ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONEMNT COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 24TH MAY 2023

E55/23 ABERGAVENNY IN BLOOM UPDATE

Meeting held 22nd May 2023

Present: Cllrs Konieczny, Eldridge, Barnes, A & G Wilde, Bowyer; Town Clerk S Rosser; FoCM - A Fairey; FoLVG - O Barton; FoBP – J Vicary, R Williams, T Wray, G Beale; Wales in Bloom – J Woods; OLSM – V Evans; Cibi Walk – P Evans; Angel Hotel – J Nugent; Media Agency- P Hovland.

Cllr Konieczny thanked all for attending.

Hanging baskets: There has been a good uptake of these in Cross Street thanks to the work of W Griffiths and The Angel Hotel. We have offers of sponsorship from the multiples that he also contacted which will go towards this. Still waiting on responses from other parts of town – each area was being approached by nominated points of contact in each location. Nevill Street have approached as they have 25 businesses wanting to be involved.

Planters: new are on their way – a list of these will be circulated to all on the mailing list.

Media and videos: new ones for the mill wheel and banner have been sent to The One Show and we hope they will be used as part of their Britain in Bloom coverage.

Route: Walked with Nigel Leaworthy last week, worth seeing to get a feel for this and the overall picture. Helps to highlight points we want to present to the judges. Difficult to balance nature isn’t neat, no mow may etc. Housekeeping around certain points like car parks and lamp posts to be checked. Not mowing under tree canopies and only 1m in from paths is being implemented.

Train Station: engaged by planting pollinator friendly plants, looked after by Women’s Institute and want to be involved. Great engagement.

FoCM: A Fairey reported they have left bits as long as they can. Got nettles to strim back. Hard time just inside the copse gate – Cubs and Church Group planted up plugs, then they were stolen. The 100 tree bank – this now needs some attention. Japanese Knotweed has now made its way into the copse.

FoBP: J Vicary said they are finding a balance between formal and natural to encourage greater biodiversity. Rockery at Morrisons end will be worked on 1st June with volunteers form Morgan Sindall Construction (building KHS). Lots of bee friendly species are being planted. Improving the Sensory Garden Planters, installed a new bench and planters with a disabled sign but these were vandalised. Ongoing issues with vandalism and theft.

Civic Society: Beds were trashed over the duration of the Fair being at Fairfield Car park. Deliberate plant theft is a big issue.

FoLVG: O Barton agreed the balance between wild and tame has been challenging with the move from bedding plants to native, more natural planting. Comments are positive, people are really liking the mown paths. Disguise new plants as bets they can to prevent theft. Nature has had a spurt on this year so the weekly work group has had its work cut out for them. Really notice changes week to week. It will look as good as it can! (J Woods commented we need to highlight the history of the house, and where the wealth came from, and highlight the tree arboretum in the route and in the portfolio. Mention how the group are working to restore part of the gardens as well).

OLSM: V Evans said thanks to FoCM they had been made aware of the Your Tree Our Forest initiative, and were able to obtain trees for the families at school. From this, 80 trees were planted in their Woodland Corridor. Yr6 and Reception planted a parish woodland for the Church. They have established a No Mow area. 3 fruit trees have gone in. Pollinators – Greater Gwent Goes Wild event saw the children participate in the FIT Count on 28th April, then make pollinator wings to take part in the Pollinator Parade on 20th may in Bailey Park. The School is now listed as a Green Corridor, and have been identified for a wet zone, with MCC now mapping the grounds. The Garden and Growing Group is doing really well. The Peace garden has been re-arranged with help from grandparents. Planting out pollinator plants donated by Morrisons.

* Reprint English version of exploring Places In Nature leaflet for TIC
* Find ways to capture feedback and comments form the public about our Abergavenny in Bloom areas
* Mention street furniture improvements in portfolio
* Bus station and train station should be included
* Public art – mural at Bus Station and Bailey Park
* Orchard – highlight talks and workshops they have held
* Community Centre – improvements to outdoor space
* Cibi Walk – installing double-sided floral arch as a selfie spot for summer
* Take Judges Marking Schedule on route to check all points are being covered – walk around booked for 31st May at 2pm.
* Highlight projects and bullet point items including gifts in kind, volunteer hours, etc
* Planter rehoming project and what they will be used for going forward – sustainability.