

Report No. RP02019 Appendix: C Agenda Item: 8	Recreation and Planning Committee 11th September 2019
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OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Report Authors: Floral Working Group Joy Clough, Paul Buxton, Nick Woodley	Title: Councillors
Subject: Plantscape Display Audit	
Applicable Strategy: Promote the Town as an attractive place to visit and stay.	

Background

Plantscape have provided the Floral Displays for Oakham Town Council for the last four years. This covers the installation of 162 ready planted lamp-post baskets, wall mangers, hanging baskets and barrier planters. Most of these also come under the Plantscape watering and maintenance contract.

The cost to OTC this year was £9153.90 + VAT

Plantscape did an audit of the Oakham Display on 7th August which was sent to the Town Clerk on 15th August.

The Floral working group did their own audit on 22nd August, before the Plantscape audit was forwarded to members by the Clerk.

The Plantscape audit was short, and commented on the success of the barrier planters and mangers, and thought the hanging baskets were 'lacking a little bit of trail', suggesting they should increase the plant feed.

The Floral Working Group's own audit additionally noted that five hanging baskets in two locations had substantially underperformed (photos attached), and the one in Market Street had actually been removed by the Plantscape inspector. The Group thought this should have been mentioned in the Plantscape audit.

If OTC does not comment on these deficiencies, it is tacitly accepting a lower standard than we might reasonably expect, and the Group therefore feels that the Council should ask Plantscape for their comments on our concerns.

Proposals

As a Working Group rather than a committee the Floral Display Working Group has no remit to take any independent action, therefore we would like to put the following two proposals to Council.

1. That Council agree to the Clerk sending the attached letter to Plantscape for their comments.
2. That the Floral Working Group be authorised to explore options for the Oakham Floral Displays in 2020.