

SHREWSBURY IN BLOOM
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25TH APRIL 2019 AT 2.00PM
WEeping CROSS DEPOT, SHREWSBURY, SY5 6HT

PRESENT

Keith Roberts (KR, Chairman), Helen Ball (HB, Town Clerk), Tony Bywater (TB), Nic Laurens (NL), Pam Moseley (PM), Kath Owen (KO), Margaret Thrower (MT), Chris Watkins (CW) and Hilary Humphries (Communications Officer).

APOLOGIES

Beverley Baker and Gary Farmer.

33/19 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28TH MARCH 2019

Members discussed the minutes of the meeting held on 28th March 2019.

AGREED:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28th March 2019 were agreed to be a true and accurate record of the meeting

34/19 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

35/19 HEART OF ENGLAND IN BLOOM – TUESDAY 23RD JULY 2019

35.1 Small City Category

HB advised members that she has spoken with Nicola Clark and that both Small City category and Parks & Open Spaces would be judged on the same day.

Start & Finish Including Refreshments

Flaxmill Maltings

HB has visited the site and had discussions with relevant parties. The Friends of the Flaxmill will provide the morning tea, coffee and pastries from 8.30am with a 9.00am start for the 15 minute presentation and a 15 minute press call.

A 15-20 minute mini tour of the Flaxmill is available from 9.30am, with plans to be growing flax at the site by the summer.

9.45am – judging tour starts by visiting Greenfields Recreation Ground to show the judges:

- the new play area;
- the community woodland;
- the Environment Agency improvement works;
- Greenfields Allotments.

Members discussed whether it might be possible to have pupils from Greenfields School on the day – this would need to be discussed further with the school.

The vehicle will pick the judges up by Greenfields School and take them to the Old River Bed to show them the location for the proposed beaver colony – and possibly have Pete Lambert from Shropshire Wildlife Trust present.

On the way back to town, the judges can be shown the new developments in that part of Shrewsbury with details on adopted green spaces and S106 funds for local improvements.

The route back may provide an opportunity to discuss the NWRR.

Members discussed:

- the chance to show the re-development of the station and the works at Abbey Gardens;
- whether to have the Mayor's Parlour in the Castle available as a potential "comfort break";
- with a complete re-vamp of the route, it was decided not to have Heritage Characters this year;
- the walking route in the town centre;
- the vehicle will pick the judges up from the back of the Square and take them to Grey Friars, providing an opportunity to talk about developments in that part of Shrewsbury and also meet the St Julian's litter pickers there;
- Pugh's Funeral Directors – the gardens will provide a good view of the English Bridge;
- Moving to St Barnabus' Gardens, which SIB has supported with funding, will show the vegetable garden and work within the community – HB suggested having someone from Shrewsbury Food Hub present to meet the judges;
- The use of the soon-to-be refurbished railway footbridge and a view of the works at the station.

The vehicle will then take the judges to the Rea Valley. GF will speak with Matt Wilcoxon to find out the most interesting areas to show the judges. This will form the Parks & Open Spaces category judging with 1½ hours in total, although it was felt that around 45 minutes to 1 hour would be required.

Members suggested having Jim Goldsmith from the Countryside Unit and some of their volunteers to meet the judges as well as some anglers and bailiffs.

The judges will be taken back into town via Wyle Cop to the Dingle and then to the University to view Darwin's Garden, providing an opportunity on the way to talk about throwlines and improvements to the fishing pegs by the Theatre Severn.

Having the finale at the University will provide an opportunity to talk about the purchase of Mount House and Darwin's Garden.

Lunch will be served for 1.30pm.

It was felt that with fewer places to visit, the judges could be provided with more in-depth information on the locations.

There were other things to think about introducing along the route:

- Shrewsbury Cup at Stop Café in St Julian's (and possibly give the judges one each to take away with them). This might be a good location for tea and cake;
- The Big Town Plan and the focus on green networks;
- Seb from the BID to talk about developments within the town;
- Future High Street Fund;
- Show the video;
- The potential to have a representative from McPhillips meet the judges to talk about the works within the town;
- The potential to have someone from SLAP meet the judges to talk about their work;
- The recent resolution that STC, declaring a Climate Emergency and intentions to be carbon neutral by 2030;
- There was a need to think about recycling and where to include this on the route;
- Buttonholes – HH to liaise with Barbara Evans and KR will collect them on the day.

Committee Members agreed to meet the judges:

- NL and Seb Slater will accompany the judges from Castle Street to the Square and talk about the Big Town Plan;
- PM will be at St Barnabus', Pugh's and Coleham;
- MT will meet the judges at Greenfields;
- KO will be at the Castle;
- CW will meet the judges in the Dingle;
- TB will ensure that the town looks good ahead of the judging.

Vehicle

SF has arranged a seven seater vehicle from Bayfield Vehicle Hire with STC providing some planters in return.

Portfolio

HH is working on the Portfolio and will arrange a meeting with Clear Design for May.

ACTION:

- **GF and KR to run through the route and assess the various locations.**
- **GF to liaise with Matt Wilcoxon on the strongest and most interesting areas at Rea Valley.**
- **HH to contact Fiona Checkley to meet the judges at St Julian's Friars and possibly do some litter picking there.**
- **HH to liaise with Carol Pullen to book the Mayor's Parlour at the Castle.**
- **HH to liaise with Barbara Evans for the buttonholes and KR to collect them on the day.**
- **HB to contact Shrewsbury Food Hub to make arrangements for them to meet the judges at St Barnabus Gardens.**
- **HB to contact Chris Bainger from the Environment Agency.**
- **HB to contact Andy Jones.**
- **HB to liaise with Seb Slater from the BID.**

35.2 Parks & Open Space Category

Members discussed the entry for the Rea Valley Country Park and the need to produce a mini portfolio for the site.

ACTION:

- **HH to submit an application to Heart of England in Bloom.**
- **HH to produce a mini portfolio for the Rea Valley.**

35.3 Britain in Bloom – It's Your Neighbourhood Award

HH confirmed that an application for Hermitage Gardens had been submitted and that a judging date had been agreed for July.

36/19 BIG TOWN WALK – WALKING FESTIVAL – 18TH MAY 2019

HB provided members with an update from the last meeting. HH had met with Julian Dean and Clear to discuss the design element of the maps for both the launch event and a more permanent map for the future.

Members were advised that seven Councillors had agreed to provide funding from their Councillor Grants totalling £2k.

The Big Town Plan had amended their logo for the walk to help keep costs down and retain similar branding for the future.

Members discussed the funding requirements for the maps, and whilst the concept covers points of local interest, the local environment, green networks and encourages people to exercise, members felt that there was a need for more information for the next meeting before making a commitment.

ACTION:

- **HH to liaise with Julian Dean regarding Bloom's involvement**

37/19 WEeping CROSS OPEN DAY – 22ND MAY 2019

HH advised members that a staggered arrival time system is in place for this year to avoid the usual large rush experienced at the beginning in previous years.

The event has proved to be popular with well over 100 registrations so far with more to be processed. A lot of the people visiting haven't been to the event before.

Members discussed supporting a charity with proceeds from the raffle and felt that Lingen Davies should be supported in their Ruby year.

GF will provide a planter for one of the prizes. TB will provide tokens for Love Plants.

Members felt there was a need to take telephone numbers of entrants to ensure the winners were notified, especially with the different times of arrival for guests.

ACTION:

- **GF to provide a planter for a prize.**
- **TB to provide Love Plants vouchers.**
- **HH to liaise with MT in relation to numbers for catering.**

Members also discussed the hosting of the **Business Chamber Networking Event (15th May evening)** with around 30–40 people attending. There will be a small presentation and a raffle of a hanging basket in aid of the Mayor's Charity Fund.

HB has had discussions with Mike at Stop Café in relation to the food (small canapés) and STC will provide the drinks.

NL and KR will help out on the evening and HH will also attend.

ACTION:

- **GF to provide a hanging basket as a prize.**
- **HB to confirm catering arrangements with Mike from Stop Café.**

38/19 SCHOOL'S WEeping CROSS OPEN EVENT – 15th MAY 2019

HH advised members that she was working on the School's event. MT highlighted her conversations with Greenfields and St George's in relation to the event.

ACTION:

- **HH to continue working with schools in relation to the event.**

39/19 PRIDE HILL PLANTERS

HB advised members that the planter had been returned to Broxap with a view to addressing members' concerns about the gap between the planter and the skin. They had been advised there was a need to tackle this issue as quickly as possible.

Members are keen to have a "wow factor" planting scheme and feel that there should be some form of press focus to highlight the new additions and the completion of the works on Pride Hill. HH will raise the subject at the next meeting of the Shrewsbury Shopping Forum.

HB advised members that gas works will take place in the town centre for six weeks and may have an impact on judging day, although Shropshire Council has been made aware of the date.

ACTION:

- **GF to liaise with WSP regarding planters.**
- **GF to finalise planting scheme.**
- **HH to liaise with the Shrewsbury Shopping Forum in relation to press coverage.**

40/19 TOWN OF FLOWERS COMPETITION

HH requested confirmation of judges for STC's annual Town of Flowers competition.

Members agreed the following:

- Front Gardens – MT and Kevin Pardy in mid-July with MT to confirm a date;
- Business Premises – KR and NL with judging to take place at the beginning of August;
- School Grounds competition – HH and DE will judge the schools to build on relationships with local schools;
- Allotments – CW and HB will undertake the judging with a preference for early evening dates before 24 July.

ACTION:

- **HH to liaise with DE in relation to the Town of Flowers judging.**
- **MT to provide a date to HH for front garden judging.**

41/19 A49/SUNDORNE ROAD ROUNDABOUT

HB advised members that this issue has not progressed further, although GF has the matter in hand.

There is a need to design a plan for the roundabout and undertake the planting.

Shropshire Council will take care of the road closures.

ACTION:

- **GF to continue with the development of a plan and costings and send them to Highways.**

42/19 REPAIR OF SCULPTURE AT COLUMN ISLAND

HB provided members with an update on the costs for repair of the artwork in the centre of the Column Island.

With an estimated cost of £3k for repairs, members felt that they could not justify such costs. It was suggested that the feature be inspected to consider any minor reconstruction.

ACTION:

- **KR and NL to have a look at the sculpture and report back to the Committee.**
- **HB to send STC staff to inspect the sculpture and report back to HB.**
- **HB to contact the artist.**

43/19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

43.1 MT raised the issue of Martin Wood's regalia, which is in need of replacing. Members discussed previous funding and agreed that more information would be needed before making a decision.

ACTION:

- **HB to include a funding request on the next F&GP agenda.**
- **HB to discuss the matter with the BID and the Tourism Association.**
- **MT to ascertain more information for the next meeting.**

44/19 NEXT MEETING

The following meetings have already been diarised for 2pm at the Weeping Cross Centre:

Thursday 23rd May
Thursday 27th June