ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2023

E96/23 PLANTER REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME

1.PURPOSE

1.1 To consider replacement of large ‘rusty’ planters along Frogmore Street.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Urban ‘rusty’ effect planters were installed along Frogmore Street as part of a High Street Regeneration Scheme by MCC pre-Covid.

2.2 After a year, the planters were handed over to Abergavenny Town Council to be managed and maintained.

2.3 One planter cost £400 to repair as it is fibreglass after a delivery van hit it and cracked the side. A replacement would cost around £1200.

2.4 More damage has been caused to all the planters of this style, due to vehicles hitting them, making them unstable and causing all water put in for the plants to simply leak straight back out.

2.5 Plant health is now evidently being adversely affected by the continued damage alongside poor soil quality that was put in when the plants were originally put in. The soil moisture sensors have shown that within one hour of watering, the soil shows signs that the levels have dropped so significantly that they require watering again. Plant condition photos now show the trees in particular are not remaining healthy, and where it was originally thought they were being underwatered, we can now show the planters themselves are just not able to hold the water levels required to keep these planting schemes in optimum health.

3. PROPOSAL

3.1 As current stock that was replaced this year has proven to better provide long-term health of plants, the same provider has been approached for suggested alternatives.

3.2 A ‘giant precinct planter’ in Dark Sandstone plastic with water reservoir at 1.5m across would be of sufficient size to enable the transplanting of the existing planting scheme. Approximately 10 will be needed to replace the existing larger ‘rusty’ planters.

3.3 Costs: £613.90 per planter (£6139.00 + vat + delivery). If we were to order 10, the company are able to offer the planters at £521.85 each (£5218.50 + vat + delivery). This is based on the order being placed this financial year, with delivery before March 2024. This would save £920.50.

3.4 The existing ‘rusty’ planters are already showing signs of damage and may not be suitable to be used elsewhere, or even sold on. They are fibreglass, so cannot be recycled. New homes will need to be found for all of these planters at locations across the town where they can be kept safe and utilised fully. Lewis Lane have some planters of the same style, so a new planter display may be possible with these away from vehicles in this vicinity. Otherwise, a decision will be needed on what to do with the ‘rusty’ planters once the existing plants have been moved across to their new pots.

3.5 The giant precinct planters have a recess on them to allow them to be branded with a logo, so a cost can be asked for the Town Council logo and Abergavenny in Bloom logo be added to these planters, or to leave them blank.

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 To consider utilising general reserves to purchase the 10 planters required for Frogmore Street.

4.2 To request costs for branding at point of manufacture.

4.3 To consider where to rehome the ‘rusty’ planters at new locations around Abergavenny away from anywhere they may be damaged further by vehicles.