to update members regarding the Floral displays within the Town.

Current Situation

Summer Bedding

This summer's floral display will be removed and the beds and planters prepared for winter/spring bedding commencing 28th September.

Winter and spring Bedding

Planting of the winter/spring bedding will be expected to start about 19th October.

Summer 2021 Floral Display

Bedding for next year's summer bedding will be ordered first or second week of November.

2021 Theme

Councillors are asked to consider planting multi colour hot bright colours again for summers planting with thoughts being that next year's display should be to honour all those volunteer groups, NHS etc. for all their efforts during the Pandemic.

A banner could be placed behind the raised flower bed on Welch Way and a small board on each of the other beds and planters.

Biannual Planting

Officers will be looking to add further areas of Bi Annuals to our beds and planters where possible to reduce the number of annuals planted.

In Bloom 2021

Although council's intention to enter the Leys and tower Hill cemetery into in bloom this year did not happen due to the Pandemic if the In Bloom competition is run again in 2021 would council like to enter the Leys and Tower Hill Cemetery into the 2021 Competition.

Impact Planting on Roundabouts

Over this Winter the Operations and Estates Officer would like council to consider the impact planting on the 3 roundabouts in Witney this has become very tired and consideration should be given as to what it can be refreshed/replaced with something more vibrant and eye catching. There will be some additional costs for this work.

Tower Hill Cemetery

There is a large bed within the lower area of Tower Hill Cemetery lower area by the chapels that has become very overgrown over the years, the Operations and Estates Officer would like to look at and consider clearing this bed and replanting for the future and to improve the area.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Financial implications

The floral displays should be covered within the current grounds contract, and within existing budgets.

The roundabouts may need some additional funding, depending on what the Council wishes to do with these areas.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. The use of hot Bright flowers again next year for the summer bedding.
2. Dedicating Witneys summer bedding planting to honour local volunteer groups and NHS for there work during the Corona Virus Pandemic.
3. Purchase of a banner for the raised bed and smaller notices for the planters in Town
4. Entering the Leys Recreation Ground and Tower Hill Cemetery into the In Bloom competition 2021.
5. Improving the areas planted with impact planting on roundabouts.
6. Clearing and replanting the overgrown bed in Tower Hill Cemetery.