

## IN BLOOM WORKING GROUP MINUTES- 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020, Spencer Suite, 9.00am

**Attendees:** David Brown, Ruth Burgess, Bob Edwards, Margaret Gartside, Martha Hayes, Jackie MacArthur, Amanda Martin, Anna Morrison, Patti Pinto, Glen Williams

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Members are respectfully reminded of the necessity to submit any apology for absence in advance and to give a reason for non- attendance.
  - None
- 2. Minutes of the Last Meeting:** To approve the notes of the previous meeting as a correct record.
  - Approved
- 3. Declarations of Interest:** Members are requested to declare both “pecuniary” and “non-pecuniary” interests as early in the meeting as they become known.
  - GW- Bromley Farm In Bloom
- 4. Proposed Route-** PP has put together a proposed route, for NW & BIB and also a separate route for the IYN- there might be some new additions this year (Congleton Football Club, Vale Allotments, Mossley In Bloom- including the WI work, Friends of Quinta Park, Friends of the Community Garden)- if all join, this would make it 15 IYN in total. PP has proposed a route for 14 IYN’s and will save FoCP for the main route.
  - Astbury Mere adjusted to 20 minutes, this is without the Orchard as this feature has been removed. PP has suggested to speak to Jack Swan at AMCP to see which areas will look best around judging time. Would also like to have a trustee there on the day, as well as Mark from Streetscape, as he is a keen bird watcher.
  - Presentation to include an introductory slide on AMCP to show biodiversity and what they do etc. Need to get a list from Matt Axford (Ranger) of the different groups that use AMCP.
  - PP to send a copy of the AMCP booklet to IB group.
  - Judging for Britain In Bloom is scheduled between 3<sup>rd</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> August.
  - JMac suggested to look back through feedback from 2014, 16, 18 BIB results and make sure that we’ve acted on their suggestions. DB suggests that we need longer at Asbury Mere as this was pointed out by a judge to him, as noted above- times will be arranged to visit AMCP and assess the area.
  - ACTION JMac- to email to Cllr Martin Amies to ask if AMCP going to enter as an IYN? Also to ask the trustees to suggest ideas of how we can present their asset best.
  - Need to compile a list of ideas for AMCP and pass this by a previous judge to see which would be the best to do. Thinking of working with schools, care homes, charity groups etc. Suggestions of; willow project, school art project to be displayed, wildlife boxes. PP reported that St. Mary’s Primary School are working on a project called “The Lost Words” and creating a display for it- could this be used? ACTION ALL- to send suggestions to JMac.
- 5. IYN Support-** RB sent an email to the nine current IYN’s in November 2019 offering Streetscape help for 2 days and opportunity to buy plants from us. Currently had four replies; Bromley Farm, Buglawton In Bloom, Heathview and Friends of Congleton Park.
  - Buglawton are asking for more funding (£500- used for 59 resident hanging baskets), as historically have received this. Group discussed that it’s only Buglawton residents that receive hanging baskets from “In Bloom” and these are now not seen by the judges on the route- the funds should be put towards projects that are for and seen by all. RB & DB to arrange a meeting with Chair of BIB to discuss.
  - PP suggested to apply for grants from William Dean Trust for all IYN- x15 groups at £100/150 each. JMac has suggested they can also apply to the Cheshire East “Bright Idea” grant scheme.
  - DB suggested to have a group meeting with the existing and new neighbourhoods late February in the Town Hall to discuss this year’s entry, marking categories, judging, finance etc.
- 6. AOB**
  - Portfolio- 16 pages for NWIB & 30 pages BIB. Also to include a promotional map with what goes on in Congleton (relating to IB) and has the route pin pointed on this.
  - Cenotaph Garden- this needs to be added as a new feature for 2020 and pointed out to the judges. PP is suggesting that if the Cenotaph will be covered up whilst works are underway, there could be more attractive ways to cover, other than heras fencing- speak the Cenotaph Working Group.

- Send hanging basket letters to Stone House Green houses to see if they would like to purchase- ACTION MH.
- Suggested that the Wharf pub might be interested in entering as a business.
- PP suggested to have two articles a month in the Chronicle to make people aware of what In Bloom does, as at the November celebration evening a lot of people were shocked how much goes on. JMac & PP to take a lead on this.
- In Bloom Merchandise- AMorrison suggested to sell seed boxes with In Bloom stickers on, PP suggested In Bloom printed canvas bags- ACTION JMac, AMorrison & MH to meet.
- JMac commented the need for new bin stickers- possible competition, open to schools, groups, youth forum etc.- ACTION JMac & AMorrison to meet.
- Trees, hedgerows and orchards- new hedgerow planted along Clayton Bypass. Plans for new Orchards on Lamberts Lane, Marshall Grove play area and Padgbury Lane. ACTION RB to budget for the maintenance of the new planting projects.
- In Bloom Finalist Seminar, 21<sup>st</sup> February in Birmingham- each group to send two representatives- agreed on DB & PP to attend.
- BE commented that new gold rosettes need adding on signs to update the latest winnings- ACTION MH.
- Penny-farthing Structure- £1,700 quoted from Belmont- DMcG to take this forward with the family. JMac waiting to hear back from Highways regarding permissions.
- Bear Bin- GW to follow up on this- to contact the artist of the Rhino recycling bin as seen in Wales.
- Spring Cleans- Starting in March, first Saturday of each month, plus additional clean on 21<sup>st</sup> March as national Keep Britain Tidy Campaign weekend. All tidies from 10am-12noon. Locations tbc.

**7. Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 9.00am