

JULY, 2020



Dear Sponsor,

We hope this communication finds yourself, family and business continuing to thrive during these extraordinary times. You may appreciate an update of In Bloom activities and rationale of recent months. As with many voluntary groups, shielding and self- isolation has had a major impact on our ability to continue working to our usual format. We have been reduced to a handful of volunteers in a position to safely take on the clearing, planting and watering of tubs. In addition, we have had to work around the challenges faced by the horticultural sector in accessing plants in quantity at reasonable cost. With 99 tubs plus troughs to maintain some hard decisions needed to be taken early on as to what could realistically be achieved, and more importantly, maintained given the uncertainty of lockdown restrictions. The earlier spring watering had to be built around individual volunteer's daily hour's exercise allocation and safe distancing. Our planned colour scheme has been rolled over to next year as we have had to adapt to availability of stock. We were determined to provide some colour within the town, especially with the prospect of gradual easing of lock down so prioritised the main focal points, such as Chisholm's, and businesses that were remaining open. With some additional, and much appreciated offers of watering from some businesses, we have been able to extend that recently. All tubs have been cleared of spring planting, and in some cases will remain fallow until we start planting again in September/October ready for spring next year. We do appreciate the disappointment experienced by those businesses for whom we have been unable to provide our usual high standard, and we hope to reflect that in next year's sponsorship rate for those businesses affected.

We wish those businesses reopening every success. Thanks go to those who have been able to adapt to new challenges in remaining open; they have been a lifeline to many. Please do not hesitate to contact should you wish further information.

With all good wishes,

Gaynor De Barr, Chairman. 01751 450250