

FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL



The Town Hall
1-2 Guildhall Street
Folkestone
Kent
CT20 1DY

Telephone: (01303) 257946
Email: enquiries@folkestone-tc.gov.uk
Web: www.folkestone-tc.gov.uk

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AGENDA

Meeting: **Climate and Environment Committee**
Date: **2nd April 2024**
Time: **7.00 p.m.**
Place: **Council Offices, Town Hall, 1-2 Guildhall Street, Folkestone.**

To: **The Climate and Environment Committee**
(All other Councillors for information only)

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to attend a meeting of the Climate and Environment Committee on the date and at the time and place shown above to transact the business shown on the agenda below. The meeting will be open to the press and public.

Any member who wishes to have information on any matter arising on the Agenda which is not fully covered in these papers is requested to contact the Town Clerk prior to the meeting.

Toni Brenchley

T Brenchley
Town Clerk

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
To receive and approve any apologies for absence.
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To receive any declarations of either personal or prejudicial interest that Members may wish to make.
- 3. MINUTES**
To receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate & Environment Committee held on 6th February 2024 and to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign them as a correct record.
- 4. SPONSORSHIP OF PLANTING F & HDC OWNED FLOWER AND SHRUB BEDS REPORT CE/24/363**
The committee are asked to receive, note and consider the recommendations in the attached report.

5. GRASS CUTTING

At the last Climate and Environment Committee meeting it was

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk write to F & HDC and KCC seeking information regarding what grass cutting is scheduled in Folkestone annually to include details of areas that are left uncut and the reasons why.

The Town Clerk will update the Committee further to having received responses from F & HDC and KCC.

Members views are sought.

6. PLAY AREAS – OPERATIONAL INSPECTIONS

The operational inspections included within the tender process has now come to an end. The Town Council has found an external company to continue with the operational inspections on a 6 monthly basis as an essential part of the ongoing maintenance and management of the parks. For the 2024/25 financial year, Zurich will be conducting a thorough inspection of the equipment of all 8 parks with detailed reports to the Communities and Grants Officer.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

11th June 2024 at 7.00pm (TBC)

Councillors on Committee

Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly
Councillor Charles Bain Smith
Councillor Jane Darling
Councillor Kieran Leigh
Councillor Jackie Meade
Councillor Lucy McGirr
Councillor Liz McShane
Councillor John Renshaw
Councillor Roger West

Parking available for Councillors @ 6.00pm on the precinct area at the front of the Town Hall.



This report will be made public on
26 March 2024

**Folkestone
Town Council**



Report Number **CE/24/363**

To: Climate & Environment Committee
Date: 2 April 2024
Status: Public Report
Responsible Officer: Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Flower & Shrub Bed Sponsorship

SUMMARY: The report reviews flower & shrub bed sponsorship and charges for 2024/25.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) The flower & shrub beds are free for the townspeople to enjoy as a visual enhancement in the area and their provision supports local retailers, businesses and other organisations in creating an attractive location increasing the footfall of shoppers and visitors.
- 2) The flower & shrub bed schemes support the Councils mission to revitalise our town of Folkestone, restore and develop civic pride, regenerate and enhance community spirit.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) **To receive and note report CE/24/363**
- 2) **To determine any development and enhancement of the flower & shrub bed schemes in Folkestone Town Centre and Cheriton for 2024 and beyond.**

Aims and Objectives – To support and enhance facilities in Folkestone.

Financial Implications – Circa £35,000 supported by the Parks, Gardens & Recs - Flowerbeds Budget

Equal Opportunities – Access to All

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Folkestone Town Council have been sponsoring the annual flower & shrub bed planting in Folkestone and Cheriton for over ten years. Its contribution significantly enhances the overall F & HDC provision for the town.

2. CURRENT POSITION

2.1 The table below details Annual Maintenance, Summer & Winter Bedding costs for 2023 / 24.

SDC Annual Maintenance, Summer and Winter Bedding Costs 2023/2024							
BED	LOCATION	No	SITE	OPERATION	AREA M ²	MAINT COST 2023-2024	Maintenance Schedule
	Bruce Porter Gardens	1	East Cliff	Shrubs	10 m ²	£220.29	quarterly
			Replant	Year 2			
	Tontine Street	1	Dover Rd (Grace Hill)	Shrubs	60 m ²	£1,321.73	quarterly
			Replant	Year 3			
	Canterbury Road	1	Wood Ave Toilets	Shrubs	10 m ²	£220.29	quarterly
			Replant	Year 2			
	Blackbull Rd	1	Cubbit House	Shrubs	30 m ²	£660.86	quarterly
			Replant	Year 3			
	Radnor Park Rd	1	Park Farm Corner	Shrubs	116 m ²	£2,555.33	quarterly
			Replant	Year 1			
	Road of Remembrance	1	La Vue	Shrubs	23 m ²	£506.66	quarterly
			Replant	Year 3			
	Cheriton High St	1	Risborough Lane	Shrubs	24 m ²	£550.56	quarterly
			Replant	Year 1			
	Cheriton Road	2	Invicta Sports Ground	Shrubs	110 m ²	£2,423.16	quarterly
			Replant	Year 1			
Annual maintenance cost* for existing beds excluding VAT						£8,459.87	

*This does not include the cost of replacement planting, this would obviously be at cost

BED	LOCATION	No	SITE	OPERATION	AREA	MAINT COST 2023-2024	Maintenance Schedule
	Harbour Area	1	Rear Bed	Flower Bed	114 m ²	£6,725.27	3-4 weeks
	Dover Road	1	Bingo Bed	Flower Bed	25 m ²	£1,474.84	3-4 weeks
	Majestic Parade	2	Raised Beds	Flower Bed	30 m ²	£1,769.80	3-4 weeks
	The Leas Planters	5	Planters	Flower Bed	10 m ²	£589.94	3-4 weeks
	Flemming Way	5	Raised Beds	Flower Bed	119 m ²	£7,020.23	3-4 weeks
	Large Folkestone Planters	4	Planters	Flower Bed	4 m ²	£235.98	3-4 weeks
	Small Folkestone Planters	6	Planters	Flower Bed	3 m ²	£176.97	3-4 weeks
	FTC Railing Planters	25	Planters	units	25 planters	£2,323.01	weekly
	Cheriton Railing Planters	10	Planters	units	10 planters	£929.31	weekly
NEW	Hill Road Railing Planters	10	Planters	units	10 planters	£929.31	weekly
			supply and installation of 10 new units	one of		£0.00	
	Lucy Avenue	1	New Bed	Flower Bed	63.6 m ²	£3,746.09	3-4 weeks
	The Leas Beds	2	New Bed	Flower Bed	32 m ²	£1,887.79	3-4 weeks
	Canterbury Road	1	Blackbull Rd 1	Flower bed	9 m ²	£530.93	3-4 weeks
	Canterbury Road	1	Blackbull Rd 2	Shrubs & bulbs	9 m ²	£530.93	3-4 weeks
Annual maintenance cost						£28,870.41	
ESTIMATED TOTAL COST EXCLUDING VAT						£37,329.28	

3. FUNDING / COSTS

3.1 The 2024/25 budget for flower & shrub bed planting is £35,000.

3.2 OPTION 1

To remain with the status quo and continue to sponsor F & HDC to annually maintain and plant summer and winter bedding as detailed at 2.1 with a plaque to include Folkestone Town Council's crest and detailing that it has sponsored the planting.

3.3 OPTION 2

Instruct an external contractor to seasonally plant (twice a year) and maintain only FTC assets (as detailed below) with any remaining 2024 Flowerbed budget to be vired to the General Reserve with a view to reviewing the scheme in 2025.

Circa £5,835.00 + VAT

- 4No x Large Folkestone Planters – 2No near pedestrian crossing at Bouverie Road West and 2No near town barrier on Rendezvous Street
- 6No x Small Folkestone Planters – side of Leas Cliff Hall
- 25No x FTC Railings Planters – Castle Hill Avenue
- 10No x Cheriton Railing Planters – Cheriton High Street
- 10No x Hill Road Railing Planters

FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Climate and Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 6th February 2024 at the Town Hall at 7pm.

Present: Councillors Abena Akuffo–Kelly (Chair), Jane Darling, Kieran Leigh, Liz McShane, Jackie Meade, John Renshaw and Roger West.

**In attendance: Toni Brenchley – Town Clerk
Vicky Deakin – Communities & Events Officer**

86. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors were asked to receive apologies from Councillors Charles Bain-Smith and Lucy McGirr.

RESOLVED: To accept Councillors Charles Bain-Smith and Lucy McGirr apologies.

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade

Seconded: Councillor Abena Akuffo - Kelly

Voting: F: 7, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

87. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Abena Akuffo – Kelly, Liz McShane and Jackie Meade declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 89 '*Sponsorship of Planting F & HDC Owned Flowerbeds*' as F & HDC Councillors.

88. MINUTES

The Committee was asked to receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate & Environment Committee held on 3rd October 2023 and to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign them as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2023 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor John Renshaw

Voting: F: 6, Ag: 0, Ab: 1

89. SPONSORSHIP OF PLANTING F & HDC OWNED FLOWERBEDS

Members were asked if they wished to consider continuing to sponsor planting of F & HDC owned flower & shrub beds for 2024/25 and if so, at what level.

RESOLVED: That any flower or shrub beds funded by FTC should have a plaque installed indicating their ownership and management and to be provided by FTC.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor Jane Darling

Voting: F: 7, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

RESOLVED: That this Item be deferred to the next meeting with a Report to include details of quotes from external contractors for the supply, installation and maintenance of plants in Folkestone Town Council assets (as follows):

- 4No x large planters (2 at Bouverie Road West near the traffic lights and 2 at Rendezvous Street near the town barrier)
- 6No x small planters (on pathway at the side of the Leas Cliff Hall)
- 2No x large planters (outside Town Hall)
- Railing plant tubs (Castle Hill Avenue, Cheriton High Street and Hill Road)

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor Jane Darling

Voting: F: 7, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

Members requested that the C & E Officer pursue the viability and potential of volunteers watering FTC assets and to identify any additional suitable sites for the installation of new planters.

90. GRASS CUTTING

Members were asked if they wished for the Town Clerk to write to F & HDC seeking an update in respect of this provision including details of any scheduled improvement works.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk write to F & HDC and KCC seeking information regarding what grass cutting is scheduled in Folkestone annually to include details of areas that are left uncut and the reasons why.

Proposed: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly

Seconded: Councillor Kieran Leigh

Voting: F: 7, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

91. TREE PLANTING

Further to suggestions from members of the public, a request was received from Ward Councillors in respect of planting trees in Cheriton West Ward with the associated costs to be potentially supported with a contribution from the specific Members Ward Grant allowances.

Further to receiving a response from KCC, the C & E Officer updated the Committee advising that FTC had been informed the site near Folkestone West was not practical for tree planting due to it being narrow and the *'foreseeability for root deflection damage to the car park would be too great'*.

Noted

Cllr John Renshaw requested that further to his suggestion at a previous C & E Committee meeting, an update regarding potential tree planting on MOD land at Beckwith Green, Craufurd Green and Mackenzie Drive be provided. The Communities & Events Officer advised that this would be pursued.

92. PLAY AREAS

On 9th November 2023 the annual park inspections were carried out by RoSPA Play Safety Ltd. The parks, having been recently refurbished, are in excellent condition with only a few 'medium risks' to consider on the older refurbished equipment. Members were advised of the main tasks requiring completion.

Noted

93. ENGAGEMENT WITH HIGHWAYS ENGLAND, KCC, FHDC AND OTHER EXTERNAL AGENCIES & AUTHORITIES

Further to Members advising at the last C & EC meeting, that they would like FTC to be consulted by various authorities and agencies in respect of their proposed plans for initiatives and schemes scheduled for Folkestone, the Committee were asked to put forward any suggestions of current projects they would like to request for the Town Clerk to write to the appropriate authority to gain an overview of.

Cllr John Renshaw indicated that it would be helpful if details of how Southern Water treatment works are delivered and specifically if existing / planned infrastructure sufficiently covers requirements in respect of Folkestone Harbour Company development plans.

Cllr Jackie Meade advised that KCC are provided with regular updates from Southern Water and therefore, she would research if there is any information available in this respect and report back to the committee accordingly.

Cllr Jane Darling spoke regarding her concerns regarding the safety of the streets in Folkestone for pedestrians with specific reference to the town centre one way system and issues with crossing the associated roads.

The Town Clerk responded advising that the LUF – Folkestone A Brighter Future aims to address these issues.

Cllr John Renshaw informed Members of the MOD's proposals to remove their underground petrol tanks at Shorncliffe and replace with ground level installations and as such, requested that FTC engage with the MOD / Taylor Wimpey to ascertain if any plans have been approved.

94. DATE OF NEXT MEETING
Tuesday 2nd April 2024 at 7pm

The meeting concluded at 7.35pm.

Chairman

Date