



Report

Officer: Barry Ince - Outdoor and Property Manager
 Date: 14 February 2023
 Meeting: Full Council - Tuesday 21st February 2023

Review of Hanging Baskets and Mangers

Background.

The Outdoor and Property Manager has recently conducted a review of hanging baskets and mangers to look at the economy of scale and potential savings for the future.

The table below shows where we currently install hanging baskets and mangers and where we might be able to reduce the number without having too much loss of visual impact, the table is not representative of the total number of each in all locations. Most of the savings would be made by reducing the four branch poles to two branch poles.

Discussion/Comment

Location:	No of baskets:	Reduce by:	Potential Saving:	No of Mangers:	Reduce by:	Potential Saving:
*Town Hall	12	12	£306.00	2	2	£127.50
*Library	2	2	£51.00	2	2	£150.00
*Clock Tower	4	4	£102.00	0	0	
*Cemetery	0	0		2	2	£90.00
Fox Corner	52	26	£663.00	10	2	£90.00
Kidderminster Island	20	8	£204.00	0	0	
Castle Grounds	8	2	£51.00	3	0	£90.00
Savings by type	98	54	£1,377.00	19	8	£547.50
Total Savings	£1,924.50					

*The Town Hall baskets were removed for safety reasons and alternative options for ground mounted planters could be investigated.

*The 2 basket brackets on the library also failed the load test and were removed. Those baskets were once sponsored by the SVR, but that has not been the case for many years now as were the two large mangers on the railings in front of the entrance. As this is a Shropshire Council building are the Council content to continue funding those at a cost of £201.00 per year

*The Clock Tower baskets were also removed for safety reasons.

*2 mangers that were attached to the canteen wall in the Cemetery can no longer be seen behind the newly erected garden fence and could be removed.

A large number of the 4 stem baskets poles could be reduced to 2 stems. The ones in the High Street would remain 4's but there are currently 13 x 4's at Fox Corner that could be reduced to 2's without too much visual impact.

Although the Town Council is locked into contract with Littlefords Nursery to supply 255 baskets, 47 mangers of various sizes and 46 bridge box liners it may be possible to negotiate a swap for a variety of perennial plants and a supply of bagged soluble fertilizer to add to the water bowser during the watering season. We won't know until we try. However, there is the possibility to reduce the floral display bill by circa £2k in the future and Council are therefore requested to consider this as an option for 2024 onwards. An increase in perennial planting would make further savings by decreasing the number of bedding plants required.

Recommendation(s)

That the Town Hall baskets are removed permanently and that an alternative decorations be looked into.

That the Council consider the permanent removal of the hanging baskets from the Library for safety reasons and also consider the removal of the 2 mangers to reduce costs.

That the Clocktower baskets be permanently removed for safety reasons.

That we remove the 2 mangers from the wall of the Canteen where they can no longer be seen.

That we the Outdoor and Properties Manager attempts to negotiate with Littlefords for alternative products where reductions in this years order are agreed by Council.