



COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMITTEE SUB-COMMITTEE – 1ST SEPTEMBER 2008

1. FLOWER DISPLAYS AND LOCATIONS

- 1.1 Sites this year will include all previous locations with one or two amendments, colour and planting schemes have been drawn up during the autumn of 2007 by Parks Officers, specific plant numbers have been procured and are presently being grown to order.
- 1.2 Some changes are being adopted this year to some locations in order to try and provide a greater all year round feature in terms of colour, including autumn colour and shape with height to the beds location. These plantings are more cost efficient by providing greater protection against theft, more resistance to hot temperatures in summers and during cold windy periods in the winter. The main criteria for the chosen locations is land ownership, the land has to be within the ownership of the authority, normally land under the control and responsibility of the parks section within the Directorate of the Environment.
- 1.3 Other locations are sometimes used, such as highway roundabout locations, the higher maintenance and associated costs are funded by our sponsors, i.e. town councils and private organisations. Signs are erected on such locations conforming to the Chief Engineers guidance.
- 1.4 Where new displays are created at a new location held by parks services, these are normally either a new sponsored site or occur as a result of a similar site being removed in the locality due to persistent vandalism or theft of plants/displays or the loss of the land due to highway changes or sale for development.
- 1.5 Finally, other factors used in our evaluation include the aspect of the area chosen for the new flower bed display, this includes its orientation to surrounding buildings and mature trees, its openness to sun light in the summer and the impact to our public as a visual amenity throughout the year.
- 1.6 The move to more permanent planting schemes is in line with the national trend to provide sustainable colourful features to the public, with water conservation and the supplying companies now openly looking at restrictions on councils and organisations using clean water to maintain floral features, the challenge to us in parks services is to try and develop greater use of "grey water" provision, especially for hanging baskets and street trough displays.
- 1.7 Parks Officers are currently exploring the opportunities to fund such systems, building on the one system we operate out of Morgan Jones Park in Caerphilly.