ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 21ST JULY 2023

E71/23: ABERGAVENNY IN BLOOM

1. COMMS TO WIDER GROUPS

An email has been circulated to all participants and supporters, press, plus County Councillors whose wards are in the judging routes to keep them informed of developments:

“We now have confirmation of dates for both Wales in Bloom judging and Britain in Bloom judging. They are as follows:

5th July at 10am

31st July at 9am (judges arriving night before and staying in town)

We are now putting together the portfolio for submission, and for Wales in Bloom it needs to be 30 sides of A4, printable, so can I ask for bullet points to highlight what’s worked, what hasn’t, new projects, events held, and community engagement. Crucially, we need pictures, and if you have produced any videos, and these are hosted anywhere that we can share a link to, then please do include those too. We need to submit this by 22nd June so please send any information for inclusion no later than 19th June. Thank you.

For Britain in Bloom, we have a 15 minute allowance for a presentation, which we can do in the Library/Community Room at the Town Hall, before we embark on the judging route. There is also a 15 minute allowance for press coverage and interviews, The Chronicle are included in the mailing list so I am hopeful we will have their support – we will also inform MCC Comms Team. After the judging route has been completed, we will host a buffet lunch in the Library/Community Room – further details will follow in due course.

Our portfolio will then need to be submitted for Britain in Bloom, and has to be in by 30th June, so if once you see the submission for Wales in Bloom you feel there is something crucial that’s missing please let me know. I’ll circulate the portfolio once we have it finalised.

I’ve attached a photo of the new flags we have purchased – we have 4 of these, one to go in each of the main judging locations – Community Orchard, Linda Vista Gardens, Bailey Park, and Our Lady and St Michaels School.

Castle Meadows get a snazzy back pack flag as its such a vast area and we felt that might be easier! We also have a table cloth for any events we attend and an additional back pack flag for when we are out walking the route to show what we are doing. What are people’s thoughts on hi-vis vests with Abergavenny in Bloom on, or a simple badge to signify that you are part of the group? I’d very much like your feedback on this asap.

It was mentioned to put together goody bags for the judges on 31st July – I am very aware they are visiting us first then travelling to 5 other towns, negotiating trains and planes on their journey. With that in mind, if anyone can think what may be worth considering putting together in these ‘goody bags’ that will be easy for them to pack and will travel well, again I’d love to hear your thoughts on this! Maybe each group could contribute an item or suggestion?

We’ve booked the display windows in the town for July and August – the larger window in July – smaller in August. I will need help and volunteers to fill this with an informative display, any ideas or suggestions, particularly to show our theme as celebrating the NHS at 75, would be helpful!

Lastly, please keep taking photos and sharing them online, and use the hashtag #abergavennyinbloom – our Facebook page is growing (no pun intended) so please like and share Abergavenny In Bloom and follow as groups and individuals. Once our website is up and running we’ll have info on there too so we’re getting the word out there slowly!

Thanks to you all for your support this year so far, keep doing what you are doing, it means the world and is being appreciated by so many who live, work and visit our beautiful town. To pinch a phrase from our unitary authority, Teamwork makes the Dream Work . . . well that certainly seems the case here!”

1. AMBEROL PLANTERS

Delivery and siting of the planters has now taken place – already there has been wonderful feedback from the public on Abergavenny Voice so they are being appreciated.

An issue was discussed with a local resident who at first was unhappy a square planter ad been placed outside his flat without consultation but after a discussion on site we all agreed it may help with stopping cars pulling up on the pavement there.

The original vinyls ordered were not suitable for the platers so replacement high-tack vinyl stickers will arrive 19th June and installation carried out as quickly as possible.

1. CLEAN UP OF ROUTE

Wales in Bloom Judging will take place on Wednesday 5th July 2023. Originally, it was anticipated we may hold a tea and cake drop in that after noon for the NHS birthday at 75, but this will move as we now need to focus on getting the route clean and presentable for judging. If anyone is able to give some time from 1st – 4th July to assist with targeted weeding and tidying please let the Town Clerk know. Please involve all your families and friends, this is a team effort and we really do need all hands to the pumps! Judging Day we’ll need a few people to walk ahead on the route to make sure that all litter and any unforeseen items are removed and made to look as good as it can for the 10am – 1pm walk about.

1. BRITAIN IN BLOOM

As stated above, the judges arrive Sunday 30th July at two different times. The Town Clerk and Cllr Konieczny have offered to collect the judges from the train station. We have offered to take the judges to dinner – the view is we can try tailor how much of the town they see! However, they are likely to go walk around on their own prior to us commencing judging at 9am on 31st July. This also means that all hands to the pumps will be required Saturday 29th July and Sunday 30th July, so again, please if you or anyone you know can help, please do let the Town Clerk know.

1. BRANDING

Money saved with the vinyls being ordered locally allowed for 4 flags, two back pack flags and a table cloth to be ordered with Abergavenny in Bloom branding on them. These will help identify the areas along the judging routes, and can be used at events held in all of these locations to increase the awareness of the work carried out by all involved.

As stated in the email sent to the mailing list, if Councillors can like and share the Facebook page, and take photos of any of our fabulous green spaces and share them with the hashtag #abergavennyinbloom this all helps to raise the profile. Videos and photos are ready to be shared via our website once this goes live end of June.