

**Committee Meeting notes 13/3/25**

**Present: VPJ, SPJ, CC, KC, JJ, CD**

**Agenda**

1. Intro/ Chair Update
2. Ops and Planting
3. Treasurer
4. Volunteers Update
5. Fundraising
6. New Committee Members
7. AGM
8. AOB

**Chair Update**

* Terrific collaboration and effort last year – great results in the RHS Britain in Bloom competition.
  + RHS Britain in Bloom Gold Award 2024
  + RHS Britain in Bloom Best Small Coastal Resort Award 2024
* We have projects to finish this year
  + Boat Garden
  + Bubbles
  + Pat’s Garden
  + Tools
  + We have also collaborated with the RNLI to do their small garden. This still needs to be planted up.
* RHS Britain in Bloom competition – do we want to enter this year? The competition is a major encouragement to the volunteers and Wirral Borough Council have been very supportive in the last 3 years. The Lady Mayor and Mayoress and RHS Judge Neil Harvey were very encouraging to everyone in New Brighton Community. This needs to be decided on at this meeting.
* We discussed the NB Christmas Lights campaign – we agreed that this was something that the NBIB would not take on and would probably be structured as a separate group – keeping both activities separate.
* We discussed the opportunities for collaboration and also discussed a collaborative meeting that we had with Wallasey Village in Bloom. We are looking forward to working with them in the future.

**Operations and Planting SPJ**

* Bubbles – still some project money outstanding – lots coming back in the pots. We will have a better idea once the temperatures warm up.
* Winter planting failed – suspect they arrived at the garden centre too early and we got them too soon too.
* Daffodils have done really well – we are in the third year for them and they have looked good.
* Osteospernum are coming back in the pots which is great.
* Nothing from seed this year but if anyone wants to do some propagating/potting on etc speak to Sue to arrange. Calendula and Rudbekia would be the key plants.
* 18th May will kick off be the key spring planting week.
* Geraniums will be the key planting for this year for vibrant flowers. Trailing plants used in the Pavilion last year will be used again.
* Our key spending this year will be mixed across Follyfields and Magills.
* For now time to tidy up and cut back here and there. This maintenance will be done on a Monday for now from next week.
* We will give every volunteer some seaweed feed to use.
* We’ll speak to Tim at FOVQ to talk about the leaf mulch.
* We need to consider the boat garden and what to do – maybe have a meeting to discuss by the boat.

**Britain in Bloom discussion**

There were mixed views in the discussion

* The Bloom competition has been terrific especially over the last 2 years. The following points were recognised.
* We need more volunteers ….. we have gained some but also lost a few through ill-health
* Moreton in Bloom have a more flexible volunteer system that we could utilise with more volunteers
* Friends of Vale Park wanted to collaborate with us this year.
* Friends of the Marine Lake have got a project happening this year with a mural being put on one of the walls
  + We have the 3 projects to finish thanks to last year’s Community Green Grant.
  + We still have the collaborative work to do with the RNLI on their garden with the grant from the Wirral Together fund
  + We only won Gold by 1 point last year
  + We could still focus on the wonderful objectives of the RHS even if we take a year off.
  + It would be great to further develop our community work.
  + With the project work we are on Pat’s Garden – we can develop this further and enter Pat’s Garden into the Pocket Garden category.

The Committee discussed it and we made the difficult decision to take a 1 or 2 year break from the competition and further work on our community work and collaboration efforts. We need to do much more before we enter the competition again and work on our Ways of Working, Volunteer Numbers, Projects and Sponsorship whilst trying to achieve the RHS objectives.

**Treasurer**



* Plants will be ordered for the projects for the spring planting from Follyfields and Magills.
* Remaining tools will be purchased – the Committee agreed that trowels and secaturs should be purchased for the volunteers to use at plantings.
* RNLI - £98 left for planting.
* Currently £670 left in the account with a further £700

**Volunteers**

* KC gave an update on Volunteers – we still have 17 – but 2/3 are currently out of action.
* We discussed having a presence at events in New Brighton. Our first attendance will be at The Farmers Market in New Brighton on the 6th April.
* VPJ to organise leaflets
* We will also need a sign or poster.
* SPJ to call to organise a table.
* SPJ will put out a message to volunteers to check for support
* CC will see about getting boards etc
* CC will see about the card reader
* This activity will be aimed at getting more volunteers and also fundraising.
* A further discussion was held to discuss how Wallasey Village in Bloom and Moreton in Bloom operate to get volunteers, organise themselves and raise money.
* JJ suggested that maybe volunteers can be gained by linking up with Adult Learning centres – to be considered.

**Fundraising**

* JJ and CD talked about fundraising. We currently have 10 boxes out see below and another 8 to be positioned.
  + Victoria Road – Rightway, Celebration Station card shop, District House, New Brighton Hotel, One Stop, James Atherton, Smugglers Cove.
  + Seabank Road – Post Office
  + Other - Marino Lounge, Wallasey Yacht Club
* Jill reported on boxes being emptied – amounts below
  + Waiting Room – £21.77
  + Sea Shanty - £17.00
  + On-Stop shop SB – £13.45

These monies will be transferred into the account.

* Other avenues of fund-raising will be considered like quiz’s etc.

**Committee Members**

* We discussed whether we want to try to find another member for the committee as a PR Officer – we all agreed this was a good idea.

**AGM**

* Will be 1st April at 6pm at the James Atherton upstairs. This is on the website

**AOB**

* CD hasn’t got a Polo Shirt – we will look into getting her one.
* KC to organise another social event before Easter
* KC will keep links with the school – possibly an opportunity to grow seeds
* Farmers Market 5/4 discussed
  + Signs
  + Flyers with QR codes
  + Flowers?
  + Raffle
  + Collecting tins
  + Posters??