



Nov 2020

Letter supporting Todmorden Town Council's Feedback Form 2020

Thank you for your continuing support and also the Certificate of Recognition from the Mayor, the members were so pleased.

Like all volunteer groups we wondered what would happen when we heard about the Covid Virus and when we contacted our suppliers at the beginning of the we year did not expect to be able purchase the quantities of plants needed to give Todmorden its usual show of variety and colour. Added to this, our contact at Manor Heath (Calderdale MBC) informed us that they would not be supplying us with our usual hanging baskets. The hanging baskets do not cost the group anything, because CMBC pay for the hanging basket on the Lamp post and the one's on the shops the shop keepers buy from us.

After much discussion with the members, it was decided that the town would be very depressing without some colour and we must at least keep up with maintaining and keep it weed free and floral. Therefore, we have continued gardening at a social distance twice most weeks this year, managed to buy plants and have had a good floral show this year. Obviously we have spent many hours on our endeavours and the average break down is: 3,120 hours gardening, 80 hours general administration and meetings (Zoom etc) and 120 on grant applications.

However, this has situation skewed the expenditure of the grant; spending less on the watering because there were no hanging baskets, cancelling the garden competition prize giving event and only providing certificates and frames, but paying more of some of the plants. Please note, we haven' paid for the watering of the Hanging baskets this year, only the barrier baskets and will require the original requested money for the watering of the hanging baskets for 2021.

Therefore: of the £4660.00 grant we have spent the following:

Watering = £1400.00

Certificates for the Garden Competition =£182.16

Plants and Compost = £2,279.37

Total = £4221.53

This means we owe you a refund of £ 438.47 However, please can I hang on to the balance for the time being because we will have to spend some money in the garden at Shade on Rochdale Rd which Councillor Tony Greenwood as asked us to 'sort out'? This will be our priority in Jan 2021

On a more positive note, the lock down has given us a bonus of six new members who are all very enthusiastic and hardworking and we look forward to some fresh ideas for 2021

Future plans.

To continue maintaining the areas we already look after. This year we have spent a lot of time at Fielden Wharf improving the banking and fixed beds, weeding, and cleaning the wharf side paving but we still have major moving of two apple trees from containers where they have grown too big and intend to place them in the fixed beds.

The Gateway garden at Waterside which we took over from Incredible Edible in 2018 is now maturing and the perennials are well established, planted many bulbs and expect to have a good display in the Spring.

Todmorden has a problem with weeds throughout the town. The group did get good response from shops and offices when we leaflet dropped to bring their attention to the problem on their doorstep and asked them to do their own weeding. This is an on-going problem, but the group intend to do more weed awareness early in 2021 simply, because as a group we cannot spend all our time weeding and feel that property owners should 'do their bit' to keep the town tidy and that includes weeds.

Have the Town Council any thoughts on how this problem can to addressed? I know weed killing liquids are an unfavourable option but having weed constantly this year I do feel this is the best option overall.

We are still working well with Northern Train Adopters who support groups who are willing to improve their local railway stations, this is an important part of our routine as the station is a gateway site to the town. Jean Butterworth and I attended the recent online annual Rail conference, one of the thoughts discussed was that rail travel will change and there will be less focus on commuters and more on leisure. It was also interesting to note in the same week a newspaper article titled "Why we need towns made for walking" these thoughts are perfect for Todmorden and as TIB has we just formed a 'Blooming Walking' group we intend to create some walking maps. Some of these to focus on walks around the railway station.

Obviously, some of our planned projects have had to be put on hold but we are hoping that in 2021 will be able to pick these up again. Tatton Park Flowers Show have again invited us to take part in their show garden, but we must reapply with a new design! Anyway, as we believe will be very good for the tourism of the town, we are hopeful we will be accepted again, we had gained funding from Northern Trains and Weir Minerals, hopefully they will still support us.

In the autumn of 2019, we had just rolled out the 'RHS's It's Your Neighbourhood Scheme', where local residents take on the responsibility of a patch of neglected ground near the homes. This is a great opportunity for community cohesion but because of social distancing we felt it best to

postpone this project until 2021. This project will be our main focus in 2021, however will may need some funding to kick start this properly.

Todmorden in Bloom have teamed up with the Friends of Centre Vale Park and Todmorden Veterans and submitted a bid for the Town Deal Initiative. This is to completely renovate the Conservatory in the Memorial Garden in the Park and repurpose it for a greenhouse, dry workshop and community rooms, making this a much more usable space for educational/ leisure workshops, meetings, etc. If this project is successful, the group feel it will be a great asset to the Town and benefit all residents.

I attach the bid for your perusal.



Patmos Memorial Garden is also in need of serious renovation because the paving stones are uneven, wall tops loose and the planting tired. The group are concerned that the area is a potential health hazard, and we don't want the area to be closed because it is so well used. Two bids have been put forward for the refurbishment of this garden, one to Reaps Moss (Wind Farm) and the other to the newly formed Freemasonry and Lieutenancies Partnership Fund. Todmorden achieved the Duke of York Community Initiative Award in 2019 in recognition of our work for the community, which enables us to apply to the Lieutenancy for funding.



We are awaiting a response from these organisations.

We are like all other volunteer groups are concerned about what will happen next year, but we are determined to carry on with our improvements for the town and truly believe the town would be a sadder place without our efforts.

I wish you all a Peaceful Christmas and a Healthy and Happier New Year

Your Faithfully

Sheila Greenwood