



Berwick upon Tweed Town Council

Local Services Committee

06 December 2021

Appendix D

Report of Finance Officer

Quayside Planters

Access Public

Background

1. In March 2020, the Local Services committee adopted the recommendations made in a report on floral displays. This included a commitment to introduce perennial planting to a number of the Quayside barrel planters in line with the governing principles of the Royal Horticultural Society Britain in Bloom competition to reduce the quantities of disposable annual plants used in creating public displays.
2. In autumn 2020, plants and bulbs to implement the agreed design were ordered, although unfortunately the bulbs were mis-identified by Northumberland County Council and utilised elsewhere. During 2021, the plants [Achillea, Heuchera and ornamental grasses; total cost £210] established reasonably well despite the difficult growing season and reduced level of care as staff were occupied elsewhere.
3. In autumn 2021, replacement bulbs were obtained and these were planted in early November by a Berwick Town Council staff member and the scheme designer, at which time the planters were weeded and the achillea flowering stems removed. The ornamental grass was left as the height and movement provided by their stems over winter was an important aspect of the design.
4. Sadly, later in November all the achillea and grasses were removed from the planters, so destroying the planting scheme and rendering the earlier work redundant.

Recommendation

1. Councillors note the report.

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| Author | RPL | Town Clerk sign off (if required) | GD |
| Checked by | SC | Finance Officer sign off (if required) | RPL |