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| **Agenda Item: 13** | **Council**  **Date of Meeting:** 10April 2024 |

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| **OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL** |

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| **Report Author:**  Town Clerk | Title: Oakham in Bloom |
| Subject: Enhancement of flower displays in Oakham | |
| **Applicable Strategy: Objectives & Aims**   * To protect and enhance amenities in Oakham Town * To improve the quality of life for residents and businesses in Oakham Town * To work with residents to improve Community Resilience * To work effectively with the County Council and Councillors and other service providers. | |

With the upcoming unveiling of the Queens statue in Oakham, there is some urgency in ensuring a good floral display for this event in the Spring.

I have enquired of our contractor for the Floral Displays in Oakham, and he states their plan is to not plant flowers out until mid to late May. They could provide a modest early display in limited baskets etc for £650 plus VAT.

I have also approached Chris Cairns the Chair of Oakham in Bloom to ascertain if the Town Council could help in tidying/cleaning the existing planters and helping to provide plants for early display.

There would be a modest cost to provide bags of compost and some plants, which I would limit to £250 and obviously some time for the Handyperson, who would assist the volunteers in any heavy tasks.

The desired outcome is to have an enhanced display for April 21st when the unveiling occurs.

**Proposal:**

Assistance to Oakham in Bloom with costs up to £250 and the assistance of the Handyperson

Good morning Chris,

Following is our schedule for tidying the planters throughout the town, which we normally do every year (where necessary) before our summer planting.  Obviously, we need to get as much as we can done before April 21.   I have divided it into groups in order of importance, i.e. those most on view first.  I would think your representative + one or two volunteers at each planter, your rep to hose or clean the planter and remove and replace one or two 50l bags of compost plus fertilizer (unless very badly weed infested right to the bottom and needs completely replacing), our volunteers to deal with temporary removal of plants and replacement where necessary.

GROUP 1

Old Post Office x 3 (one has already had its compost replaced after overflowing)

Church Road Car Park x 2

Wilko x 2 (one has already had its compost replaced after flooding)

Late Night Pharmacy x 3

Co-op Funeral x 1

CAB x 1

Bottom High Street x 1

Stamford Road x 1

GROUP 2

Museum x 3

Mill Street x 2

Quaker Meeting House x 1

Braunston Road x 1

I hope this makes sense but let me know if you need more details.

Cheers

Chris Cairns

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Chris Cairns

Chair

Oakham in Bloom