Kendal Town Council

Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal LA9 4DD
www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk

13 October 2026

To Members of the Kendal in Bloom Committee

Kendal Town Council Members	Co-optees
Cllr A Blackman (Chair)	Caroline Stuart-Smith (Horticare)
Cllr D Brown	Toni Yates (Kendal Civic Society)
Cllr E Hennessy	
Cllr L Hendry	
Cllr R Sutton (Vice-Chair)	

You are invited to a meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee on Tuesday, 20 October 2026, at **6pm**, in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal. Details of the meeting can be found on the Town Council's website. www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk.

(Distributed to other Members of the Council for information only.)

Yours faithfully

Chris Bagshaw
Town Clerk

Public Participation
Any member of the public who wishes to ask a question, make representations or present a deputation or petition at this meeting should apply to do so before the commencement of the meeting. Information on how to make the application is available on the Council's Website - KTC_Guidance-on-Public-Participation-and-Recording-Meetings.pdf or by emailing the council at office@kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk.

1. Apologies

To receive and accept any apologies. If accepted, apologies will be considered to be for reasons approved by the Council under the terms of the Local Government Act 1972, S.85.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations by members and/or co-optees of interests in respect of items on this agenda.

3. Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

To consider whether there are any agenda items during consideration of which the press and public should be excluded.

4. Minutes from the Last Meeting (pages 3 to 4)

To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Committee on 21 July 2026 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

5. Minute Action Sheet (page 5)

To consider a report on actions taken by officers on resolutions or recommendations made at previous meetings.

6. Kirkland Project Update (pages 6 to 11)

To receive a report from the Project Officer on the progress of the Kirkland Project.

7. Review of Spend against Budget 2026/27 (page 12)

To note the Committee's spend against budget in the current financial year.

8. Grant Application (pages 13 to 15)

To consider a grant application from 2nd Kendal Rainbows and Brownies.

Amount requested: £500

9. Civic Planting 2026 (pages 16 to 17)

To consider an update report on the Civic Planting.

10. Street Stewards (pages 18 to 22)

To consider a discussion paper on the concept of 'Street stewards'.

11. Budget Proposals 2027/28 (page 23)

To consider a report on the Committee's budget requirements for the financial year commencing 1 April 2027.

Background

The Committee should make its budget proposals which will be considered by the Management Committee's Budget Working Group, prior to a report on the Budget being submitted to the Full Council in February 2027.

Kendal Town Council

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Minutes of a meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee held on Tuesday, 21 July 2026, at 6pm in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal.

Kendal Town Council Members		Co-optees	
Cllr A Blackman (Chair)	Present	Caroline Stuart-Smith (Horticare)	Present
Cllr D Brown	Present	Toni Yates (Kendal Civic Society)	Present
Cllr E Hennessy	Present		
Cllr L Hendry	Present		
Cllr R Sutton (Vice-Chair)	Apologies		

In attendance: Chris Bagshaw (Town Clerk), and Janine Holt (Council Services Manager), Ben Unsworth (Democratic Services Assistant – Temporary).

B1/2026 Apologies

To receive and accept the apologies from Cllr Sutton.

B2/2026 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were raised.

B3/2026 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

There were no excluded items on the agenda.

B4/2026 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved: To receive and accept the minutes of the previous meeting of this Committee held on 21 April 2026 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

B5/2026 Minute Action Sheet

The Committee discussed the actions taken by officers, mainly focusing on items **B26/2025**, **B27/2025**, and **B29/2025**, commenting on the works needed

to be done on grot spots such as Blackhall Road, the work which the EGO can undertake once he has started, and the pressure on staff time.

The Committee then suggested that an informal working group to assist with litter-picking might be fruitful, and as such that the creation of a WhatsApp group where organisation of this could take place would be useful. Concerns were raised on account of past issues, however Cllr Hennessy volunteered to manage this group assuming there was no issue of optics in the public eye.

Resolved: To note the report.

B6/2026 Review of Spend against Budget 2026/27

The Committee noted no particular advances in the Spend against Budget, however suggested that a report from the Projects Officer would be beneficial. Additionally, the Council Services Manager reported that she was still awaiting some bills on civic planting.

Resolved: To note the report.

B7/2026 Review of Spend against Budget 2026/27

The Committee received a report from the Council Services Manager on civic planting. It was noted that services had been delivered on time despite loss of staff, including the positive work at the bus station. The involvement of Cath's Plants was commended. They suggested that deadheading and a solution to the problem of the planting on Highgate be a future priority, and that the baskets could be phased out in place of bedding next year.

The upcoming start of the EGO was commended and the Committee requested that he be present at the next meeting. Also commended was the work of the Council Services Manager.

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update on the Heart of Kendal project, including that consultations over areas like Finkle Street and Market Square are ongoing, and that the W&FC stewardship over the tree pits in the town centre is considered a priority. The Committee then queried whether more inclusive mowing of Summerfell Gardens could also be prioritised. Additionally, they noted the initiatives taken by the Environment Committee, including the footpath surveys, and were positive about these developments.

Resolved: To note the reports and to include this Committee's entry for Cumbria in Bloom on the next agenda.

The meeting closed at 6.38pm.

Kendal-in-Bloom Committee - Minute Action Sheet - as at 20th October 2026

Ref. No.	Meeting Date	Minute No.	Title	Action (Resolution)	Officer Responsible	Deadline, if any	Date Actioned	Comments
14	21/10/2025	B18/2025	Horticultural Advisor	To engage Shelagh Todd as horticultural advisor.	JH/BH/GP		Ongoing	Officers continue to work with the Horticultural Advisor.
	24/02/2026	B26/2025	Review of Spend Against Budget	To allocate up to £100 for lavender plants for the Jubilee bed. To allocate up to £2,000 to replace the planters on Blackhall Road. To investigate planting possibilities on Waterside.	JH	31.3.26	Completed	Budget was approved for the planters. A PO is on the system and they will be in situ for the Spring planting.
	24/02/2026	B29/2025	Litter Picking	To re-commence Volunteer litter picks in the spring, for a trial period, subject to the necessary health and safety policies being in place.	EH		Ongoing	To look at the feasibility of re-establishing volunteer litter picks. To establish a whatsapp group to co-ordinate the litter picking
	21/07/2026	B7/2026	Cumbria in Bloom entry	To include this Committee's entry for Cumbria in Bloom on the next agenda.	CB/JH	20.10.26	Completed	The cumbria in bloom entry for 2027 is an agenda item to be discusssed

Kendal Town Council

Agenda Report

Committee: Kendal in Bloom	Meeting Date: 20 October 2026
From: Projects Officer	Agenda No. 4
Description: Kirkland Gateway Project Update Report	

Background

The Committee has been concentrating its resources on the gateway areas of Kirkland, with a series of planting schemes being led by the Council's Projects Officer.

Progress Report

Please note the following updates:

- Dowker's Lane Bed – the new plants have taken well after a difficult start due to the dry weather in the summer. Officers have contacted W&F a few times to understand ongoing maintenance especially weed removal, weeds suppression by ground cover, but have not received a reply.

- The Brownies have identified a patch of grass between the upper and lower car park in Kendal Parish Church Car Park. With the help of KTC officers and Cath's plants, the Brownies have obtained approval from Parish Trust. They have now submitted a KIB grant application to assist with the set-up costs of this project.

- Gillingate/Kirkland Park – Contact has been made with Natural Kendal to initiate plans for next year as this was identified in their "Mapping Open Spaces for People and Nature" project (funded by the Town Council). One suggestion is to re-create something like "Kendal's Legendary Landscape Trail".

- Kirkland High Street – Please see the separate Hanging Baskets report.

Decision Required

None. The Committee is asked to note the report.

Kirkland in Bloom – Hanging baskets project

Kirkland remains a road with little biodiversity along the main street. The idea of this project, is to bring colour and biodiversity to the main street.

Enhancing this area visually may bring about change in pride for the area, a better gateway into Kendal through the busy one-way system used by walkers, cyclists and motorists. This may in turn bring about a decrease in the empty shops as an area that looks nice, may well attract new businesses.

Similar schemes are run in Penrith by BID and Henley by their Town Council.

The idea:

- Businesses rent a hanging basket for the summer months. Ordering in February/March.
- The baskets are purchased initially by KTC.
- The baskets are filled at the same time as the rest of the Civic Planting by Laburnam nurseries and compliment the Civic Planting scheme.
- The brackets are installed by a local tradesperson with the right skills.
- The baskets are installed by Christmas plus when they install the Civic Planting hanging baskets.
- The baskets are watered by KTC or a contractor.
- The baskets are removed by Christmas plus in Autumn when they remove the Civic hanging baskets.

Permissions/Compliance	The Baskets	The Brackets
• Minimum height • Licenses for working in Highways – installation of brackets/watering • Permission from the building owner, not just the business • Load testing • Public liability insurance	• 41cm diameter = £36.48 • Small enough to go on a shop front • Designed for less watering • Matches existing Civic Planting • Could get different colours to define Kirkland	• Bracket designed by a local blacksmith. • With a theme of biodiversity, the brackets could be installed up Kirkland in participating businesses. • They would then look good even when the baskets were not in place in the winter months.

Sustainability

- Annuals will be needed, but as with the Civic planting we will work towards more sustainable planting.
- Bee friendly plants so they have ‘pit stop’ areas along Kirkland.
- Work with Natural Kendal, to see if they have advice on what to plant.

Watering Capability

- Businesses won’t be able to water themselves as it would need ladders in the Highway
- We have contacted local window cleaners, to see if they can assist with the watering.
- KTC have confirmed we can include this into our watering schedule.
- Early morning watering to reduce traffic/pedestrian disruption.

Potential Costs & Funding

Item	No. of items (assume 20)	Cost per item	Total Cost	Who pays?
Baskets	20	£36.48		KTC project budget
Brackets	20			KTC project budget
Planting	20			Business
Installation of brackets	20			
Installation and removal of baskets	20			
Load bearing tests	20			
Watering	20			

Kendal Town Council

Annual Budget - By Centre (Actual YTD Month 7)

Note: Full Budget Statement

		25/26		26/27				27/28		
		Budget	Actual	Total	Actual YTD	Projected	Committed	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
440	**Kendal In Bloom**									
1999	Other Income	0	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total Income	0	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4900	KIB Floral Displays	30,600	30,004	32,000	15,577	32,000	3,071	0	0	0
4905	KIB Projects & Grants	6,000	6,404	2,000	643	8,000	488	0	0	0
4906	KIB Kirkland Project	0	0	6,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	36,600	36,408	40,000	16,220	40,000	3,559	0	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(36,600)	(35,908)	(40,000)	(16,220)	(40,000)		0		
	Total Budget Income	0	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Expenditure	36,600	36,408	40,000	16,220	40,000	3,559	0	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(36,600)	(35,908)	(40,000)	(16,220)	(40,000)		0		

Kendal Town Council

Kendal in Bloom Grant

2026-2027

Please use this form to apply for a Kendal in Bloom Grant from Kendal Town Council. You must complete all the boxes on the form and submit it along with the required paperwork.

On receipt of this form, you will be given a date when your application will be considered by the relevant committee. You can use additional pages if you require.

Name of Organisation	Principal Contact
2nd Kendal Rainbow and Brownies	Fiona Harrison
Address of organisation	**Address of contact**
Kendal Parish Hall Kirkland Kendal LA9 5AF	[redacted]
Date of application	29th September 2026
Telephone	[redacted]
E-mail	[redacted]

Description of organisation	
We are part of girlguding, the largest girl-only youth organization in the UK, dedicated to empowering girls and young wome between 4 and 18. Our unit is welcoming to 6-10 year olds specifically	
How much funding do you require in total?	£1,000
How much funding are you requesting from the Town Council (maximum £500)	£500.00
Have you approached other funding sources? If so, please list them and the amount you have applied for.	Kendal and District Lions £250.00 Girlguiding NW England, Trefoil Guild B&Q (Equipment)

Tell us what you will do with a grant from Kendal Town Council?

Currently the piece of land we have been granted permission to turn into a 'Brownie Garden' is grass. The area given would be marked out as a rectangle giving straight edges to continue to allow the rest of the area to be mown. There would be sleepers laid to mark out the garden area. We would need to remove the top layer of soil and grass. We would then lay tyres out in a diagonal curvy line to look like a caterpillar. The 'head' of the caterpillar will be chosen from a competition within the Rainbows and Brownies and transferred to a rectangle of wood. There would be two paths laid either side of the caterpillar to allow the Rainbows and Brownies to access the tyres to weed. They would be filled with sensory plants and herbs and edible plants would be planted in the remaining area. This would be completed during our meetings on a Monday night

predominantly by the Rainbows and Brownies under adult supervision. We would then maintain the garden during our meetings going forward. Keeping it weeded, and tidy.

During the project the girls would be able to fulfil the requirements of the 'grow your own' interest badge and the Eco Brownie award which some have started to work towards.

How will your activity benefit the people of Kendal?

The garden can be seen from the colonels walk and Kirkland and would be part of the Kirkland in Bloom scheme Kendal Town Council have developed. The flowers, sensory plants and herbs will give a positive experience to the people who stop to look and improve their mental health.

The girls will get plenty of fresh air and activity creating and maintaining the garden which again will improve the mental health and well being of the girls.

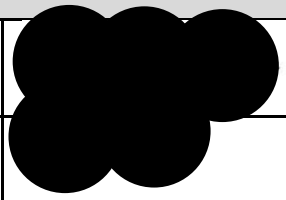
How will your activity help to reduce Kendal's Carbon Footprint?

We are reducing the carbon footprint by planting flowers and plants which absorb carbon dioxide.
During the build and maintenance of the garden we will only use hand tools except in special circumstances for example moving the top layer of soil.
There will be green edible leaves grown which again reduces the carbon footprint as the girls will be able to take a few leaves home to eat.
The planting will encourage pollination which will help food production.

Do you have a constitution? **Please send a copy with your application**	***No***

Bank Details – How does the name of your organisation appear on your bank account? Include your account number and sort code. This is who we will transfer funds to, should your application be successful.

2nd Kend[redacted] and Brownies
Sort cod[redacted] Account Number[redacted]

Please include the following documents with your application					
• **Most recent bank statements and last audited accounts** • **Constitution of group. This must include a statement on how you promote equality**					
Declaration					
• **we understand that grant money from Kendal Town Council must be used for the agreed purpose.** • **we will abide by the conditions of funding.**					
Please note that we do require 3 signatures in order to present your application to Committee.					
Signature		**Name**	**Fiona M Harrison**	**Position**	**Lead volunteer**
Signature		**Name**	**Helen Tideswell**	**Position**	**Volunteer**
Signature		**Name**		**Position**	

Please return completed forms by e-mail or post:

Kendal Town Council, Town Hall, Kendal, LA9 4DD.
office@kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk

Form ref KTC KiBG 2026

Kendal Town Council
Agenda Report

Committee: Kendal in Bloom	Meeting Date: 20 October 2026
From: Council Services Manager	Agenda No:8
Description: Civic Planting Update Report	

Civic Planting Update Report

The 2026 summer civic planting scheme has now been completed as planned. This report provides members with an update on winter planting arrangements, lessons learned from the summer scheme, compost and watering arrangements, the planting bed near Kendal Cricket Club, and recruitment to the Estates and Grounds team.
A comprehensive review of the 2026 planting scheme is currently underway to inform recommendations for the 2027 programme.

Winter Planting Programme

Winter plants are scheduled for delivery on 20 October 2026, with planting to commence shortly afterwards. The Estates and Grounds Officer has begun clearing and preparing containers across the town in readiness for the winter display.
A trial of perennial planting was undertaken in the Wildman Street hanging baskets during the 2026 season. An in-season assessment by the Estates and Grounds Officer found that the display was underperforming, and the baskets were subsequently removed. The findings indicate that these baskets are better suited to annual planting and should continue to be used as a summer-only display.
The summer planting installed in the Highgate tree planters also performed poorly and was removed in July. This was primarily due to the significant root growth of the trees within the containers, which leaves insufficient space for seasonal planting to establish successfully. To improve the appearance of these locations, spring-flowering bulbs have been purchased and will be planted once the winter planting programme has been completed.

Compost

All plants removed from the civic displays will be recycled at the Council's Canal Head facility. While the compost produced on site is of good quality, it lacks some of the nutrients required to support optimum plant growth. The Estates and Grounds Officer has therefore proposed blending the recycled compost with a high-quality commercial compost to enhance its nutrient content and improve growing conditions for future displays.

Watering Arrangements

For the 2027 planting season, responsibility for watering civic displays will return in-house and will be undertaken by a member of the Estates and Grounds team. This approach will provide greater operational flexibility and enable closer monitoring of planting performance throughout the season.

Planting Bed Near Kendal Cricket Club

I have recently been contacted by a member of the public regarding the planting bed located on the area of land in front of Kendal Cricket Club, which has become increasingly overgrown and appears to have fallen into disrepair.
Members may recall that permission was previously granted for Kendal Town Council to utilise this bed as part of the proposed Fern Trail project. As the Fern Trail project has since

been shelved, the site has remained largely unmanaged. The land remains in the ownership of Westmorland and Furness Council.
Officers have contacted Westmorland and Furness Council to establish whether they have any future plans for the site and whether they would support a proposal from Kendal Town Council to redevelop and enhance the area.
Members are invited to consider whether officers should undertake a review of the site and develop options for a future planting scheme.

Review of the 2026 Planting Scheme

The Council Services Manager, Estates and Grounds Officer, and Horticultural Advisor are scheduled to meet on 23 October 2026 to begin a comprehensive review of the 2026 summer planting scheme.
The review will evaluate the effectiveness of the current approach, identify lessons learned, and develop recommendations for the 2027 planting programme. A report outlining the findings and proposed recommendations will be presented to Members at the next meeting.

Estates and Grounds Assistant Recruitment

The vacancy for the Estates and Grounds Assistant is currently being advertised. Interviews are provisionally scheduled for November 2026.
The recruitment process will follow the Council's standard interview format and will include a practical assessment led by the Estates and Grounds Officer, enabling candidates to demonstrate relevant practical skills and competencies.

Members are asked to:

1. Note the operational updates contained within this report; and
2. Consider whether officers should review the planting bed near Kendal Cricket Club and prepare a planting proposal for consideration at a future meeting.

‘Small, flowering islands’: German city reveals how nature thrives when neighbours care for street tree beds

When Olivia Besters began caring for the patch of soil beneath the chestnut tree outside her home in Freiburg, Germany, more than 35 years ago, biodiversity was not on her mind.

“It was the optics,” she told me. The ground was compacted and littered with trash and dog “legacies”. Besters simply wanted the space directly outside her front door to look nicer. “Everything else came much later,” she said. “Thirty-five years ago, no one talked about climate change or insect decline.”

Over time, one tree bed expanded into 36 across Besters’ neighbourhood of Herdern. So deep is her commitment to her tree beds that her children gifted her a bike trailer to cart around her watering system, her phone is filled with stunning pictures of the flowers growing in her tree beds, and she has been nominated for city-wide engagement awards.

Olivia Besters has looked after her local street tree beds for more than 35 years. Kelly Baldwin Herd, Author provided (no reuse)

As towns and cities grow, biodiversity is being squeezed into ever smaller spaces while people experience a progressive loss of everyday contact with nature. Street tree beds – and the practice of caring for them – offer cities a way to counter urban biodiversity loss while enriching people's connection with nature in their neighbourhoods.

Our research shows that citizen stewardship of street tree beds can boost species richness and diversity in urban areas.

For years, officials in Freiburg, a city known for being green and eco-conscious, had noticed residents informally planting and caring for the small patches of soil around street trees. In 2004, the city formalised this activity through its tree sponsorship programme, or *Baumpatenschaftsprogramm*, creating a way to organise and support something residents, like Besters, were already doing.

Biodiversity was built into the concept, but has become much more prominent over time. In 2010, the city joined forces with the Ecostation, an environmental education centre in Freiburg to launch *Freiburg blüht auf* (Freiburg in bloom). This initiative connected tree bed stewards directly with ecologists, providing stewards with seeds, plants and advice on turning street tree beds into small habitats for native plants and insects. The result, according to the city, are "small flowering islands" that can help the soil retain moisture and provide habitats and food for insects.

Until our research was published, however, there was little data to show what these tiny spaces were actually contributing to urban biodiversity.

In our first study, we surveyed plants growing in 200 street tree beds, comparing 100 beds actively stewarded by residents with 100 similar beds that were not stewarded. Over three months, we recorded 474 plant species growing across these beds. We found that stewarded beds supported around 1.6 times as many plant species as the non-stewarded beds. Although stewarded beds contained more non-native plants than non-stewarded beds, they also supported more native plant species and more varied plant communities.

Stewardship supports plant species richness and diversity in street tree beds. Kelly Baldwin Heid, Author provided (no reuse)

Through surveys and interviews with more than 100 stewards in Freiburg, participants told us they were very conscious of this ecological role. Planting tree beds can “really promote biodiversity” in what might otherwise be a “concrete district”, said Shari, a 62-year-old steward who has been caring for one tree bed for six years.

Hank’s tree bed. Kelly Baldwin Heid, Author provided (no reuse)

Participants frequently described tending their tree beds as relaxing, restorative, absorbing and meaningful. For Besters, it’s “pure relaxation” that feels “good for my soul”. Hank (a 39-year-old steward who has cared for one tree bed for about three years) reports: “I’m so focused … when I do something in the [tree bed] … I forget the world.”

Care and connection

Caring for tree beds also helps stewards connect with neighbours and the wider community, while encouraging others to take up stewardship themselves. One steward described receiving “a lot of positive recognition from people I don’t know”, while another said an “insane number of people” stop to chat while she is gardening her tree bed.

Once she transformed a neglected tree bed into a clearly cared-for space, Besters noticed that people began treating it differently: dog excrement and litter declined. Visible signs of care signal that a place is valued, which can prompt more respectful behaviour from others.

In one of our early studies, we found that 73% of stewards reported first learning about street tree bed stewardship from a neighbour or by seeing someone actively gardening a tree bed. This reinforced previous studies that suggest visible gardening practices can cluster spatially as nearby residents observe and replicate one another’s actions.

In Freiburg, more than 500 residents now participate in the tree sponsorship programme, caring for approximately 700 tree beds. Around 3% of the city’s 22,000 street trees are stewarded. Enhancing even a portion of the remaining beds could expand habitat for plants and insects and, when strategically located, create ecological stepping

stones that reduce isolation and support species movement between larger green spaces.

The social potential of these tree beds may scale in a similar way: stewardship can make these small public spaces meaningful relatively quickly, creating chances for people to connect with nature, develop a stronger sense of place and interact with both neighbours and strangers. And because these acts of care are highly visible, they can inspire others to participate, creating more stewardship, more habitat and more opportunities for nature and social connection.

Kendal Town Council

Agenda Report

Committee: Kendal in Bloom	Meeting Date: 20 October 2026
From: Town Clerk	Agenda No.11
Description: Draft Budget 2027-28	

Summary: *The committee is asked to consider the Draft Budget, amend as required and submit it to the full Council for consideration.*

DRAFT Budget 2027-28

The Committee must consider its expenditure aims for the next financial year, and make recommendations to the Council. Expenditure should be in keeping with the aims of the Council Plan.

The following shows the current budget and estimated outturn. The next column shows the estimated amount required in the next financial year to complete the Council's actions. The final column shows the percentage variance on the previous year's budget.

For the coming year it is proposed to continue budgeting for Projects and Grants separately. This has allowed the Council's Project team to more accurately identify their budget ceilings and gives the committee a more realistic view of its grant-funding potential. Project work is still primarily focused on improving the general planting schemes around Kirkland and the uplift anticipates the initial costs of working on the larger Gillingate open space.

An additional cost to cover under the Floral Displays budget is the work of the Horticultural Consultant, which is included in the in overall cost.

Item	Current year	Expected outturn	Proposed 27-28	% variance
Floral Displays	32,000	32,000	33,300	+3.1
Grants	2,000	1,500	2,000	0
Projects	6,000	6,000	10,000	+66
Total	**40,000**	**39,500**	**45,300**	**+13.25**