

## **HENLEY IN BLOOM HANGING BASKETS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What is the Henley in Bloom hanging basket scheme?**

Summer and winter hanging baskets are available to sponsor every year by businesses and private households in Henley town centre and surrounding streets. The baskets are provided by Windowflowers Ltd (the Town Council's horticultural contractor) who install and maintain them and the funds raised by the scheme are used to support Henley in Bloom projects throughout the town.

### **Who can take part in the scheme?**

The scheme is designed for commercial premises but residents are also able to join if they live on a road which is not too far from the town centre, is accessible by the tanker for watering and will not cause concern for other residents when the baskets are watered early in the morning.

### **What does the price include?**

The price includes a 113mm x 450mm diameter felt-lined hanging basket (one size only), filled with fresh compost. The summer baskets are densely planted with a colourful mix of seasonal flowers selected to provide the maximum floral impact for the longest period. The winter baskets are planted with a winter display of colourful plants and ivies. Watering and maintenance by Windowflowers are also included.

### **Can baskets be donated?**

Yes! Henley in Bloom would be delighted to receive donations for hanging baskets. In the past, residents of Henley have kindly paid for baskets on the Fire Station, the Citizen's Advice Bureau and the Helen and Douglas House Charity Shop.

### **What is the maximum distance from the road for watering a hanging basket?**

Windowflowers can water a basket on a property up to 4m from the road, as long as there is unimpeded access for the watering hose and space for the lorry to park or access; for example, a narrow archway can mean that the lorry cannot manoeuvre.

### **Do you supply and fit brackets?**

Yes, Windowflowers can install brackets (subject to location). We recommend that you supply a photo with the bracket position marked with an X when you order, as visits to individual properties are not possible prior to installation. The brackets will be installed to a minimum height, particularly when overhanging a pavement. Please ensure that any necessary permissions e.g. from a landlord, are obtained before ordering a bracket.

### **Can I use my own bracket for the hanging basket?**

Yes. Windowflowers will weight test your bracket when they come to hang the basket, but as a guide the baskets can weigh up 18kg in late season when watered. Windowflowers and Henley Town Council will not be held responsible for any loss, damage or injury caused by unsuitable or unstable hanging baskets brackets.

**When can hanging baskets be ordered?**

Hanging basket order forms are available from the Town Hall in February for summer baskets and September for winter baskets. The order forms are emailed to previous customers and are also available on the Town Council's website.

**Do summer and winter baskets need to be ordered at the same time?**

No, you can order just the summer baskets and then winter baskets later in the year.

**Can hanging baskets be ordered after the deadline date?**

Orders may still be accepted after the deadline, however the lead time between order and delivery may be longer and orders are subject to stock availability.

**When are the hanging baskets installed?**

Summer baskets are generally installed during late May/early June and winter baskets are installed in early October, subject to weather conditions.

**How often are the baskets watered?**

A new basket with fresh soil, smaller root systems and smaller plants will be watered every 7-10 days. Once the baskets are more mature, they will be watered every 3-4 days (twice a week).

**How long before I can expect a good display?**

The summer baskets are transported and delivered with the growth just over the lip of the basket which avoids damage during transit. They grow very rapidly in early summer and after a couple of weeks will provide a wonderful display that is good for pollinators too! The winter baskets grow more slowly due to the season, coming into their own in February/March, depending on the weather.

**Can I keep the hanging basket at the end of the season?**

No, the hanging baskets are provided by Windowflowers on a rental basis to scheme applicants. The baskets are removed at the end of the season or replaced with winter/summer baskets if these have also been ordered.

**Do I need to do anything once my basket has been delivered?**

You do not need to do anything to a fully maintained basket, other than admire your blooming flowers and enjoy the compliments!

For any further enquiries please contact [j.smith@henleytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:j.smith@henleytowncouncil.gov.uk)