

REPORT TO:	Swadlincote Townscape Heritage Lottery Board Meeting	AGENDA ITEM: 6
DATE OF MEETING:	27th March 2018	CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	Richard Shaw	OPEN
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SUBJECT:	Diana Garden - progress update	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Swadlincote	TERMS OF REFERENCE: Swadlincote Townscape Heritage Lottery Board

Diana Garden - progress update

Stone and brick delivery

The delayed granite coping stones and the blue brick specials arrived in January and February and this enabled the works to be completed.

Youth involvement

19th February – the SDDC Housing Services run 'dreamscheme' assisted with the planting out of the raised beds, four teenagers from the local area attended and planted out the raised beds;

Official sign-off, snagging list and 6 months defects period

The works were completed and signed off on the 26th February. The signing off process involved the creation of a document by our landscape architects entitled 'Certificate of practical completion of the works' and this included a snagging list and set out the 6 month Defects Liability Period. This means that the contractor will have to put right any defects over the next 6 months.

The snagging list included:

- Re-mortar one end of planter
- Remove plastic at base of lighting bollards;
- Top-up mulch;
- Apply extra top soil and re-seed grass areas where needed;
- Clean mortar off brickwork;
- General wash down and wipe clean;
- Sand any rough edges of timber sleepers;
- Check mortar colour all blends in sufficiently over the coming months;
- Make good any poor mortar work.

The contractor had 14 days to put right the list of issues above. At the time of writing this note, they are still due a second visit to site to put right these issues. Verbal update on this can be provided in the Board Meeting.

Raised bed planting maintenance

The contractor will maintain the raised beds for 12 months (starting from 26th Feb 2017). They do not have any maintenance responsibility for the grass.

After this time, we hope to set up a local 'friends of' group to help maintain the beds and possibly other parts of the garden.

SDDC maintenance of the gardens

A meeting was held with Steve Sheppard and Bernard Sheridan on 7th March. At this meeting the maintenance issues were clearly set out and explained. SDDC are now responsible for maintaining everything except for the raised beds. The initial task is to cut the original areas of grass that will need cutting earlier than the newly seeded areas.

It was agreed that the bird droppings, which is proving to be a problem, could be cleaned off by SDDC. The regularity of this cleaning was not confirmed at this stage. We are also looking at measures to reduce the number of pigeons in the tree and are looking at dummy birds (predators).

A note was sent out to all relevant people that the gardens have not been designed to withstand the weight of vehicles, this relates largely to the resin bound gravel surfaces.

Air conditioning units and artwork screen

At the time of writing, air conditioning companies are visiting Grove Hall to provide quotes for re-locating the air conditioning units to the side of Grove Hall.

It is hoped that sufficient budget will be available (from Malcolm Roseburgh and not the remaining Diana Garden money) to re-locate these unsightly units that presently front the Diana Gardens.

We are also in the process of getting quotes to fix the artwork screen to the wall (details of which dependant on the air con relocation).

We are also hoping to shortly meet with People Express to discuss the possibility of them managing a project that would involve appointing an artist to create an image for the screen and also to involve the public so that local people have a voice and some influence over what the theme of the display will be. We hope to use the opening event on the 29th April to consult the public on ideas / themes etc.

Depending on how all the above quotes work out, we will then have a more accurate picture of what budget is available for the artwork screen.

Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony has now been set as being on the 29th April 2018. This ties in with the wedding fair that will be in the town centre on this day. We intend to have a ribbon cutting at 11am, followed by a VIP reception at Sharpes. We are still developing exact details, but stalls/gazebos will be located within the gardens, with information about the HLF project and the Royal visits in 1981 and 1991.

Financial summary

The budget has come in more or less as expected with a couple of small extra additions.

The final agreed contract sum was £96,814.75 (slightly different to the last Board Meeting report which put it at 96,836.93).

The only extra additions were:

+ £216 (an increase due to now locating the two original memorial plaques on to granite plinths instead of attaching them to the low wall);

+ £175.45 extra hole required to be drilled in to Grove Hall for electrical cables.

This gives the new final contract sum of **£97,206.20**

Final accounting is being checked, but the remaining total from the Diana Garden pot of money (part HLF and part SDDC various contributions) is likely to be around £9,000. This money can be used to fund the Grove Hall wall artwork screen project.