



**LEIGHTON-LINSLADE
TOWN COUNCIL**

Grounds and Environmental Services Committee

Date: 2nd December 2019

Title: Review of the 2019 in Bloom Campaigns

Purpose of the Report: To provide Members with a review of the 2019 Anglia in Bloom campaign and feedback of the Communities in Bloom – International Challenge.

Contact Officer: Ian Haynes – Head of Grounds and Environmental Services

Corporate Objective/s		Leighton-Linslade Town Council - Three Year Plan – objective 39 To continue to build on the success of the annual Anglia in Bloom campaign.
Implications:		
Financial		Earmarked Reserve Leighton-Linslade in Bloom 9043/950 has £14,145 of available funds
Human Resources		None
Operational/Service delivery		None
Procedural/Legal		None
Risk/Health and Safety		None

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Should members be minded, the proposals are to:

- 1.1 To note the report.
- 1.2 To formally thank all the local volunteers involved in this year's Leighton-Linslade in Bloom campaign, especially The Friends of Leighton-Linslade in Bloom.

1.3 To request that the Chair of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee writes to all key members thanking them for this year's achievements.

1.4 To endorse the release of Leighton-Linslade in Bloom held Earmarked Reserves to fund the replacement of wooden edging with new 100x25mm recycled plastic edging for the Pages Park Community Garden for the maximum value of £5,000.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Town Council has continued to oversee this year's Leighton-Linslade in Bloom initiative and the judging which took place in July.

2.2 Leighton-Linslade had another blooming marvellous result at the annual regional Anglia in Bloom awards having received a Gold accolade in the Large Town (12,001-35,000 Residents) category – matching achievements in previous years.

2.3 A breakdown of the results are;

- Leighton-Linslade - Gold
- Pages Park - Gold
- Mentmore Park and Memorial Gardens - Gold
- Linslade Recreation Ground - Silver Gilt
- Parson's Close Recreation Ground - Gold and Category Winner
- Tiddenfoot Waterside Park – Silver Gilt
- Vandyke Road Cemetery - Gold
- Old Linslade Cemetery - Gold
- The Stag - Gold
- The Golden Bell - Gold and Joint Category Winner
- The Hare Inn - Gold
- The Ship Inn – Gold and Joint Category Winner
- Linslade Wood – Gold

2.4 Continuing on from last year, the key to the successes have been 'Community involvement' where everyone pulls together, gets involved and then delivers. Communities are also recognising the importance of sustainable displays coupled with respectable horticultural standards, delivering outstanding floral displays. These are all achieved through the support from a number of community groups engaged across the town, who are all dedicated to enhancing their community.

2.5 Feedback from the judges is **attached**.

3. SPECIAL AWARDS

- 3.1 The Special awards nominations are the Oscars of the in-bloom world. To be nominated means the project or activity is considered to be one of the best in each category in the region! To win is an amazing achievement. There are 17 categories in total.
- 3.2 For the first time ever, all of the participants self-nominated projects or activities have been shortlisted.
- 3.3 A breakdown of the nominations are;
- Best community project - Pages Park Community Garden
 - Best conservation project - "Keep the buzz in Leighton Buzzard"
 - Best sustainable garden - West Street Drought Garden (Winner)
 - Best industrial area/commercial area - Peacock Mew
 - Best local authority floral display - River Bridge
 - Best public open space - Linslade Recreation Ground
 - Best young people's project (aged under 12 years) - Young person's hanging basket competition

4. COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM – INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE

- 4.1 2019 saw Leighton-Linslade in Bloom enter the Communities in Bloom – International Challenge for the first time.
- 4.2 Communities in Bloom is a Canadian non-profit organization committed to fostering civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community involvement and the challenge of a national program, with focus on the enhancement of green spaces in communities.
- 4.3 Leighton-Linslade in Bloom entered the medium category and contested this group with entrants from Belgium, Ireland, Hungary and Canada.
- 4.4 The winner of the International Challenge (Medium) was Ville de Nivelles, BW, Belgium with a 5 Blooms – Silver. Leighton-Linslade in Bloom, Bedfordshire, UK 5 Blooms – Bronze, with special recognition to Pages Park Community Garden.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Leighton-Linslade in Bloom initiative has brightened up the town and makes it a more attractive place to live, work and visit. The excellent accomplishments have been achieved by the Town Council working in partnership with volunteers.
- 5.3 The plantings and floral displays help underpin the economic vibrancy of the town and town centre in particular. This year standards have continued on from last year with excellent awards achieved. The outstanding community work, many resourceful projects and superb colourful displays have all added to these standards.

- 5.4 The Town Council wishes to congratulate all the communities and neighbourhoods in the parish, for their enthusiasm, commitment and effort made to improve, develop and sustain our local environments across the town. it is a great credit to you all and would like to take the opportunity to thank its own staff as the Grounds and Environmental Services team do endless amount of work behind the scenes In order to get everything ready for judging day but also make the town look lovely all year round.