

Report on	Grounds Maintenance - Seasonal Planting Display requests
Reporting Officer	Terry Scullion, Head of Property Services
Contact Officer	Nat Woodside, Grounds and Cemeteries Manager

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	<p>For members to consider a request for Seasonal Planting Displays for the following:</p> <p>a) The Girls Brigade (NI) to mark the 125th anniversary of the Girls Brigade, and b) Tobermore Boys Brigade to mark their 60th anniversary</p>
2.0	Background
2.1	The Girls Brigade (NI) are celebrating their 125 th anniversary and as part of the celebration they are requesting all Councils to display a flower bed depicting their crest in a prominent location (see Appendix 1).
2.2	A local request has been made from Tobermore Boys Brigade for an existing flower bed that is planted and maintained by Council bed in front of the primary school to be planted to mark their 60 th anniversary.
2.3	In March 2016 a similar request was received from Dungannon Rotary Club to mark their 60 th Anniversary. A replacement tarpaulin was branded with their livery and installed at the M1 Gateway to Dungannon near Stangmore Roundabout, rather than seasonal planting to acknowledge the anniversary.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	While a policy is not in place for such requests, it is not uncommon to work with local stakeholders on seasonal planting scheme (e.g. Planting with school communities for Eco-Schools programmes, village groups with planting in return for maintenance support, etc). It may be an option for the two organisations to provide volunteers to take part in planting in partnership with council, and commit to maintenance of same for the season.
3.2	Alternatively it may be an option to seek payment for the creation of a Special Floral Displays similar to the arrangements applied to installations in Council's Memorial tree and Benches policy.
3.3	If members agree to proceed with either request in order to ensure maximum impact to it is recommended planting the display on an elevated bed. This may require the fabrication

	of a frame in order to hold the planting design on the slope. Consideration of planting in any location will also require a streetworks survey in order to safely carry out planting, preparation and regular maintenance. Depending on the location and the type of arrangement it may require consultation with Transport NI.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Financial: Fabrication of metal racking and purchase of seasonal flowers is estimated at approx. £800 per bed, however this would be subject to the scale of the bed and site suitability. Seasonal planting provision for existing beds is subject to 18/19 financial year estimates.</p> <p>Human: This project will require staff time to facilitate the request which would include design and installation. Additional resource would be required in order to carry out maintenance activities.</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>It should be noted that no expressions of interest were sought from any other organisations or groups in the district. There is no current policy or programme in place to for such requests and these are currently dealt with on an ad-hoc basis.</p>
4.3	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u></p> <p>N/A</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are requested to note the content of the report and advise how they wish to proceed
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 Letter From Girls Brigade (NI) and Image