

**BASFORD AND BESTWOOD AREA COMMITTEE - 30 NOVEMBER 2011**

<b>Title of paper:</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Bloom</b>	
<b>Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):</b>	Hugh White Director of Sport, Culture and Parks	<b>Wards affected: ALL</b>
<b>Report author(s) and contact details:</b>	<p>Eddie Curry Head of Parks and Open Spaces 0115 8764982 <a href="mailto:eddie.curry@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">eddie.curry@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Julie Walker/Caroline Elmhirst Nottingham in Bloom Partnership Manager 0115 8764985 <a href="mailto:julie.walker@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">julie.walker@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:caroline.elmhirst@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">caroline.elmhirst@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a></p>	
<b>Other colleagues who have provided input:</b>	<p>John Pell Horticultural Services Manager 0115 9152725 <a href="mailto:john.pell@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">john.pell@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Steve Ross Financial Analyst 0115 8763738 <a href="mailto:steve.ross@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">steve.ross@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Vincent Bryce Equality and Diversity Consultant 0115 8764954 <a href="mailto:vincent.bryce@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">vincent.bryce@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a></p>	

**Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:**

World Class Nottingham	
Work in Nottingham	
Safer Nottingham	
Neighbourhood Nottingham	<b>x</b>
Family Nottingham	
Healthy Nottingham	
Leading Nottingham	

**Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):**

The Spectacolour budget will fund core floral displays for the area. Area Committee is asked to note the budget for 2012-13 and to agree on the displays required.

The Committee is also asked to acknowledge the achievements of local groups who participated in the Britain in Bloom 'It's Your Neighbourhood' awards and supported other Parks initiatives.

<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	
<b>1</b>	That the Committee notes the level of displays to be provided from the Spectacolour budget and agrees on the displays required.
<b>2</b>	That the Committee acknowledges the achievements of local groups and encourages future involvement.

## **1. BACKGROUND**

1.1 Nottingham in Bloom is a corporate initiative linking local communities, businesses and individuals through sustainable partnerships, working together to produce horticultural excellence and enhance the local landscape, the environment and character of Nottingham.

1.2 Proposals for 2011 fall into two categories – Neighbourhood Bloom displays and local participation in Bloom and Parks initiatives.

### **Neighbourhood Bloom displays**

1.3 The available budget for floral displays in the neighbourhoods is £5, 710 per Area for 2012-13.

1.4 Prices have increased due to rising plant costs over the past few years and a review of maintenance requirements in light of operational difficulties in some areas last summer, which was the driest for 30 years.

1.5 The £5,710 budgeted will provide 36 barrier baskets planted for the 2012 summer season, and ten floor planters with displays all year round. This compares with 40 barrier baskets and ten planters last year. A list of suggested sites in Area 2 for displays in 2012-13 within this budget appears in Appendix 1.

1.6 Should the Committee wish to continue with displays at the same levels as last year, individual unit prices are outlined in Appendix 1.

### **Participation in Bloom and Parks initiatives**

1.7 A report commissioned by the Royal Horticultural Society shows how the Bloom initiative plays a significant role in helping the environment, reducing crime and bringing communities together. This report is being unveiled at the UK in Bloom forum to be held in Nottingham in November. Nottingham is at the forefront of this national Neighbourhood Bloom campaign, and activities are underway across the City, including Area 2.

1.8 Forty seven Nottingham groups participated in the Royal Horticultural Society Britain in Bloom 'It's Your Neighbourhood' awards 2011, including four groups from Area 2. The awards recognise and reward gardening achievement, environmental responsibility and, most of all, community participation. Assessment results of the groups in Area 2 are outlined in Appendix 2.

1.9 Two parks in Area 2 – Heathfield Park and Vernon Park - achieved Green Flag awards, which recognise the best parks and green spaces in England and Wales.

1.10 It is planned to run a similar community engagement campaign in 2012-13 and the Committee is asked to encourage involvement.

**2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)**

2.1 To inform local people about floral displays in neighbourhoods

2.2 To encourage community involvement in Bloom and Parks initiatives

**3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 None

**4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)**

4.1 This expenditure can be met from existing resources.

4.2 There is no entry fee for the RHS Britain in Bloom 'It's Your Neighbourhood' awards.

**5. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS AND EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS)**

5.1 None

**6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (EIAs)**

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out. The Equality Team comments that the Spectacolour budget supports work by local groups which brings communities together and helps promote good relations between groups. No adverse impact is identified in the EIA, based on the proposed incremental reduction which will allow the activities the budget supports to continue.

**7. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION**

7.1 Report to Area 2 Committee 26 January 2011

**8. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT**

8.1 None

## APPENDIX 1

### Proposed displays in Area 2 for 2012-13

Location	Type	Number	Total no.	Price for 2012-13
Highbury Road	Planters	2		
Bagnall Lane	Planters	3		
Beckhampton Road	Planters	2		
Bestwood Park Drive West	Planters	3	10	<b>£2,542.70</b>
Highbury Road	Barriers	9 (formerly 10)		
Arnold Road	Barriers	9 (formerly 10)		
Bestwood Park Drive	Barriers	9 (formerly 10)		
Stockhill Lane	Barriers	9 (formerly 10)	36	<b>£3,164.76</b>
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£5,707.46</b>

### Prices for individual units in 2012-13

Planter Type	Maintenance	Planting	Total
Metre Square Planters (Summer)	£52.77	£85	<b>£137.77</b>
Metre Square Planters (Winter)	£31.50	£85	<b>£116.50</b>
Barrier Baskets	£39.16	£48.75	<b>£87.91</b>

**Cost of removal or relocation per 1m sq planter: £67.10**

## APPENDIX 2

### Summary assessment report for the RHS Britain in Bloom 'It's Your Neighbourhood' Awards

#### Fenton Court – Level 2, Improving

**Community Participation:** The efforts made here make a real difference especially to the entrance area. The community get involved in a raffle to raise monies to buy plants. The works are appreciated by the local residents.

**Environmental Responsibility:** There are bird feeders present, which has encouraged birds such as a Greater Spotted Woodpecker. The area was clean and tidy.

**Gardening Achievement:** There are good displays of annual flowers in a range of tubs. These are very colourful and are maintained to a high standard.

**Overall Description:** Frank Bradley has continued to set out and maintain some good flower displays throughout the summer and winter. The quality of the plants was very good.

#### Park House Nursing Home – Level 1, Establishing

**Community Participation:** Residents and their relatives clearly benefit from improvements made to the Park House garden, although due to the poor health of a number of the elderly residents their involvement is limited. A number of residents water window boxes and a resident's relative is planning to construct a raised bed in the garden to make it easier for residents to participate.

**Environmental Responsibility:** The group has brightened up the gardens for the benefit of residents and their relatives and plans are in place to harvest rainwater and begin composting to help improve the soil. The well maintained mature shrubs and trees to the front of the nursing home attract birds.

**Gardening Achievement:** The garden has been improved through the planting of annuals in window boxes and beds, herbs and hardy perennials. The variety of mature shrubs to the front of the nursing home provide year round colour.

**Overall Description:** In its first year the group has brightened up the nursing home gardens for the enjoyment of residents and their visitors by planting annuals, herbs, and perennials. To the front of the nursing home well maintained evergreen and variegated shrubs add colour and texture. Plans are in place to improve the garden further by constructing a raised bed to make it easier for residents to get involved, to harvest rainwater and begin composting.

#### SALTAR (Stockhill and Ladbrooke Tenants and Residents) – Level 3, Developing

**Community Participation:** This group have a developing plan to enhance their neighbourhood through planting flowers and adopting an area around a disused bowling green. They have support from Groundwork and the Council and are organising activity days for the community.

**Environmental Responsibility:** The group are beginning to take on environmental responsibility by encouraging bees, re-using wildflower seeds and planting saplings from the University of Nottingham.

**Gardening Achievement:** The group are now developing plantings both on the estate and around the bowling green area. They have planted areas of bulbs and are gradually cleaning up the area to make way for further planting. The shrub beds on the estate have a good range of plants that are well maintained.

**Overall Description:** The creation of flower beds at Broad Walk has transformed the area along with ongoing works around the bowls area, which will develop over the coming year. The group have a lot of enthusiasm, which should help them to achieve their goals.

### **St Leodagarius Church – Level 4, Thriving**

**Community Participation:** This group has really taken ownership of the churchyard and developed links with the local Guide group to help out. The area makes a real difference to local people with ongoing plans for future works. There is real enthusiasm here too and all involved are keen to enhance the area further.

**Environmental Responsibility:** There are numerous bird boxes, feeders and bat boxes provided. There is a wildflower area, and old rocks from the church have been used to create a rockery area. Composting is also taking place on site.

**Gardening Achievement:** The grounds are maintained to a high standard and there is a wide selection of plants providing colour and enhancing the area. The area was also very clean and tidy.

**Overall Description:** This group have come a long way with their efforts to date. There is a good balance of plantings and range of shrubs and flowers around the site. Maintenance standards are very high and the results are a credit to Mick Stafford and the volunteers.