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| **Report: 13** | **Council**  **Date of Meeting: 10th January 2024** |

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| **OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL** |

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| **Report Author:**  **Town Clerk** | **Title:**  **Flower Displays Oakham** |
| **Subject: Contract for Flower Display (2024)** | |
| **Applicable Strategies:**   * **To protect and enhance amenities in Oakham Town.** * **To preserve and enhance the rural, built, and natural environments of Oakham Town.** * **To enable residents to be involved in the life of Oakham Town and its future development.** | |

For the past two years Oakham Town Council have used WindowFlowers Ltd to provide throughout the spring summer and Autumn a display of Flowers around the Town.

Many residents have commented on the success of these displays in providing an excellent enhancement to Oakham which has encouraged visitors, local residents to visit Oakham Town Centre and thus provide a significant economic benefit to the local retail outlets, which are still struggling to recover from the pandemic.

This year will also see the unveiling of the new Queen Elizabeth statue in the Library Grounds which will also be a significant visitor attraction.

In the papers are the new proposed contract for this year which have an increased cost of approximately six per cent due to inflation.

There is the possibility of reviewing the number of sites where flowers are displayed, however any significant reduction in these sites will require the contractor to review the quote due to issues with the scale of the operation.

Included in this agenda item is a submission by Cllr A Lowe which usefully gives a pictorial view of the sites where flowers will be displayed. Also the councillor has put forward an alternative for next years display. If this is accepted by Council, a new quote will have to be obtained as this represents a significant reduction in the Floral Display.