

Present: The Chairman, Councillor Dave Eggleton
The Vice Chairman, Councillor Kellie Hinton
Councillor Sara Abey
Tuc Ahmad
Caroline Langler – Henley in Transition
Catharine Notaras – Henley Wildlife Group
Phil Simms – Henley Standard

In Attendance: Janet Wheeler – Town Clerk
Karl Bishop – Parks Manager
Kyle Dowling - Senior Park Warden (Horticulture)
Ilona Livarski - Park Warden (Conservation)
Becky Walker – Committee Administrator

1 member of the press
Victoria Newton – Chelsea Fringe in Henley
Jan Sutton – Gardening Buddies

The Chairman invited Jan Sutton of Gardening Buddies and Victoria Newton of the Chelsea Fringe in Henley to join the table.

The Chairman invited members to introduce themselves to the new reporter for the Henley Standard who will be covering Henley in Bloom, Axel Fithen.

37. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Lorraine Hillier.

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

39. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

None.

40. CHELSEA FRINGE IN HENLEY

The Chairman welcomed Victoria Newton of the Chelsea Fringe in Henley to the meeting who provided an update on this year's festival as follows:-

- the dates of the Festival are Saturday 18 May to Sunday 26 May 2019
- aim to build on the success of the last 4 years with established (eg Secret Garden at the Quaker meeting house, BCA Heritage Day) and new events (eg opening of Ratty's Refuge at the River and Rowing Museum, possible event at Badgemore School)
- would ask Henley in Bloom to once again support the Floral Flotilla at Mill Meadows on Sunday 26 May 2019 and allow the Flotilla to use the temporary moorings at Mill Meadows on the afternoon (during the free period). Bloom's support has been key to the success of this event.

Post meeting note:the Town Clerk has given permission for this repeat event.

- following on from the success of other Festivals in the town establishing “a hub” to co-ordinate and promote events, the Chelsea Fringe proposes using part of the Old Fire Station Gallery for this purpose – floral workshops would also take place at the venue. HiB was asked for a contribution towards the cost for the “hub” element (full fee £265 - local user rate).
- would Henley in Bloom organise its own event. Last year a “Blossom Picnic” with informal talks was held at the Paradise Road Community Orchard.

Members were very supportive of the Festival and the following comments were made:-

- the Festival raises awareness of and encourages interest in horticulture and complements the work of RHS Bloom campaign
- the Festival has become a fixture on the “Henley Festival Calendar” and would be missed if it did not take place
- a number of suggestions for a Bloom event were discussed including a “Wildlife Week” to promote conservation and open spaces in the town, a conservation based event at the Orchard incorporating awareness of hedgehogs and wildlife, teddy bear’s picnic, planted wheelbarrows competition (Plants on the Move)

Post meeting note: the Wildlife Event is more likely to take place later in the summer.

After discussion the Sub Committee **RESOLVED**

that Henley in Bloom support the Chelsea Fringe in Henley 2019 including the Floral Flotilla to be held at Mill Meadows on Sunday 26 May 2019 and that £130 be allocated from the Henley in Bloom budget to contribute to the cost of Chelsea Fringe hiring the Old Fire Station Gallery during the Festival to pay for the “hub” element

that Henley in Bloom investigate holding its own event during the Chelsea Fringe in Henley 2019

41. MINUTES

The minutes of the Henley in Bloom/Civic Pride Sub Committee (HiB) held on 29 November 2018 were received, approved and adopted and were signed as a true record.

42. BUDGET UPDATE

The Sub Committee received and noted the budget. It was noted that the Christmas Tree shredding grows in popularity each year and this year raised £313.

Thanks was extended to the Parks Service for running this initiative and the Chairman for collecting trees.

43. GARDENING BUDDIES

Members received an update from Jan Sutton who advised she would be meeting with Elizabeth Hodgkin in the near future to discuss the plans for 2019.

It was confirmed that Gardening Buddies would be looking after the 2 green planters at Northfield End alongside the Northfield End and Bell Street Residents Group.

Jan Sutton thanked Parks Service for their help last year especially Kyle Dowling.

Kyle Dowling advised that contact had been made with the Rotary Club regarding reinvigorating the planting at the Rotary Beds at Mill Meadows who were happy for the Parks Service and Gardening Buddies to take the lead on the plan and intended to fund the costs.

The Chairman thanked Jan for her continued work with Gardening Buddies.

44. HANGING BASKETS

Members received and considered a report outlining the costs and proposed charges for this year's hanging baskets. Members noted the charge from Windowflowers would rise by CPI (approx 2%) and the charges would be £47.75 + vat for the summer baskets and £41.35 + vat for the winter baskets.

The Vice Chairman acknowledged and thanked the Henley Standard for their continued support of this campaign.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED**

that the hanging basket charges for 2019 would be:-

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| - | Summer | - | £64 inc vat (£53.33 + vat) |
| - | Winter/Spring | - | £57 inc vat (£47.50 + vat) |

45. LITTER

i. HENLEY SPRING CLEAN 2019

Members considered the date for the Henley Spring Clean 2019 and **RESOLVED**

**that the Henley Spring Clean be held on Saturday 30 March 2019
– 10 am – 12 noon**

Members suggested new groups who could be approached to be involved as follows:- sports clubs, Walkers are Welcome and Phyllis Court Club. The Lions Club were thanked for once again agreeing to serve soup at the end of the event in Market Place.

ii. LITTER PICKING PACKS

Members received and considered a report regarding purchasing litter picking packs which could be loaned out to community groups. This would help provide a more holistic approach to tackling the issue of litter all year round.

The packs would include children's litter pickers and HiB branded hi-vis jackets for adults and children, disposable gloves, bin bags, risk assessment information, health and safety guidelines and information on "wildlife and litter".

After discussion it was **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that up to £400 be allocated from the Henley in Bloom budget to purchase litter picking equipment to be made available for loan to community groups, schools etc

iii. Members considered a project proposed by the Vice Chairman to have a structure or model made of, or filled with, rubbish to raise awareness of litter.

Members felt this could also act as a tool to educate on how and what can be recycled and supported the project.

The Committee **RESOLVED**

that Henley in Bloom support, in principle, the idea of having a structure or model made of, or filled with, rubbish to raise awareness of litter and that Councillor Miss Kellie Hinton investigate and bring a report back to this Committee

46. CHAMPIONING THE HEDGEHOG

Members received an update from Catherine Notaras on Championing the Hedgehog project as follows:-

- highlighted the importance of nesting habitats for hedgehogs. These can be natural habitats in a garden or hedgehog boxes can be bought or built.
- hedgehog boxes are not only used for hibernation in winter but also as a nest site from spring to early June/July.
- bird boxes are also important and again can be bought or built. Correct siting of bird and hedgehog boxes is very important.
- improving connectivity or pathways throughout the town is important in order that wildlife can move around safely.
- suggested Henley in Bloom donate a hedgehog box to each primary school (approx cost of a box is £25) and advice to be offered on the best location within the grounds. An additional £90 would be required to supplement the £60 already discussed for this project (minute 32 i) – plus Shiplake or Nettlebed School if requested.

The Parks Manager offered to make bird boxes (in his own time) if given the templates.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED**

that an additional £90 be allocated from the Henley in Bloom budget (to supplement the money already allocated) to pay for hedgehog boxes for each primary school

47. TREES IN THE KINGS ROAD AND GREYS ROAD CAR PARK

- i. Members noted that South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) have confirmed that the two rowan trees that have failed in the Kings Road Car Park will be replaced with whitebeams.
- ii. Members noted that the tree that was removed from the Greys Road Car Park opposite the Day Centre will not be replaced due to subsidence concerns. SODC would be open to suggestions of this area being planted up with small shrubs/bedding or a planter however a plan would need to be submitted for approval. Henley Town Council/Bloom would need to arrange for the works and bear the cost including on-going maintenance.

During discussion the following points were made:-

- if planters were provided could the members of the Over 60s Club tend to them (similar to their planters)
- particulate trapping plants would be beneficial as there is a considerable amount of traffic which drives through In the car park. A member queried if this area could be included in the air quality planters project

- a planter maybe more successful due to the quality of the soil, roots and stump of the tree etc
- a planter could be attractive to sponsors
- reluctance to pay for raised beds on land owned by another Council
- a shrub bed could become a litter trap

After discussion it was **RESOLVED**

that further research be carried out and a report be brought back to this Committee

48. THE HENLEY HOUSE AND GARDEN SHOW

The Chairman advised that the House and Garden Show have offered Henley in Bloom the opportunity to share a table with other community groups to promote their work with horticulture, conservation, biodiversity etc. The aim is to be able to offer information on how people can get involved in a variety of projects.

The Show is on Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 March 2019 in the Town Hall and the Chairman asked members to support the event and/or volunteer to help man the stall.

49. PROGRESS REPORT

Members received and considered the progress report and made the following comments:-

Town Entrance Signs – Kyle Dowling and Gardening Buddies are meeting in March to discuss the floral displays in the town.

Gardens of Henley – the competition is to be front gardens only using the new criteria already agreed. No entry required – gardens to be nominated by members of the public, judges and Bloom members. Judging to be undertaken during the summer (no set judging day). “Improving Air Quality” to be a theme for 2019. Awards ceremony to take place in the autumn. Southern Plant Hire are keen to continue to sponsor Gardens of Henley.

Post meeting note: Tuc Ahmad is keen to join the judging panel.

Singers Park – the hedge has been removed and the beech hedge is being planted. Clearing the base of the stems and levelling of the top will not take place until the hedge has “greened up”. Lavender will be planted at the base of the tree in the spring. Thanks was extended to the Parks Service for their work.

Seed swap – will be held in the Council Chamber on Saturday 9 March 2019 between 10 am and noon. Members were asked to support this event.

Schools in Bloom – suggested contact is made with the schools regarding the hanging basket and other projects to see how it would fit best into the curriculum.

The competition element of the hanging basket project was queried due to timings in relation to growing season and term times. It was suggested plants as well as seeds and baskets are provided.

50. CELEBRATION BEDS

Member considered possible themes for the Celebration Beds at Mill Meadows for 2019 as follows:- Anniversaries include - Nationally – 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, 50th anniversary of the moon landings, 25th anniversary of the Lion King, 50th anniversary of the last Beatles performance. Locally – 100th anniversary of the death of Frank Crisp, (RHS Victoria Medal holder, resident of Henley), 25th anniversary of the new Waitrose in Henley, 25th anniversary of the New Orleans, 25th anniversary of the death of Dusty Springfield, 100th anniversary of the Forestry Commission. Causes/themes could include hedgehogs/wildlife conservation.

The Committee **RESOLVED**

that the Parks Service and Gardening Buddies consider the practicalities of the designs associated with the themes suggested above

51. IN BLOOM

- i. Members received the new marking sheet for Thames and Chilterns in Bloom and noted the amended marking is now 40% for horticulture, 30% for environment and 30% for the community.
- ii. Members received and considered a letter regarding Communities in Bloom International Challenge inviting Henley to enter. Members agreed not to enter this year as the time scales were too short and there was no budget allocated. It was noted the RHS are not affiliated with this competition.

It was **RESOLVED**

that Henley does not enter the Communities in Bloom International Challenge 2019 but ask to be kept updated in future years

52. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed as **Thursday 28 March 2019 at 9.30 am.**

The meeting closed at 11.36 am.

Chairman

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