

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022

ABERGAVENNY IN BLOOM REPORT

1. Tender process for the town centre floral displays are all now up for renewal. Currently these are covered by two providers. A draft proposal for the majority of the works can be seen in Appendix A. At present, ATC pay £4830 + VAT for plantings and then £3 per item watered from one provider. Also there are three additional planters on loan for Cross Street which have not been factored into these calculations.

Our current commitment is as follows:

Hanging baskets: 30 x £3, x 3 times a week, x 16 weeks: £4320

40 planters (boxes, troughs and tiered planters): 40 x £3, x 3 times a week, x 16 weeks: £5760

34 planters (St Johns square, Nevill Street, Frogmore Street): 34 x £3, x 3 times per week, x 16 weeks: £4896

Planting up of 70 planters end May – end Sept: £4820 + vat

Winter planting: 18 x £40: £720

Winter watering: 36 weeks up to twice a week: 52 planters, x £3 = £156 x 36 weeks: minimum of £5616 if watered once a week, maximum of £11232 if watered twice a week.

Should all of this be included on one contract, it will have to be advertised via Sell2Wales as it crosses the £10k threshold for procurement purposes.
2. Abergavenny In Bloom Meeting is being held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 6:30pm in Our Lady and St Michael's Primary school hall for anyone who is interested in participating in both 2023 and 2024 entries. Overall the town won a Gold award again, and Our Lady and St Michael's Primary School came second in their individual category, winning £100 in vouchers to spend on their gardening projects. It is hoped we can encourage more areas to enter under the 'Its Your Neighbourhood' scheme, for which there are grants available up until 31<sup>st</sup> October, plus looking for a front garden that can be suggested as a possible entry for another category. It is also felt that, if we are to host the event in 2024, that we should investigate branding the group, so window vinyl stickers can be distributed to businesses taking part, town centre signs and planters can be properly branded, and for community groups to display on their websites and social media sites.
3. The judge's report has been received from this year's route, and has been circulated (Appendix B). We scored 86 out 100. Criteria for scoring changed this year, so we will be able to assess where we can make improvements from this report.
4. Hanging Baskets for businesses: It would cost £40 to plant up one hanging basket with our current provider, and they have offered to loan us 30 hanging baskets for

next year to trial if businesses would like to pay for this to be added to their shop fronts. There is also the cost of watering the baskets, at £3 per basket every time it is watered, so for the summer months, the total cost of planting and watering for one basket would be £184. This cost will also include the basket being put up and taken down.

5. Standpipe contract: Our 6 month contract ends 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022, and so the equipment will be returned to Aquam at this point. The Willows Nursery who carry out our watering at present made good use of this over the summer and it meant a reduction of journeys between Usk and Abergavenny to refill the bowsers when watering the planters around the town. Due to the reduction in volume and timings of watering in the winter months it is not felt necessary to carry on with the contract and to instead look at taking it on again in May 2023.