

**Parks and Amenities Manager's Report:**

**End of Season Plant Sale – 1 October 2022**

You are reminded that the annual sale will take place on Saturday 1 October 2022 starting at 08:30 and finishing at 10:30. The sale takes place in Boscawen Park, in the corner by the Nursery and Depot. The Council agreed all proceeds raised will be donated to the local charity Royal Cornwall Museum.

**Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests**

We have responded to two requests for information received by the Mayor relating to the use of chemicals including pesticides since the last meeting.

**RHS South West In Bloom (SWIB) Update**

The annual presentation event is due to take place on 10 October 2022 at Hazelbury Plunket.

**Truro City Council Garden and Allotment Competition Update**

The results of this competition have been sent out to entrants and have been sent out with a press release by the Communications Team. Arrangements are being made for a presentation evening to which winners will be invited to attend. The Mayor will be in attendance and an invitation will also be sent to members of the Parks and Amenities Committee in due course.

**Treffry Road**

I recently attended a meeting with Cornwall Council on the development of tree planting plans for the Treffry Road estate. Cornwall Council will be planning the design of a native fruit and nut orchard along with native woodland as part of the application for the 'Forest for Cornwall'. This will be planted for the Queen's Green Canopy in celebration of the Platinum Jubilee. The fruit and nut orchard will hopefully now be sponsored by the Rotary Club. Currently the aim is to hold a community planting event in November.

**Truro City Council Flower Beds and Transfer of Nursery from Boscawen Park to Idless**

There is an on-going, growing issue with weeds in beds across the parks, gardens and Town Centre. In the autumn all of the Council's flower beds will be ripped out as usual and organic matter will be dug in to help improve soil quality. Any weeds which grow will then be chemically treated, following which the beds will be turned over and more organic matter added. Pots of hyacinth, tulips and daffodil will be plunge-planted into the beds for the spring display. The pots will be grown cold in the new polytunnels at Idless. This process will also facilitate the transfer of the Nursery facility from Boscawen Park to Idless. During the move, one Nursery Supervisor will work at Boscawen Park and the other will be based at Idless. The move will be undertaken 'in-house' including transport.

**Use of Parks and Gardens**

The Parks and Amenities Manager's Secretary working with the Compliance Officer continue to process applications for use and events in the Council's parks and gardens as usual. Since the last meeting:

a. Boscawen Park

- Use of part of the field by a local company for a work-social football activity on 27 07 22.
- Use of part of the field by a local company for a free rugby taster event for 2 - 7-year-old children on 21 08 22. The Town Clerk gave permission under urgency due to timescale.
- Use of part of the field for overflow parking for Cornwall Somerset County Cricket Match 31 07 22. The Town Clerk granted permission under urgency due to timescale.
- Use of Park by independent production filming for a TV programme 13 08 22.
- Use of Riverside Walk for drone filming – take-off and landing area 25 08 22.

b. Victoria Gardens –

- Hall for Cornwall Youth theatre rehearsals (16.07.22) rehearsals and evening performance (16.07.22) Minute 36 refers.
- The Town Clerk approved use on 24 07 22 for an orienteering event – one control sited in Victoria Gardens on bridge parapet - under urgency procedure due to timescale.

- Yoga class – additional class booked 04.09.22. A different class cancelled their August bookings.

This year so far, we have dealt with approximately 40 applications for use of the Council's parks and gardens ranging from a funfair to small exercise groups. Last year this was about 34 applications.

### **Weather**

Following the continuing drought, South West Water announced a hosepipe ban which comes into effect on 23 August. I have considered how the Department might operate if a hose-pipe ban is initiated by South West Water. As reported at previous meetings, the new Nursery site at Idless is supplied with water from a borehole, rather than mains water. In addition, there is a full supply of water available from the rain harvesting system. We stopped watering the annual bedding. However, watering of planting paid for as part of the summer bedding scheme and establishing permanent borders will continue. We have also placed notices at the allotment sites confirming the use of hosepipes is banned but plots can be watered with buckets or watering cans etc.

### **RECOMMENDED:**

That the report be noted.

**Richard Budge**  
**Parks and Amenities Manager**  
**31 August 2022**