

Rose Garden, Flagstaff Park

Background

1. To commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee, Berwick Town Council commissioned rose arches for the rose garden in Flagstaff Park.
2. At the same time [April 2013], replanting work was begun in both the formal rose beds, the perennial beds either side of the rose arches and the area between the path and rose garden.

Current situation: Rose Beds

3. While the rose planting was successful, the complementary planting within the beds was less so, with the result that there are currently large areas of bare earth which play host to a range of annual weeds each summer [Photo 1]



Photo 1 Largely empty rose bed in rose garden

4. This creates an appearance of neglect and potentially has a negative impact on the scores achieved by Berwick during the Northumbria in Bloom competition.

Current Situation: Perennial and path Beds

5. Many of the plants planted in 2013 have established well, although some persistent weeds, such as brambles and willow herb, need to be removed. This, and other tidying work is scheduled to take place in the next 2-3 weeks.
6. Despite the success of the plants introduced in 2013, there remain some bare areas in need of planting and some areas where additional plants would enhance the existing planting scheme.

Proposal

- For the rose beds, the proposal is plant up the bare areas with herbs [rosemary, marjoram and thyme] and catmint according to a plan shown in figures 1&2.

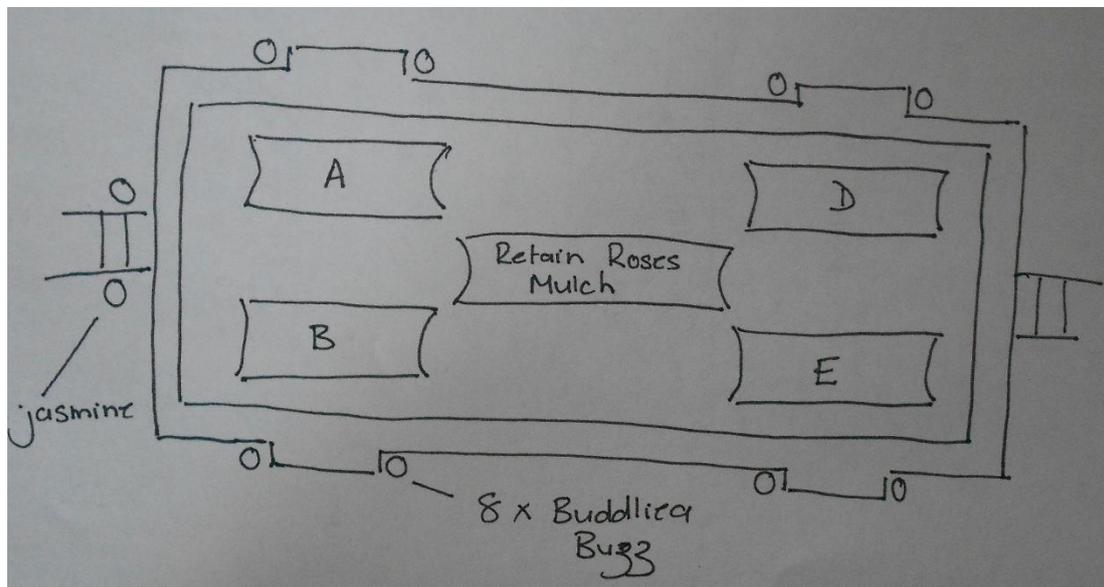


Figure 1 Rose garden layout

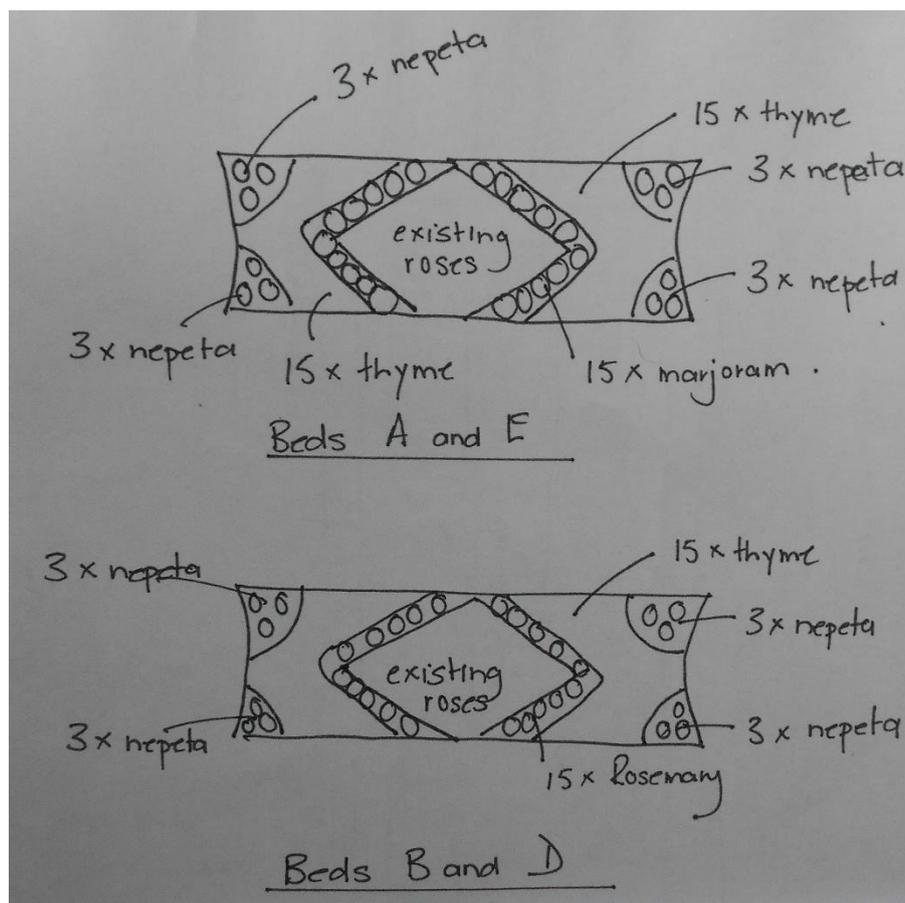


Figure 2 Planting plan for rose beds

The cost of these 250 plants is £523.60, just over £2.00 each.

8. Additionally, it is proposed to improve the perennial and path beds by introducing some extra plants. These include dwarf buddleia [growing to about 80cm] at either side of each seat around the perimeter of the rose garden, two winter flowering jasmine on the northern rose arch and 15 low growing evergreen shrubs [five each of Christmas box, carpet box and hebe].
9. The cost these 25 plants is £61.50 or just under £2.50 each.
10. Planting the plants will largely be undertaken by local cadets, who have volunteered for the task.

Budget

11. At present, there is £920 unallocated funds remaining in the current year budget for Floral Displays (materials), code 4508. This will more than cover the £585 estimated cost of the proposal.

Recommendation

12. The committee note the report.