

Present: The Chairman, Councillor Miss Kellie Hinton (Mayor)
The Vice Chairman, Councillor Dave Eggleton
Councillor Sara Abey
Caroline Langler
Catharine Notaras
Phil Simms

In Attendance: Karl Bishop – Senior Park Warden
Marcus Militello – Conservation Park Warden
Becky Walker – Committee Administrator

Also Present: No members of the public
1 member of the Press

33. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Janet Wheeler (Town Clerk) and Tuc Ahmad.

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

35. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

None.

36. MINUTES

The minutes of the Henley in Bloom/Civic Pride Sub Committee (HiB) held on 22 February 2018 were received, approved and adopted and were signed as a true record.

37. BUDGET UPDATE

The Sub Committee received and noted the budget.

38. GEORGE HARRISON GARDEN

The Chairman advised she had met with a Gae Exton from the Material World Foundation (the George Harrison Charitable Foundation) regarding the possibility of creating a garden in Henley inspired by and commemorating George Harrison.

At the meeting a number of possible locations were discussed and the favoured location was Mill Meadows as it is an attractive site, away from traffic, next to flowing water, can cater for a large footfall and has parking. The area also has the advantage of having the Parks Service presence who can regularly monitor the area and remove memorabilia which may be left. The Chairman also advised the River and Rowing Museum are keen to be involved.

Discussions also took place on the broader aspects of the garden and Ms Exton advised Mrs Harrison and her gardening team would be involved in the design taking inspiration from the life of George Harrison and funding would likely be provided by the Material World Foundation.

The Chairman advised the next step would be to send Ms Exton an email listing the range of possible locations with photos for Mrs Harrison's consideration. Following a response a further report will be brought to the Council.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that Henley in Bloom support in principal the creation of a garden in Henley inspired by and commemorating the life of George Harrison

39. NORTHFIELD END GREEN IMPROVEMENTS

Members received an update from the Chairman regarding a proposal submitted by residents of Northfield End and Bell Street regarding horticultural improvements to Northfield End Green (report attached to the agenda) which was considered by the Open and Green Spaces Committee held on 23 March 2018 who were very supporting and asked for HiB's input. The Chairman introduced Helen Gaynor (Northfield End resident) who joined the table.

During discussion the following comments were made:-

- a resident had emailed to say a tree was preferred rather than the welcome sign to mask the rear of the large directional highways sign. Members agreed a tree would be an easier and cheaper option and a pollution reducing species could be chosen
- a check of utilities in the area would need to be carried out if a tree were to be planted

The Chairman advised an allocation of money had been put in the budget for horticultural improvements and suggested this budget could be used for the creation and planting of the beds. The Chairman also advised that a full year of maintenance and watering by the horticultural contractor would be £1040. Helen Gaynor felt residents would help financially for the initial year and sponsorship could be sought - the Northfield House development was suggested as a possibility.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that Henley in Bloom be involved and support this project

that up to £1000 be allocated from the Horticultural Improvements budget for the creation of the bed including the marking out, digging with neat edges (or sleepers, rock wall, rock border), compost to create weed free, well-drained soil and rocks for rockery

that a further £1000 (up to) be allocated from the Horticultural Improvements budget for the initial planting

that maintenance and watering of the new beds be included in the Horticultural Contract from April 2019 at an approx cost of £1040 per annum

that investigation be made into the cost of maintenance from the date of installation to April 2019 being raised by sponsorship and by local residents

40. PLANTER ON CORNER OF FRIDAY STREET/DUKE STREET

Members received and considered a request from Caroline Langler to plant a small multi-stemmed silver birch (1.5 – 2 m tall) surrounded by evergreen plants and colourful perennial flowers in the planter on the corner of Friday Street and Duke Street at her own expense as a trial for a year from May 2018.

Members noted the Transport Strategy Group are investigating the “greening” of Henley by introducing planting. Mrs Langler suggested this measure would be a gesture from Henley in Bloom to bring trees into this area. The Chairman advised permission would need to be sought from the Highways Department.

The Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that a small multi-stemmed tree (1.5 – 2 m tall) be planted in the planter on the Friday Street/Duke Street junction as a trial for one year (subject to permissions) to be donated by Mrs Caroline Langler

41. WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY – EVENTS AND PROJECTS

i. CHELSEA FRINGE IN HENLEY

Members received a report and considered Henley in Bloom entering “A Blossom Picnic” at the Community Orchard as an event in the “Chelsea Fringe in Henley” (Chelsea Fringe) 2018.

The Chairman invited Victoria Newton (co-organiser of the Chelsea Fringe) who has been very involved in the Community Orchard to the table to provide more details as follows:-

- HiB has been very supporting of the Chelsea Fringe over the past 3 years however has never had its own event. This event provides the opportunity to celebrate the Orchard, raise its profile and provide a venue for a HiB to host a community event which incorporates an educational element (a talk on how to care for fruit trees including blossom reduction which encourages the tree to put energy into growing), Japanese hanami and a picnic
- there was a fantastic response to the first planting day of the Orchard with approx 40 residents volunteering to plant on a rainy day. The second planting day took place last week when a row of vines (10) which were donated by the Fairmile Vineyard were planted by volunteers along with more hedge planting.
- it was noted when promoting the event it is important to stress that there is no parking on Paradise Road
- the Chelsea Fringe runs from Saturday 19 May to Sunday 27 May 2018
- other Chelsea Fringe events include the Floral Flotilla, a poetry reading event, the Quaker garden will be open, an event at the Berkshire College of Agriculture, all the churches in the area will have a display in St Mary’s Church by their flower arrangers

After consideration it was **RESOLVED**

that Henley in Bloom enter an event based at the Community Orchard in this year's Chelsea Fringe in Henley programme at a cost of £27 (if registered before 31 March)

ii. **GARDENING BUDDIES**

An update will be provided at the next meeting.

iii. **SCHOOLS IN BLOOM**

a. **Schools in Bloom Fund**

Members received and considered a request from Gillotts School for a grant from the HiB Schools in Bloom fund to improve the garden of the Lodge (currently a grassed area) which is a centre for the emotional, social and mental well-being of students. The proposal is to create a garden designed, planted and cared for by students which the Counsellor advises will deeply benefit and enhance their school experience.

The Chairman advised Toad Hall Garden Centre had been approached and were keen to help with this project. A member suggested a "seed-swap" programme may be beneficial and the Allotments Association should be asked if they have been involved in such a project and if they have any advice.

A member asked that wildlife, conservation and plants that attract pollinators be incorporated into the garden.

Members felt this was a very worthwhile project and **RESOLVED**

that £200 be allocated from the Henley in Bloom Schools Fund to improve the garden at the Lodge at Gillotts School

b. **Championing the Hedgehog**

Members received an update from Catherine Notaras regarding this year's Schools in Bloom project "Championing the Hedgehog" and visiting schools in Henley as follows:-

- the Library window is booked for Hedgehog Awareness Week (6 – 12 May 2018) and it was agreed Henley in Bloom support this initiative
- Lynne Adam, Head of Museum Operations at the River and Rowing Museum would like to get involved in the Championing the Hedgehog project and to incorporate it into their wildlife education programme
- Schools Projects - to encourage schools to get involved and 2 ideas were suggested:-
 - to ask schools to assess their grounds and come up with ideas as to how to make their grounds more "hedgehog friendly" and be encouraged to look at their own gardens too
 - a competition to create a 4 part storyboard showing the hedgehog during the 4 seasons and displaying them eg at the Town Hall or events
- investigating different ways to engage with children eg famous hedgehogs, craft ideas etc
- school assembly visits to be arranged to promote "Championing the Hedgehog" – a number of schools have already responded

A budget was requested to provide prizes/incentives for the schools for this project.

It was **RESOLVED**

that up to £50 per school – total £350 (6 primary schools plus Gillotts School) be allocated from the Henley in Bloom budget for the Schools in Bloom projects 2018 including “Championing the Hedgehog”

The Chairman advised she had received a thank you letter from Sacred Heart School for their Schools in Bloom donation and would keep the Committee updated on the project and were keen to get involved in the Championing the Hedgehog and projects involving reducing litter.

- iv. Members received and noted a list of Henley in Bloom and other like-minded events. The Chairman encouraged members to attend:-
- **Spring Clean** event on **Saturday 21 April 2018 (10 am – 12 noon)**
 - **Plant Sale** on **Saturday 2 June 2018** – volunteers are required from 9 am.

42. GARDENS OF HENLEY 2018

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

43. PROGRESS REPORT

Members received and noted the progress report and the following comments were made:-

- The Chairman advised the Leander Club would support a project to celebrate their bicentenary at Red Lion Lawn but do not have funds available. Members were asked to bring back suggestions to the next meeting. Issues with vandalism were noted.
- the Chairman advised the Town Council had resolved that Henley does not enter the Thames and Chilterns in Bloom in 2018 however Bloom work will continue as usual

44. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was as agreed as **17 May 2018 at 9.30 am.**

The meeting closed at 10.22 am.

Chairman

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