

South & South East In Bloom Sub-Committee

Report (Minutes) of the South & South East in Bloom Sub-Committee held in the Members' Room, Town Council Offices, Inglenook, Market Street, Hailsham, on Wednesday 3rd February 2010 at 19.30hrs.

Members Present:

- Cllrs J. Bentley-Astor (Chairman), Mrs S. Cottingham, J. Puttick (Vice-Chairman), Mrs M. Rowe
- Miss C. Bentley-Astor – *Youth Representative*
- Mrs J. Woodley – *Hailsham Horticultural Society*

Officers in Attendance:

- T. Hall

Also in Attendance:

- Mr L. Lovelady – *Hailsham Lions Club*
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1. Apologies for Absence

- These were received from Mr H. Bell, Cllr B. Bentley, Cllr Mrs J. Bentley, Mr B. Goldsmith, Mrs B. Henderson, Mr J. Henderson, Mr K. Highley and Mrs J. Simes.

2. Declaration of Interest

- None were received.

3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

- The minutes of the meeting held Wednesday 20th January 2010 were confirmed as a true and correct record.

4. Orchard & Sensory Garden

- The Chairman reported that Hart Reade, a local firm of solicitors, have expressed an interest in contributing towards the Hailsham In Bloom project this year and have agreed in principle to donate thirty trees as part of their 100th anniversary celebrations. It was agreed that thirty fruit trees will be planted around the perimeter of the sensory garden. The proposed site is to be agreed by Hailsham Town Council at their next meeting on Monday 15th March 2010.
- The Chairman reported that a local landscaping contractor may be able to help with this particular project by providing the necessary labour and materials in exchange for local publicity. Any developments will be reported at the next sub-committee meeting.
- It was agreed by all members present that the sensory garden will be named "The Dennis King Memorial Sensory Garden" in tribute to the late Hailsham In Bloom and Environment Hailsham supporter, although permission will have to be sought from his wife, Marjorie King to this effect.
- The Chairman reported that a local high-profile celebrity may agree to open the sensory garden once completed, who will arrange for a local news team to be present at the official opening event. Further discussions regarding this will be carried out in the near future.
- The Vice-Chairman presented initial designs of the sensory garden's layout (including perimeteral fruit trees), which detailed four separate sections pertaining to the senses (sight, sound, smell and taste/touch). Each section will have its own (relevant) plants and

structures. Information recently obtained from the Sensory Trust has recommended the use of a variety of different ground surfaces for the internal and adjoining paths, including wood decking and tarmac.

- The Chairman requested that the Vice-Chairman produce a final design for the combined orchard and sensory garden which will be circulated at the next sub-committee meeting. Estimations of overall expenditure can then be made, and advice from Kevin Highley (Terra Firma) sought on the cost of hard landscaping and necessary planting.
- The Chairman stated that Janet Simes will be asked for advice on suitable plant species. Michelham Priory and the Lower Dicker Nursery may be able to provide assistance by donating plants, and any developments will be reported at the next sub-committee meeting.
- The Chairman suggested that Grovelands Community Primary School could use the new sensory garden as an outdoor classroom in exchange for help in maintaining the garden on a regular basis. Age Concern (Hailsham) and the East Sussex Association of Blind and Partially Sighted People (ESAB) will also be contacted with a view to helping in the construction of the garden, on a consultative basis.
- Work on the construction of the combined orchard and sensory garden will commence in April 2010 and the estimated project completion time is the end of May 2010.

5. Town Gateway Floral Markers

- The Committee clerk reported that plans for the redesigned town gateway floral markers have been submitted to East Sussex Highways, and that the necessary licensing should be obtained within the next two weeks.

6. Tree Planting & Avenue Creation

- The Chairman stated that, due to the proliferation of underground utility services and narrow grass verges, the proposal to plant trees in Anglesey Avenue be abandoned in favour of an alternative location. It was provisionally agreed that trees are to be planted along Forest View, although confirmation of this will be provided at the next sub-committee meeting.
- The Chairman stated that work on the planting of trees at the agreed location will take place in April 2010, once this year's Hailsham In Bloom budget has been replenished.

7. Creation of Flower Nursery

- The Chairman agreed to contact various garden equipment companies requesting the donation of a poly-tunnel and will report any developments at the next sub-committee meeting.

8. Hailsham Country Park Wildflower Meadow(s)

- The Committee Clerk reported that Whitehouse Primary School are to meet with Firstfields Resource Centre within the next few days to arrange commencement of wildflower potting and nurturing at the school over the next few months.

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.
- The Vice-Chairman presented initial design plans for the proposed floral display feature, and a final plan (including exact measurements of the structural base and suitable

materials) will be presented at the next sub-committee meeting.

- It was suggested that one of the existing flower fountains situated close to the War Memorial in Vicarage Field will be transferred to an alternative nearby location and the twinning floral display feature put in its place, for maximum exposure.

10. Tidying of 'Twittens' & Alleyways

- The Chairman requested that the Committee Clerk ask Janet Simes for advice on suitable plants for the 'twitchen' situated at Western Road (leading to the Grenadier Hotel).
- All members present agreed that work on the tidying of the footpath will take place on Sunday 7th March 2010. Mr L. Lovelady stated that he will ask local volunteers as soon as possible for their assistance on the day.

11. Creation of Bee Farm at Hailsham Country Park

- The Chairman requested that Miss C. Bentley-Astor present a preliminary design plan for the bee shelter to be installed at the Hailsham Country Park at the next sub-committee meeting.

12. Repainting of Recycling Point Mural Displays

- The Chairman requested that the Committee Clerk email the final designs for the new murals (available soon) to Wealden District Council for approval and circulate to members at the next sub-committee meeting.

13. Hailsham In Bloom Film Night

- The Chairman requested that the Committee Clerk send invitations to the Hailsham In Bloom Film Night taking place on Saturday 27th March 2010 to Councillors B. Bentley and R. Thomas (as East Sussex County Council representatives) and print several A5 promotional flyers for distribution to members of the public nearer the time.

14. East Sussex Highways Village Maintenance Team

- All members present agreed to three areas that will benefit from East Sussex Highways' Village Maintenance Team Scheme this year, one of which will be Nursery Path (running from South Road to the Common Pond), as a priority request.

15. Date of Next Meeting

- There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.10hrs.
- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th February 2010 at 19.30hrs in the Fleur de Lys Meeting Room, Town Council Offices.

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