

Hailsham In Bloom Sub-Committee

Report (Minutes) of the Hailsham in Bloom Sub-Committee held in the Fleur de Lys Council Chamber/Meeting Room, Town Council Offices, Inglenook, Market Street, Hailsham, on Wednesday 17th February 2010 at 19.30hrs.

Members Present:

- Cllrs Mrs J. Bentley, J. Bentley-Astor (Chairman), J. Puttick (Vice-Chairman), Mrs M. Rowe
- Miss C. Bentley-Astor – *Youth Representative*
- Mr H. Bell – *Hailsham Parochial Church Council*
- Mrs B. Henderson, Mr J. Henderson, Mrs J. Woodley – *Hailsham Horticultural Society*
- Mr L. Lovelady – *Hailsham Lions Club*
- Mrs J. Simes – *Environment Hailsham*

Officers in Attendance:

- T. Hall
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1. Apologies for Absence

- These were received from Cllr B. Bentley and Cllr Mrs S. Cottingham.

2. Declaration of Interest

- None were received.

3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

- The minutes of the meeting held Wednesday 3rd February 2010 were confirmed as a true and correct record. distributed

4. Orchard & Sensory Garden

- The Chairman reported that the partners of local solicitors Hart Reade have decided to support the combined orchard and sensory garden project by donating/funding thirty fruit trees as discussed. This offer is based on the cost of each tree amounting to £10 to £12. Hart Reade partners and administrative staff are also willing to assist with the planting of the trees.
- The Vice-Chairman circulated a preliminary outline and proposed plant list for the combined orchard and sensory garden, which described in detail the suggested design for the garden's five separate areas pertaining to the human senses (touch, taste, smell, sound and sight), recommended plant species and various garden components including bird feeders and wind chimes. The Vice-Chairman pointed out that these plans are only preliminary and suggested that further advice from local societies such as the East Sussex Association of Blind and Partially Sighted People (ESAB), Thrive and the Sensory Trust, as well as suggestions from local school children and members of the public, must be sought.
- Cllr Mrs M. Rowe reported that Marjorie King is delighted with the committee's proposal to name the garden the "Dennis King Memorial Sensory Garden" in tribute to the late Hailsham In Bloom and Environment Hailsham supporter, and has agreed to participate in the official opening of the new garden later this year.
- The Chairman requested that the Vice-Chairman produce a list of suitable fruit-bearing plants to install in each section of the sensory garden, and a list of volunteers who will undertake the planting and installation of garden accessories, both of which will be discussed in more detail at the next committee meeting.

- The Chairman confirmed that a policy change outlining the use of the area of land for the combined orchard and sensory garden will need to be made by Hailsham Town Council soon, and an item to this effect has been added to the agenda for the forthcoming Finance, Policy & Resources committee meeting.
- The Chairman reported that Grovelands Community Primary School has agreed to assist the committee with routine maintenance of the sensory garden including weeding and the watering of plants during the summer months, in exchange for using the area as an outdoor classroom when required.
- The Chairman stated that the best course of action for this project will be to undertake a site visit with other committee members within the next few days in order to measure the area of land, so a better idea of the scale of planting required can then be obtained. Additional suggestions will be provided at the next committee meeting and a more detailed design plan for the area can be made thereafter (including a conclusive plant list), before an estimation of total costings for the project can be presented to the Hailsham Lions Club for (funding) consideration.

5. Town Gateway Floral Markers

- The Chairman reported that East Sussex Highways has agreed to the design of the new town gateway floral markers and an attachment to the committee's existing license document has been provided by East Sussex Highways to this effect. Once the Hailsham In Bloom Budget has been replenished in April 2010, work on the fabrication of the additional plant containers will commence.

6. Tree Planting & Avenue Creation

- The Chairman stated that he and Miss C. Bentley-Astor will distribute surveys to residents outlining the committee's proposal to plant trees at Forest View (and asking for feedback where necessary) within the next few days.

7. Creation of Flower Nursery

- The Chairman reported that a number of poly-tunnel manufacturers and retailers have been contacted regarding sponsorship or donation of a poly-tunnel and frame. A reply has been received from one company, which has agreed to provide the committee with a poly-tunnel at a reduced price.

8. Hailsham Country Park Wildflower Meadow(s)

- There was nothing further to report on the Hailsham Country Park wildflower meadow restoration project.

9. Town Centre/Twinning Floral Display

- The Vice-Chairman reported that a reply to recent correspondence to local MEPs requesting advice on European funding for the town centre (twinning) floral display project, is yet to be received. Cllr Mrs J. Bentley agreed to ask Wealden MP Charles Hendry for assistance on this matter.
- The Vice-Chairman circulated an initial design plan and specification sheet for the town centre twinning floral display, which outlined the layout and colour scheme for the bedding plants, which will form the Gournay-en-Bray logo. It was confirmed that the display will be 2m by 2m square in size, and the front of the display will be at a height of 500mm with a 30° degree slant towards the back. The display itself will be removable from the stand to allow for easy transportation and the stand will be made of solid wood, bolted to the ground.

- The Chairman reported that the managing agents for Vicarage Field, BTW Shiells Ltd, have confirmed that they are willing to work with the committee on this project and, once more details on the display's location and estimated installation date have been provided, full permission to go ahead with the project will be granted.
- The Vice-Chairman requested that the initial design plans should be discussed in more detail at the next committee meeting and a conclusive list of bedding plant species be formulated and agreed.

10. Tidying of 'Twittens' & Alleyways

- There was nothing further to report on the tidying of 'twittens' project.

11. Creation of Bee Farm at Hailsham Country Park

- The Chairman presented a preliminary design plan for the bee farm/series of shelters to be installed at the Hailsham Country Park, produced by Miss C. Bentley-Astor. The plan outlined a number of separate areas with different bee shelter components including terracotta sticks, plastic piping and bamboo, as well as a log pile within the designated area. The majority of materials required for the project will be sourced and provided free of charge by a local company, and a final design plan will be produced in the near future.

12. Repainting of Recycling Point Mural Displays

- The Chairman presented the final design plans for the Waitrose car park recycling mural display (produced by the Square Youth Café), which have recently been approved by Wealden District Council. Hailsham Town Council works staff will prepare the wooden boards for painting within the next few weeks.

13. Hailsham In Bloom Film Night

- The Committee Clerk reported that approximately 800 A5 flyers promoting the Hailsham In Bloom Film Night have been given to Cllrs Mrs S. Cottingham and Mrs S. Henstock for distribution around the town centre. Mr L. Lovelady confirmed that around 600 flyers have already been handed out to members of the public. Mr H. Bell and Cllr Mrs M. Rowe agreed to distribute the remaining flyers within the next few weeks.
- Cllr Mrs J. Bentley has received permission from Tesco to use their entrance/lobby area next month to publicise the Film Night and the Hailsham In Bloom project as a whole. Donations from members of the public will be collected on the day.
- The Vice-Chairman suggested that a small number of complimentary tickets could be provided to volunteers who have assisted the committee with various Hailsham In Bloom projects throughout the past year. This was agreed by all members present.

14. Date of Next Meeting

- There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.45hrs.
- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd March 2010 at 19.30hrs in the Fleur de Lys Meeting Room, Town Council Offices.