

Item 6.2

Steyning in Bloom Group request for financial support & Town Improvement suggestion

There have been a number of communications with the Steyning in Bloom group whereby they have informed Council of their financial difficulties following the Covid pandemic and their understandable inability during that period to successfully fund raise, whilst they have continued to themselves fund and therefore maintain the high standards of floral displays in our Town.

I suggested that representatives meet with the Chair and Vice chair of Council and the Chair or Vice Chair of Community Committee, so they could articulate their situation more clearly, and so that subsequently the discussions could be brought to the Council for agreement as to what could possibly be done to assist. This meeting took place on the 20th of January with Cllrs I. Alexander, Norcross and Young representing the Council together with four Steyning in Bloom committee members. It was clear that the problem was one that probably ought to be discussed at Full Council, and so this is what we will do at the February meeting, however during the discussions it also transpired that the SiB group were keen to complete other floral enhancements to the townscape, so long as there was agreement and financial support from Council to do so.

One idea is to create a floral display on the front of the Bus Shelter (image from the SiB seen here).



In the past the SiB group have also suggested there was a need to relocate slightly the Parish Council notice board which is situated adjacent the High Street Car Park access, so that the floral display there has an opportunity to access sun light, and also to allow the display to flourish and fully justify the work that is done there each year to attempt to brighten the centre of our Town. And with this in mind the suggestion from members present was that perhaps we consider looking at these requests together to come up with a solution and financially support the plan.

My feeling is that we could widen the scope of this idea further to include proposals that our Premises committee are currently exploring like a ramp installation for wheelchair and less able users of the Bus Shelter; plus, the fact that we have monies available for an art display / notice boards within the Bus shelter itself; plus, there is a proposal to site a new recycling bin adjacent the Bus shelter, as well as possible CCTV installation. My point being that perhaps the Community Committee consider working on this idea as a 'Town improvement' idea with members of the Steyning in Bloom Team for the next fiscal year, so that we could enhance the look of the Bus shelter and its surroundings in a way that residents will all appreciate.