

# 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 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 19.30hrs.

## Members Present:

- Cllrs J. Bentley-Astor (Chairman), J. Puttick (Vice-Chairman), Mrs M. Rowe
- Mr H. Bell – *Hailsham Parochial Church Council*
- Miss C. Bentley-Astor – *Youth Representative*
- Mrs B. Henderson, Mr J. Henderson – *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 Cllr B. Bentley, Cllr Mrs J. Bentley, Mr B. Goldsmith, Cllr Mrs S. Cottingham, Mr K. Highley, Mrs J. Simes and Mrs. J. Woodley.

## 2. Declaration of Interest

- None were received.

## 3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

- The minutes of the meeting held Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009 were confirmed as a true and correct record.

## 4. Additional Agenda Items

- The Chairman asked the sub-committee for two additional items to be placed on the Agenda, in respect of the proposed creation of a nature reserve as a new Hailsham In Bloom project for 2010, and an update on the planting of spring bulbs across the town.

## 5. Orchard & Sensory Garden

- The Chairman stated that, due to accessibility issues and the level of expense involved, the idea of a combined orchard, sensory garden and nature reserve be abandoned in favour of two separate sites: a nature reserve at a site suggested by the sub-committee, to be approved by Hailsham Town Council and discussed at future meetings; and a combined orchard and sensory garden within the Grovelands Farm strip of land.
- The Chairman reported that, for the orchard and sensory garden project, advice and recommendations have been sought from the East Sussex Association of Blind and Partially Sighted People (ESAB) and Thrive, a national charity dedicated to enabling positive change in the lives of disabled and disadvantaged people through the use of gardening and horticulture. Advice on garden design tips, plant species, accessibility and successful maintenance will be requested from other charities and specialist groups in the near future, including the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) and the Royal National Institute for the Deaf (RNID). The Sensory Trust has provided an information pack outlining set-up and design procedures, suitable plants, etc.
- The Chairman, having attended a recent meeting held by the Hailsham Lions Club, stated that, rather than provide funding for bee café kit components as suggested at previous

sub-committee meetings, the Hailsham Lions assist with the funding required for the creation of the orchard and sensory garden, as a long-term community project. Mr L. Lovelady, representing the Hailsham Lions, stated that the project will be discussed in more detail at their next meeting and any developments reported to the Chairman or Committee Clerk.

## **6. Town Gateway Floral Markers**

- There was nothing further to report on the redesign and installation of the town gateway floral markers.

## **7. Tree Planting & Avenue Creation**

- The Chairman suggested that a site visit by sub-committee members will need to be arranged before the next meeting in order to decide specific areas to plant trees along Anglesey Avenue and the species and number of trees required. Recommendations will be presented at the next sub-committee meeting.

## **8. Creation of Flower Nursery**

- There was nothing further to report on the search for poly-tunnel sponsorship and the flower nursery creation project as a whole.

## **9. 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. Any developments will be reported at the next sub-committee meeting.

## **10. 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 stated that a rough design layout for the display will be produced before the next meeting and circulated to sub-committee members.

## **11. Tidying of 'Twittens' & Alleyways**

- It was agreed by all members present that the two pathways or 'twittens' to benefit from a tidy-up as part of this year's Hailsham In Bloom campaign are those situated at Sandbanks Close (leading to Ersham Road) and Western Road (leading to the Grenadier Hotel).
- The Chairman stated that he will ask Janet Simes for planting advice and Terra Firma for technical assistance.

## **12. Creation of Bee Farm at Hailsham Country Park**

- There was nothing further to report on the Hailsham Country Park bee farm creation project.

## **13. Repainting of Recycling Point Mural Displays**

- The Chairman reported that final designs for the Vicarage Field car park recycling mural displays will be presented at the next sub-committee meeting and approved before submitting the plans to Wealden District Council for consideration.

#### **14. Hailsham In Bloom Local Competitions 2010**

- It was agreed by all members present that co-ordinators for individual Hailsham In Bloom competitions (2010) will be allocated as follows:
  - Best Front Garden: ENVIRONMENT HAILSHAM
  - Best Business Premises (Small): CLLR MRS J. BENTLEY / CLLR MRS S. COTTINGHAM (to be confirmed)
  - Best Business Premises (Large): CLLR MRS J. BENTLEY / CLLR MRS S. COTTINGHAM (to be confirmed)
  - Best Wildlife Garden: CLLR J. BENTLEY-ASTOR
  - Best Kept Allotment: HAILSHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
  - Best Public House Display: CLLR J. PUTTICK
  - Hailsham Heritage Award: CLLR B. BENTLEY (to be confirmed)

#### **15. Hailsham In Bloom Film Night**

- The Chairman presented draft promotional material for the Hailsham In Bloom Film Night, (taking place on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at the Hailsham Pavilion), which was approved by all members present. The Chairman requested that the Committee Clerk display the poster as soon as possible and distribute formal invitations to V.I.P. guests accordingly. It was agreed that the box office entry fee for the event will be £6 for adults and £4 for children.

#### **16. Meeting Programme 2010/2011**

- A schedule of Hailsham In Bloom sub-committee meetings for January to June 2010 was agreed and noted by all members present.

#### **17. Creation of Nature Reserve in Hailsham**

- The Chairman reported that the Sussex Wildlife Trust, Sussex Ornithological Society and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) have expressed an interest in assisting the sub-committee with the design and construction of a nature reserve, including guidance on suitable landscaping for optimum biodiversity levels and management of wildlife surveys. The exact site for the construction of the nature reserve is yet to be decided.
- The Chairman reported that a local company may agree to offer a significant sum of money to fund the project if their application to extend their land is successful. The Town Council's Finance, Policy & Resources committee has agreed to support this application.
- The Chairman stated that a management plan for the project, which will be ongoing, will be drafted in the near future.

#### **18. Completion of Spring Bulb Planting**

- The Chairman reported that the majority of spring bulbs allocated to individual sub-committee members, businesses and schools to plant have been installed successfully. The remaining areas where planting is to be undertaken as soon as possible are Grovelands Primary School and the High Street war memorial.

#### **19. Date of Next Meeting**

- There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.50hrs.
- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2010 at 19.30hrs in the Fleur de Lys Meeting Room, Town Council Offices.