

MINUTES OF THE YATE IN BLOOM GROUP HELD ON TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER FROM 6.00PM TO 7.30PM AT POOLE COURT.

PRESENT: Councillors Martin Monk (part meeting), Wully Perks and Sue Walker (Chair) - Yate Town Council
Pat Cotterell – Dodington Parish Councillor
Sarah Collins – Severnside Community Rail Partnership
Claire Jaggard – My Yate/Sodbury & Yate Business Association
Jim Mathison – South Gloucestershire Council
David Picton – Yate Rotary Club
Ann Simpson – V-involved
Roland Sims – Yate Leisure Centre
Neil Weston – Yate Library
Sue Bruton, Bill Flook (part meeting) Cindy Garrett, Mike Garrett, Julie Holbrook, Lin Kendall, Sylvia Eastwood, Peter Seymour, Sandra Seymour, Robin Waldrup (Vice Chair) – Local Residents
Town Clerk’s PA – Yate Town Council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Daffyd Holbrook, Councillor Christine Howard and Councillor Paul Hulbert (Dodington Parish Council). Abdul Choudhury, Margaret Lamb (South Gloucestershire Council). John Abraham (Yate Library), Kevin Brown (Yate and Sodbury Business Association). Margaret Church, Graham Dennis, Christine Dennis, Nadine Peters (Local Residents). Mark Williams (Yate Town Council).
Absent Councillor Arthur Adams, Councillor Mike Robbins, Councillor Chris Willmore. Justin Aldhouse, Richard Aston, Don Gee, Mike Pearce, Jane Renton, Alan Spiller.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Sue Walker took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting, introductions took place.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED Councillor Sue Walker be elected as Chair of Yate in Bloom and Robin Waldrup be elected as Vice Chair.

RESOLVED Sylvia Eastwood and Sue Bruton to document the Yate in Blooms’ activities.

RESOLVED Lin Kendall to be the official Yate in Bloom photographer.

4. TO AGREE A NAME FOR THE GROUP

The group hope to be called ‘Yate and Dodington in Bloom’. It was **NOTED** that Dodington Parish Council have a meeting tomorrow evening and will discuss

becoming part of Yate in Bloom, the Parish Council will then inform the group of its decision.

5. **TO AGREE A CONSTITUTION**

RESOLVED It was agreed, for the first year, to use the Yate Community Plan constitution and bank account.

6. **TO DISCUSS HOLDING A YATE IN BLOOM LAUNCH EVENT**

RESOLVED It was agreed that because of the full turn out at tonight's meeting there is no need to hold a separate launch event for Yate in Bloom.

7. **THE ROTARY PURPLE CROCUS SCHEME**

David Picton, Chair of the Yate Rotary Club, offered 3000 purple crocus bulbs for planting in a prominent area of Yate. He explained that the Rotary Club have been involved in a scheme to eradicate Polio since 1979 and that the colour purple signifies that when a child is vaccinated, they have a purple stamp put on their little finger.

The group thanked The Rotarians for their generous offer and it was **RESOLVED** that the crocus bulbs should be planted on the recently cleared land around the Morrison's roundabout and that any spare bulbs could be used to brighten up such areas as Goose Green Way.

It was **NOTED** that the bulbs should be planted on mass in order to provide a good show and that they need plenty of space as they will spread.

RESOLVED Jim Mathison will liaise with David Picton to ensure that the planting is undertaken as soon as possible.

8. **DESIGNING AND PLANTING IMPROVEMENTS TO YATE RAILWAY STATION. WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FRIENDS OF YATE STATION AND THE SEVERNSIDE COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP**

It was **NOTED** that a South Gloucestershire Council Grant of £1000 has been secured to design and plant some displays to improve Yate train station.

Sarah Collins from Severnside Community Rail Partnership addressed the group and spoke about some ideas to improve the station. A general discussion took place and the main points were as follows;

- £1000 is a good sum and will certainly go along way to improving the train station especially in terms of colour;
- using the probation service to help with clearance and planting will help keep costs down;
- Sarah will approach First Great Western to find out about potential funding;
- it was agreed that once work starts on improving the station it will be easier to gain extra funding and help from other sources such as local businesses;

- there has been an offer from Mark Parry from South Gloucestershire's Transportation Service of some new bicycle racks for the station;
- it is possible to apply for O2 grants of up to £1000 if working with young people from local schools;
- involving local school children in the project was thought a good idea as they could learn about rail safety as well as gardening and working in the community;
- Ann Simpson from Vinolved reported that several young people from Yate attend Filton College Horticultural Department who would be very interested in contributing design ideas for planting schemes at Yate train station;
- It was **NOTED** that some areas of the station have been planted up in the past and that the plants are still visible under the brambles. Simply clearing the sight will make a big impact in these areas;
- ongoing maintenance of any planting is an issue at the station as it is not known if there is a near by water source. It was suggested that there may be a possibility of gaining permission to attach a waterbutt to the down pipe of one of the local businesses;

RESOLVED Sarah to ask Sue Douglas from Network Rail whether there is any water source at Yate station.

- Lin Kendall has kindly volunteered to take before and after photographs of any projects undertaken by the Yate in Bloom group. It was **NOTED** that Lin has recently taken some photographs of Yate Station, which she will forward on to the group;
- it was suggested that, once the improvements to the station have been made, a party could be held at the station to publicise the Yate in Bloom project and attract more volunteers;
- it was suggested that the three arches on the side of the building on the Bristol bound side of the station could be filled with relevant mosaics or artwork, and it was **RESOLVED** to identify who owns the building and to approach them regarding the idea.

RESOLVED Ann Simpson, Sarah Collins and Jim Mathison to liaise on drafting some initial design ideas for Yate station, to be circulated at the next Yate in Bloom meeting on Wednesday 3 November.

(Bill Flook entered the meeting)

9. FUTURE PLANS FOR YATE IN BLOOM – SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS

Jenny Shiles from St. Nicholas' Family Centre reported on the community garden they have created. Jenny appealed for volunteers to help in the maintenance of the garden specifically for Saturday 25 September when they are having a special drive to tidy up the garden. It was **NOTED** that Terry Johnson and John Morris from South Gloucestershire have taken an interest in the project and can provide assistance.

It was **NOTED** that Merlin Housing should be approached regarding Yate in Bloom, as they own a lot of housing in the area and may donate towards some planting.

RESOLVED Yate Town Council to contact Merlin Housing to ask for sponsorship/donations.

(Lin Kendall and Pat Cotterell left the meeting)

It was **NOTED** that a map of Yate should be circulated at the next Yate in Bloom meeting so that potential sites for Yate in Bloom projects can be identified.

It was **NOTED** that Yate Shopping Centre's floral displays have looked very attractive this year.

RESOLVED Yate Town Council to write to Yate Shopping Centre commending them on their efforts and asking for their help and support in the Yate in Bloom project. It was also thought appropriate to write to Tesco, Morrisons and B&Q to try and get their support and involvement.

It was **NOTED** that both Thornbury in Bloom and Chipping Sodbury in Bloom have created logos for their groups. This was thought a good idea as it will help raise awareness in the project.

RESOLVED Yate Town Council to draft a letter to local schools asking them to design a logo for the Yate in Bloom group.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the next meeting of the Yate in Bloom Group will be held on Wednesday 3 November at 6.00pm, at Poole Court.