

Request to PPC Finance Committee

Ongoing needs and associated costs of maintaining the proposed Floral Displays in Porlock High Street from 2022 onwards.

The PHSSG are proposing to create a number of floral displays for which we will be funding the watering and maintenance for this year. However, we realise there will be a need to continue this care and funding from 2022 onwards.

The PHSSG has agreed to purchase two portable water bowsers, each holding 110l of water to make the watering of the floral displays more efficient and practical. We would like to house one of these bowsers at the Doverhay car park toilets in the store room there and the other at the Old School Building, and to be able to use the water supplies at these sites to fill them. Therefore, there will be a water cost to PPC for this from 2022 onwards.

The PHSSG has agreed a budget to pay someone to use these bowsers to do the watering and maintenance (deadheading, etc.) of the floral displays for 2021. In the years after, there will be a cost to PPC to continue paying for this unless the Council is happy to rely on volunteers.

The PHSSG has agreed to purchase 12 recycled whiskey half barrels to be used as planters at various sites along the High Street. Subject to permissions being obtained, we would like to use a group of these in front of the Village Hall as a statement floral display for visitors entering Porlock from Porlock Hill, another group by the telephone box on the wide pavement opposite the Doverhay car park, and then some placed individually in spots along the High Street and on the walk through from the Central car park to the High Street. These have cost £30 each and are expected to last over 10 years.

The PHSSG has plans to create a statement floral display for visitors entering Porlock from Dunster Steep, subject to permissions being obtained, on the wall of Doverhay car park.

The PHSSG has plans to create a locally made seating and planting installation at the Central Garage, as a focal point in Porlock.

The PHSSG will pay for the compost, fertiliser and plants used in the containerised floral displays. The plants used will be bulbs and perennials, but also some annuals and bedding plants to ensure a continuous, colourful display. There will be a cost to replace/renew these annuals and bedding plants.

This year, the PHSSG will be paying someone to water the containerised floral displays for 2hrs at £9/hr, twice weekly for 30 weeks (Apr to Oct) = £1080.00

There are also plans to plant bulbs, perennials and trees in areas visible to visitors as they approach and drive through Porlock, but as these would be natural planting in the ground, little maintenance should be needed for these. We have already started planting bulbs and flowers at the Church and again these should need minimal maintenance.

One further project which is still being considered, suggested by David Hancock based on an idea by Denise Sage, would see small wall planters placed on buildings along the length of the High Street. It is planned by DH that these would be watered and maintained by the resident or shop owner so, in that case, maintenance is forecast to be minimal.

We estimate the water needed would be 2 bowsers full twice a week, being 440l per week. At approx. 0.2p per litre (based on Wessex Water price of £1.9735 per cubic meter) this would cost 88p per week and 30 weeks of watering would cost approx. £26 per year.

Other possible costs would be for an organic feed for the containerised plants plus replacement of the annuals and bedding plants each year needed to add colour to the perennial planting. The cost of this is estimated at about £1,000 per year based on £60 per barrel container (summer and winter bedding), £120 for the floral display at the Central Garage and £160 for the statement display at the bottom of Dunster Steep, but the actual cost would depend on the amount of replanting needed/wanted.

Suggested budget total is £2106.00

Matters for approval	Estimated Annual £
To use PPC water at both the Old School Centre and Doverhay toilets.	26
To securely store the new water bowsers – one in Old School Centre, one in Doverhay toilets	N/A
Labour costs for containerised plants – tending & watering	1,080
Plant replacement costs	* <u>1,000</u>
TOTAL	£2,106

* - This cost could be significantly reduced by engaging the wider Porlock gardening community to donate plants.

Lesley Thornton
for the PHSSG
06/04/2021