

# Gloucester City Council

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> April 2014</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Citywide Environmental Projects</b>		
<b>Report Of:</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Environment</b>		
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Budget/Policy Framework:</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Ross Cook, Head of Neighbourhood Services</b>		
	<b>Ross.cook@gloucester.gov.uk</b>		<b>Tel: 396355</b>
<b>Appendices:</b>	<b>1 – Diagram of WWI Planting Proposal</b>		

## **1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To set out a number of Environmental Projects that are to be delivered across the City in 2014/15.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.2 Cabinet is asked to:

- (1) Note the ongoing partnership working across the City to improve the environment, on road verges, open spaces, in the City Centre and at Robinswood Hill.
- (2) Endorse the proposals to extend the successful Urban Wildflower Planting to provide a suitable floral WWI commemoration in the City.

## **3.0 Background and Key Issues**

### **3.1 Robinswood Hill / Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust**

- 3.2 This year has seen an increased emphasis of co-operation and partnership working between the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) and the City Council. GWT have their headquarters at Robinswood Hill and in June they were active participants in the 'Funfest' celebration along with the City Council and OneChurch. The event saw somewhere in the region of 1000 people visiting the Hill, many of whom had never been before or had not been for a number of years.

- 3.3 One of the benefits of this co-operative approach the award of £92,000 to the 'All Paths Lead to the Hill' project. The award was from the Heritage Lottery Fund and is a 2 year project aimed at increasing the connectivity of local communities with Robinswood Hill. The main partners are the City Council, GWT and Gloucester City Homes. The launch of the project was a Wizard, Witches and Wildlife event to

coincide with Halloween. It was exceedingly well attended, again seeing many hundreds of people come to the hill.

- 3.4 There are many other events and capital works associated with the project which will be rolled out over the coming year including; new interpretation boards, archaeological and geological projects, new wood sculptures and improvements to the footpath network.
- 3.5 Looking to the future we are working closely with the GWT on improving the offer at Robinswood Hill including an upgraded visitor centre and potential cafe. We would expect to submit a substantial bid for funding in the coming 18 months.
- 3.6 **Westgate Leisure Park and Alney Island**
- 3.7 Officers have also been actively creating partnerships at other sites. Westgate Leisure Park is a beneficiary of some Section 106 funding and officers have been working with local stakeholders in taking proposals for the park forward. A local cycle club are keen to promote the site for a competition standard BMX track and we have been working with them to help them realise this dream along with other improvements to the park. Officers are also working with other funders to enable better connectivity of the site to Alney Island Nature reserve and within the reserve itself.
- 3.8 **Urban Wildflower Meadows**
- 3.9 The introduction of Urban Wildflowers Meadows across the City has been an unprecedented success with a considerable number of compliments and media coverage throughout the summer of 2013. Our Streetcare Partner, Amey, has been working with us to further extend the number of locations where the Urban Meadows can be installed.
- 3.10 The success of the scheme means that officers have received many requests for similar planting to added in a number of new locations, although not all of them would be suitable. However, Amey are looking to introduce a number of new sites and seed mixes so as to refresh existing sites and to introduce further colour across the City.
- 3.11 The final sites are to be agreed based on the impact of those sites, together with ease of access for preparing the site and for ongoing maintenance. Seventeen new sites have been identified for consideration, including –
- Trier Way – from Go Outdoors to Regent Street
  - Robert Raikes Avenue Open Space
  - Hempsted Lane – close to the High Orchard Public House
  - Eastern Avenue – verges close to the Cemetery entrance
- 3.12 Work on the sites will commence shortly and, subject to the weather conditions, the new sites should see the first blooms in the early summer.
- 3.13 **WWI Commemorations**

- 3.14 Linked to the Urban Wildflower Meadows, officers have been looking at a number of designs and locations that would be suitable to introduce some new planting schemes that will supplement the WWI commemorations being held across the City and that will provide a lasting reminder of the human sacrifice as a result of WWI.
- 3.15 One of which will see a gradual development of the site over a few years and will tell a number of stories linked to the changing use of land, for example, by introducing fruit trees and other vegetable plants, we will highlight aspects of the “Dig for Victory” campaign that aimed to ensure that there was sufficient food. A concept drawing (Appendix 1) has been created showing areas of wildflower planting, including new mixes of poppies, together with some fruit trees laid out in the shape of spokes of a canon wheel with pathways interspersed through the site.
- 3.16 Support for the proposal is therefore sought, with the final locations and designs being agreed in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment.

### **3.17 City Centre Spring Clean / On-Street Recycling**

- 3.18 Following the success of the Community Spring Clean in the City Centre in 2013, it is proposed to carry out a similar Spring Clean on Wednesday 9 April. A number of local businesses and Community Groups have already signed up volunteers to support this project.
- 3.19 The format for the day will see our Streetcare Partner, Amey, carrying out a number of intense cleaning activities with our volunteers giving their time to carry out litter picks, cleaning street furniture and generally sprucing up the City Centre ahead of the influx of visitors during the Easter holidays.
- 3.20 As part of the projects being carried out to increase recycling rates across the City, we have recently introduced a new recycling facility in to Kings Square. The “Recycling Pod” has a number of compartments that allow people to deposit their recyclable materials whilst visiting the City Centre. The facility has been in place for a few weeks and is now seeing an increase in use, although there is an element of materials being placed into the wrong compartments. The Pod will be moved to other areas of the City Centre so that we can gauge its use and then assess the potential for some permanent on-street recycling to be located in the City Centre.

### **3.21 Recycling - Food Waste Campaign**

- 3.22 Our Food Waste Recycling Scheme re-launch has started with 2000 properties in Tuffley and Hucclecote receiving samples of compostable bags. Measuring took place before commencement of the trial period and 3 further weighs will take place over the next 6 weeks to establish if there is an improvement. The findings will be used to promote food waste recycling across the city, in conjunction with promotion events and a resident survey, which are taking place during April and May.
- 3.23 Twenty new communal food waste bins have been installed across the city at various sites and educational material has been given out at all the sites. Early indications are that residents are using the bins.

#### **4.0 Alternative Options Considered**

4.1 The report covers a number of environmental projects to be carried out across the City and no alternative options are proposed.

#### **5.0 Reasons for Recommendations**

5.1 The report seeks Cabinets support for the ongoing activities and to thank our many partners who work with us to help keep the City tidy and provide environmental improvements for us all to enjoy.

#### **6.0 Future Work and Conclusions**

6.1 The works identified will be monitored and changes made to the programme of works where necessary.

#### **7.0 Financial Implications**

7.1 The activities identified in this report are funded from existing budgets.

#### **8.0 Legal Implications**

8.1 There are no legal implications of the activities set out in this report.

#### **9.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications**

9.1 None.

#### **10.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):**

10.1 Not applicable.

#### **11.0 Other Corporate Implications**

##### Community Safety

11.1 None

##### Sustainability

11.2 None

##### Staffing & Trade Union

11.3 None

**Background Documents:** None