

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE
22 September 2021**

Officer: Gary Farmer – Head of Operations

SHREWSBURY IN BLOOM

Purpose of Report

To receive an update from the Shrewsbury in Bloom Meeting held on 7th September 2021. More detailed minutes of the meeting will be provided at the next Recreation and Leisure Meeting.

Matters Arising

Heart of England in Bloom Campaign

This year the Bloom Group entered the Heart of England in Bloom Competition. Instead of the usual visitation of judges, this year's campaign is to be judged by the submission of a Portfolio showing how the town has met the Judging Criteria. The Portfolio, put together by the Communications Officer was submitted by the end of July and the results are awaited shortly.

Meole Brace Island

The Chairman has met with Shropshire Council's Environmental Maintenance Officer to agree on the re-instatement of sponsored floral features on the splitter island situated around the perimeter of the Meole Brace Traffic Island.

Work will commence during the winter period.

The stone features on the island will be landscaped and planted this will be funded by Bloom.

A choice of arid loving plants and specific grasses or a more natural theme using British native shrubs and wildflowers will be considered at the next meeting

Queens Green Canopy

Further discussions are required on locations to plant new trees and the creation of new woodlands.

Projects

A number of requests have been received to support new projects:

Pensfold Shops Gains Park

A request to provide pebble dash surplus planters by Councillor Wagner for the shopping centre has been actioned. Staff at the centre will be responsible for the maintenance.

Greyfriars

Councillor Halliday has asked for assistance improving the approach to the footbridge she has a meeting with Shropshire Council Highways and is considering introducing pebble dash planters which will be maintained by the shops.

Flax Mill

A request has been received to assist with planters around the Café area by English Heritage. A site meeting has been arranged with the Chairman of Bloom to discuss the details.

Welcome Back Fund

The Town Clerk and BID members are in discussions over improvements to Castle Street.

Other areas for future discussion includes benches, bins and bus shelters could these be re painted using local artist involvement.

In floral planters could trees also be introduces in larger containers.

Planting for 2022

Currently staff are preparing the planting arrangements for 2022 growing season and Invitations to tender for the supply of plants will be published shortly. Staff are starting to look at planting designs for the Raised Carpet Bed in the Castle; current thinking is to mark HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Future Meetings

Dates will be confirmed.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) That the report be noted
- (ii) That the minutes of the 7th September be presented at the next Recreation and Leisure Committee.