

Developing a sustainability and plastic free angle to Malmesbury in Bloom

1. Purpose of the report

1.1 To propose and agree to focusing on sustainable gardening practice at next year's Malmesbury in Bloom. This will include providing information on some sustainable practices and creating a new award category for which Cllr Vandelli will provide the trophy

2. Background

2.1 C&TP has run the Malmesbury in Bloom gardening competition for many years and over that time it has evolved and there have been new trophies added along the way.

2.2 In 2018/2019 MTC made a pledge to reduce single use plastics and to encourage hirers to do the same. MTC has initiated some other changes to more sustainable practices as well.

2.3 It seems sensible then, that we should encourage gardeners who enter our competition to set their sights on sustainable practices and protecting biodiversity, especially in view of the problems caused by the petrochemical industry and plastic pollution.

3. Proposal

3.1 That the Community and Town Promotions Committee agree to add a category for 'sustainable gardener' or 'biodiversity guardian' or 'responsible gardener' (or some other title) to the 2022 competition.

3.2 That C&TP advertise the new category at the Malmesbury in Bloom award evening, so that participants have time to get ready.

3.3 That C&TP provides some information and references for reading so that gardeners can take steps to reduce their single use plastics (such as avoiding the plastic trays of plugs for hanging baskets and flower beds), avoid chemical weed killers and compost with peat in, etc.

4. Costs

4.1 The cost of the trophy will be covered by Cllr Vandelli

5. Risks

5.1 I can't think of any

6. Recommendation

6.1 That the committee agree to agree to adding the category and providing information and encouragement to engage in more sustainable gardening practices.

Cllr Fran Vandelli