

Item 9: Parish Plan Update

Update on progress since the last meeting in July is summarised below:

1. A revised quotation from Marmax Ltd for 3 additional large planters was obtained to incorporate feedback from the Village Partnership on the draft plan.
2. A provisional approach has been made to the DCC Civic Pride Team regarding support for community spring bulb planting this Autumn. This has been pencilled in for W/C 7 October, subject to confirmation of a specific day (s) (depending on availability of support from the VP/Community groups) and the availability of funding from the Parish Council's Hargreaves grant application.
3. Whilst Parish Council agreed at the last meeting to prioritise the seeking of funding for bulbs, trees and new planters, a grant application was submitted by Cllr Haddick for £17K.(Maximum currently available).
4. The application was considered at the Community Funding Committee 5 Sept September. The Parish Council has been allocated £5,000. (At the time of writing, written confirmation of the award offer, any grant conditions and details of payment arrangements is awaited.) There were a number of other applications considered at this meeting, but Cllr Haddick was advised that further applications regarding this project would be welcomed, as and when the next release(s) of funding becomes available.
5. The financial summary in the Plan has been updated to reflect the revised quote from Marmax, confirmation of DCC's price of supply of bulbs (cheaper than what the PC paid in 2017 from other provider).
6. A summary of the latest costings is given below:

Capital Funding Required

Item	Cost (excluding vat)
14 New Marmax Planters	£4031.80.
12 Flowering Trees (supply and plant)	£2208
30,000 Bulbs (Supply only)	
10,000 Purple Crocus- 6p each	£600
10,000 Golden Harvest Daffs – 7p each	£700
10,000 Tete-a-Tete miniature Daffs – 7p	£700 Total £2,000
Fencing/Metal Barriers – Old Sunderland Road	*£11,450/*
Total	£19,689.80

**This price relates to wooden fencing and hedging – price still awaited from DCC for metal bars/hedging. (This will be more expensive)*

Estimated Annual Maintenance Costs of above proposal for PC

Item	Cost £
Existing Black Planters	560
Existing Plastic Barrel Tubs	90
New Proposed Marmax Planters	950
Hanging Baskets	150
Strimming Of Village Green	125
Fencing/Metal Bars back by Hedging	???
Total PC Annual Maintenance Costs	£1875

(Current cost of planting existing planters £1220 p.a)

Next Steps

- 7. In view of the grant award, Parish Council is asked to consider which elements of the plan it now wishes to progress. As part of this consideration members are asked to note the following:**
- a. Autumn is the best time for planting of Spring Bulbs. This can be done week W/C 7 October with free support from DCC via the Civic Pride Team and the community, but bulbs would need to be ordered asap to achieve this.
 - b. DCC have advised November is the best time for tree planting, but again an order would need to be placed asap.
 - c. The Parish Council has already accepted a quotation from A Baker for the planting of all existing planters with Winter bedding for this year. This is planned to be carried in October. The wooden barrel planters are in poor condition and are not expected to last another year. Next years summer planting is expected to take place first week in June.
 - d. DCC have confirmed that they can relocate existing large black planters, to the revised locations set out in the plan, free of charge but this would have to be done over the winter i.e Nov – March. Some of the proposed new planters could not be put in situ until the existing ones are relocated and /or the existing wooden barrel planters are removed / destroyed. The above costings make no provision for the cost of removing/destroying the old barrel planters. (The compost however, may be able to be reused to help fill the new planters and keep costs down).
 - e. The maintenance implications of fencing/metal bars backed by hedging on the Old Sunderland Row are not yet known. Martin Briscoe has advised, " *we would need to agree who would be responsible for the maintenance*". This implies there is likely to be some on going revenue implications for the Parish Council regarding maintenance. This will be discussed further with DCC once the price for the metal bar option has been provided.

- f. There is a £3,000 budget provision for Parish Plan Actions in this years budget that has yet to be allocated.

Recommendations

8. Taking the above into account it is recommended that:
 - a. *On order is placed with DCC for bulbs asap to allow community bulb planting to take place w/c 7 October (£2000)
 - b. *On order is placed with DCC for 12 cherry trees to allow planting to be undertaken in Nov (£2028)
 - c. A price is obtained from A Baker, for the cost of planting the proposed new planters (summer and winter bedding/bulbs) and disposing of the existing wooden barrel planters, so that a more accurate annual maintenance estimate can be built into the 2020/21 draft budget.
 - d. *The balance of the Hargreaves grant funding (£972) be earmarked to fund new planters in the Spring, with the balance £3060, (£4032-972) being funded by the Parish Council from this years Parish Plan Action Budget Provision (£3,000), set aside as an earmarked reserve. (Subject to review, once the cost of c) above is known.
 - e. A further grant application be made to Hargreaves, once the capital cost and annual maintenance implications of the metal bars/hedging on the Old Sunderland Road are known and considered by the Parish Council.

** Subject to confirmation of Hargreaves grant award, grant conditions and payment arrangements*

Cllr Wallage
Sept 2019