

BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL
Environment Committee
Thursday 20 May 2021
Decision Report

1.Palisade fencing Bolam allotments

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Environment Committee RESOLVE to agree to option 1 or 2.

- Option1 - cost to cover 2 full bays of fencing with galvanised steel sheeting bolted onto the palings at a cost £920.00.
- Option 2 - cost to cover the two bays with obscure scaffolding netting at a cost £350.00.

Ward

Cowpen

Risk Management

The item for consideration is in accordance with the Committee's objectives, budget, ongoing risk management processes.

Objective

To provide additional privacy to the complainant in viewing allotment plots.

Report

This project has been brought back to Committee because two sections of palisade were installed approximately less than 2 year ago. We have received complaints from residents in the last 12 months via Town Councillors that they can see into the allotments from their front rooms now that the concrete fence has been replaced with a more open metal one. The only way to block this is to either install a solid sheet which will give a permanent solution or with mesh which could be ripped down or vandalised.

Officers have already put lighter mesh up and doubled it over and this has been ripped and pulled down on a few occasions.

2 Allotment Waiting List

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Environment Committee RESOLVE to agree to the Allotment waiting list being suspended.

Ward

Not Specific

Risk Management

The item for consideration is in accordance with the Committee's objectives, budget, ongoing risk management processes.

Objectives

The current waiting list is very high, and we need to carry out a review to ensure that it reflect its actual position, with regard to any changes of circumstances for those on the list and to their original preferred location. Some of the applicants may never be offered a plot on their chosen site and to accept more applications without carrying out such a review may give false hope to new applicants.

Report

Prior to the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns which were imposed last year we had approximately 75 people on the current waiting list. Since that time, the waiting list has doubled in size as we have been receiving 1 and 2 applications a week over the last year. At this time, we have residents on the waiting lists for sites, where they will probably never be offered a plot. This is because of a few reasons; some of the existing plot holders have partners on the list and because of the number of plots on the applicants preferred sites. It is suggested that it would be wise to temporarily close the waiting list until the numbers are reduced. We are in the process of contacting all those on the waiting list to confirm their current wishes.

3. British Legion Flower Bed

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Environment Committee RESOLVE to agree to the additional plants for this bed in Ridley Park at a cost of approximately £500.

Ward

Wensleydale

Risk Management

The item for consideration is in accordance with the Committee's objectives, budget, and ongoing risk management processes.

Objectives

To promote historical events in Blyth and provide a fitting tribute for Remembrance Day.

Report

This year is the centenary of the British Legion and we looked at area for this bed to be installed. The only suitable location is in Ridley Park which belongs to NCC. There would also be plaque installed also to inform the public that the floral display had been supplied by Blyth Town Council to mark the Centenary.

4 Staites Sculpture

It is recommended that the Environment Committee RESOLVE to agree to accept the sculpture as an asset following installation.

Ward

Wensleydale

Risk Management

The cost of the maintenance would have a minimal impact on budgets.

Objective

To continue the rich History & Heritage within Blyth throughout the Town.

Report

Former Councillor G Webb requested to have a sculpture fabricated using his MLIS funds which would reflect the use of the staithe and the maritime history of the river.

David Clough
General Services Officer

10 May 2021