

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Leisure & Amenities Committee

Spring Planting

1 Introduction:

- 1.1 Last year, West Swindon Parish Council updated the planters and invested in spring bulb planting. A budget of £10,000 has been set aside this financial year for planters and bulb planting.
- 1.2 To replant the black tiered planters current on Tewkesbury Way and Whitehill Way, the estimated cost for winter planting is estimated at £300.00.
- 1.3 Last year's bulb planting was provided by a Dutch company using mechanical planting and arranged by Streetsmart. Areas planted were three sections on Shaw Ridge Linear Park and two sections on Tewkesbury Way. The advantage of mechanical planting is that high density planting can be done very quickly and there can be a mix of planting to allow a longer flowering season. All planting is then subject to environmental conditions. Last year, the weather was very wet followed by two periods of heavy snow which may have impacted on the overall display.
- 1.4 This year, the Parish Council can invest in either mechanical or hand planting. The advantage of hand planting is that it can do smaller areas and can look more naturalistic. It can also go alongside volunteer planting. Existing local volunteer groups may be interested in bulb planting. In terms of hand planting costs and coverage, the estimate is as follows:
 - 1000 bulbs will cover 4 to 5 square meters
 - Cost per 1000 are £100.00 plus delivery
 - Hand planting per hour £16.00 per person. Coverage speed of a manual plant will depend on the ground conditions and the type/size of bulb.
- 1.5 Mechanical planting costs are in the region of a basic bulb mix cost of £20.00 per square metre.
- 1.6 Streetsmart will check any locations for underground services and advise on the quantity of bulbs required plus any additional costs for hand planting. A decision on retaining summer casual workers and ordering of bulbs is required by the 14th September.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Councillors to consider potential locations and confirm the budget available for spring planting.
- 2.2 Councillors to decide on handplanting or mechanical planting and agree to instruct Streetsmart to commission the work and make a recommendation to Full Council.

Paula Harrison, Parish Manager