



ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM

14th November 2009

Minutes of meeting of the Bloom 2010 Committee 2nd November 2009

Present:

Cllr Ronen Basu – RTW – Culverden Ward

Christine Davies

Daniel Bech – RTW Town Forum Community Champion / Telephone House Neighbours Association

Alastair Tod – Royal Tunbridge Wells Civic Society

Daryl Jones – Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC)

Gillian Field – Tunbridge Wells Girls Grammar School (TWGGS)

Christopher Thomas – RTW Town Forum Chairman / Woodbury Close Residents Association

Apologies:

Nigel Bolton – Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Kate Sergeant – Tunbridge Wells Transition Town

Venue: Town Hall, Committee Room B

In the Chair: Cllr Ronen Basu

There were no minutes taken at the last meeting

Matter arisen since last Bloom meeting.

The Committee noted, with regret, that Nigel Bolton would soon be leaving the Borough Council after a long career serving the community. The Committee wishes Nigel well in his future career.

AP4. All to actively promote Bloom to retailers in the initial phase

- ✓ Ongoing action

AP9. Cleared

- ✓ Christopher confirmed that he would contact Jeremy Aldous of Targetfollow to advise him that next year the provision of hanging baskets would be significantly reduced. As the cost of providing these baskets was being met by the Council, and therefore tax payers, it was agreed that spend should be equally spread around key points in town rather than all in one area.

Christopher has now received a reply from Targetfollow who fully understand the stance taken by the Bloom Committee. Christopher will be setting up a meeting in due course.

AP10. Cleared

- ✓ Daryl Jones to contact the agent of Morrisons and to report back result of conversation regarding the state of the flower beds opposite the railway station.

Daryl confirmed that he had received an email from Lee Robertshaw of Morrisons. This email confirmed that Morrisons would be happy to cooperate and make the beds look more attractive and pleasing to the eye. Christopher and Daryl to pursue this matter further.

Address: c/o Mrs Samantha Timms, Senior Committee Administrator, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells Kent TN1 1RS

AP11. Cleared

- ✓ Daryl Jones to contact the agent of Aldi, which owns the land by the Eridge Service Station. This land could be used as a temporary site for growing vegetables by schools (providing the area had been cleared and demolished safely). Aldi to be contacted to see what was happening with the site and to see if they would demolish.

Daryl advised the Bloom Committee that Aldi have no plans to develop this site. Aldi are placing this site on their disposal list at month – end.

Matters discussed

1.

John Davies has kindly agreed to provide a grant for the provision of equipment/starter pack for the four secondary schools that have agreed to participate in Bloom 2010. This grant is to be placed with Transition Towns and to be ring-fenced specifically for the benefit of the schools. It was agreed that Kate and Christine take this forward.

2.

Logos for Bloom 2010 were discussed. The Committee agreed that the schools should come up with a design for the logo. Gillian will take this matter forward. The logo should be simple in design.

3.

The small corner of land by the library was discussed. The Committee agreed that it would be best to grow herbs. Herbs would not be as likely to be “lifted” unlike vegetables.

4.

The Committee agreed that of the budget of £15,000 the following method of spend should be adopted. The Committee agreed that £12,500 be spent on hanging baskets and that £2,500 be used for promotion, including banners.

5.

The Committee was assured by Cllr Basu that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) would be taking on the responsibility of the hanging baskets. The Committee made it clear that they would want involvement in the decision making process as to where the hanging baskets go.

6.

Christopher asked if the review of street columns had been undertaken to see which columns retained their brackets. Daryl confirmed this review had not been undertaken.

7.

The precinct was again discussed. It was agreed that the initial planting up of the six planters be sponsored by six local groups in the town. Type of plant would be confirmed in due course.

8.

Daryl Jones confirmed that TWBC would provide marketing assistance.

9.

Christine confirmed that Rotary would be happy to provide a prize for Bloom. This kind gesture is most appreciated.

10.

Town Centre Safety Partnership would be contacted in January.

Address: c/o Mrs Samantha Timms, Senior Committee Administrator, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells Kent TN1 1RS

Since this meeting I can confirm that Daniel held a meeting with Kent Highway Services (KHS) – 4 Nov 09. The Committee, at its first meeting, raised the issue of roundabouts and what could be done about them.

I am pleased to confirm that the Town Forum, through Daniel, has secured agreement from (KHS) that action to clear these roundabouts of rubbish and weeds can be undertaken by voluntary participation. KHS would provide required bags for all rubbish. KHS would remove such rubbish and also provide road safety measures while this work was being undertaken. This is a major step forward.

No other matters were raised and the meeting was closed.

Next Meeting: 30th November at 7.15pm. Venue: Town Hall, Committee Room B.

Christopher Thomas
Bloom 2010