ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 29TH MAY 2024

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

E58/24: SERVICE DELIVERY UPDATE

1. TOILETS

The Service Level Agreement is underway, but due to staff shortages it has been difficult to arrange a meeting with the management from MCC to negotiate the finer details of the agreement.

A request has gone in for costs for opening Bailey Park Toilets form 20th July – 1st September.

An email has been sent to find out why the lights seem to be always on in the Bailey Park toilet block when it is only open at present on Saturday and Sunday.

1. STANDPIPE HIRE
2. A request has been sent to Aquam to hire the standpipe for 6 months at £550 plus vat, then pay for any water per cubic metre. Russell Walker will be the point of contact for this and he will look after the kit for this time frame, as he uses it to water the planters and hanging baskets throughout the summer and autumn.
3. BUS STATION BEDS

The two volunteers have made a lot of progress on the largest bed at the rear of the bus station. New coping stones are going in, and MCC Grounds have assisted with cutting these stones. The Town Team is assisting as and when they can, learning about the simpler maintenance which will be useful to carry out works on other beds in future. Volunteers from Morgan Sindal will be assisting on 6th June 9am-Midday, and top soil will be ordered for the day which can be used to top the beds that are completed at that point, ready for planting.

1. PLANTERS

Russell Walker from The Willows will be bringing back the beehive and barrier planters over the next few weeks, and installing hanging baskets on businesses which have ordered them. These have been planted up by the schoolchildren and cub group from Usk. He will start the summer watering (three times a week) at this point.

Josie and Keri from Greenfinch have started planting summer schemes in the planters they maintain, and should finish these in time to make a start on the bus station beds.

1. TOWN TEAM

Ivan and the team have been assisting when they can with the bus station bed rebuild. The team have suffered intermittent staff issues due to sickness, and this is something we hope to address when looking at the new service level agreement with MCC. The Grounds team are assisting with town wide clean up on Monday 1st July for the In Bloom judging, as well as any remedial works in the last week of June to ensure the route and any It’s Your Neighbourhood areas are as good as they can be.

The bus station beds have been their priority these last few weeks, they hope to move on to the path which needs to be worked on at Penyfal, and instal wood chippings and edging to make the path easier to traverse. A new grass cutting schedule has started which Dennis form the team is to undertake once a fortnight usually on a Tuesday in designated areas, though this has been affected by staff levels and prioritising workloads.

1. ABERGAVENNY IN BLOOM

Judging has been announced for Tuesday 2nd July, with the judge assessing further It’s Your Neighbourhood areas not included on the Abergavenny in Bloom route, on Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th July. All groups are apprised of the planned route, and the portfolio will be submitted by 23rd June, with groups submitting their evidence for inclusion in this year’s submission by 15th June. The Judge is Peter Barton-Price who is CEO of Wales in Bloom.

Due to the high volume of commitments across the week leading up to the judging, MCC may have a team working in town on Sunday 30th June. Monday 1st July will be all hands to the pump to assist with the route clean and check. KAT have already agreed to assist with litter picking. A meeting for Businesses is being held on Thursday 30th May at 6:30pm for them to learn more about the initiative, and hopefully participate with hanging baskets or sponsorship.

There are a larger number of Its Your Neighbourhood entries this year which is encouraging to see. A list has been circulated, and any support in these areas would be appreciated. The proposed route for Abergavenny in Bloom judging will be:

Town Hall – Bus Station

Bus Station – Mill Street – Community Orchard (IYN)

Community Orchard – Dipping Pond Castle Meadows

Castle Meadows – Linda Vista Gardens (IYN)

Linda Vista Gardens – Abergavenny Community Centre (IYN)

Abergavenny Community Centre – Our Lady and St Michaels School (School Entry)

OLSM – Bailey Park (IYN)

Bailey Park – Civic Society Beds - Cibi Walk – Town Hall

Each It’s Your Neighbourhood entry (IYN) gets half hour for judging, and the school get one hour. The route itself is 3 hours allowance, so a walk was undertaken Tuesday 28th May to assess timings and the route. The judge will stop the clock at each IYN location to carry out their assessments.