

Firstly, can I thank everyone for their support over Mick's accident and I am sorry about the last meeting being put off as a result.

We appear to be really late starting to garden this year as a result of the weather. HOWEVER WE HAVE CRACKED ON NOW PHEW ! Jane and I have moved the grey and silver and black pots out of the Amory to Sainsburys where we are now lucky to have Barry who is going to keep an eye on the bed and pots there. It is not sensible for us to spread to The Courtyard Garden at The Amory as active gardening volunteers in the group are thin on the ground. We have however as you can see left quite a few green and terracotta pots here, plus the picnic table and we have donated all the pots at the front of The Amory. We have also replaced the stolen pot at the front with the very tall pot there containing a lavatera. The theme at Sainsburys continues to be orange and white.

Then Ann, Jane, Sheila, Andy and I worked on The Gateway Path where we planted 15 more trees making 38 by SMIB in total plus the five from Elan. Then we have started weeding and adding plants to the main beds. This is now perhaps the biggest and fingers crossed safest area we have. I have been assured by Andrew that Elan has not passed it over to the council and in all our deeds, it is to remain as 'meadow' which the neighbours all agree means weeds and everyone is for plants and trees. Chris Almond continues to mow the grass.

Nikki has weeded three of East Street planters and we have started to tidy up the Enhancement. We still need to do The New Road bed. I will contact the winner of the Doorstep competition last year as she mentioned maintaining that bed. Nikki has also refurbished the three large pots given to us by Lady Arran with a friend at a cost of £62.71 and they are now ready to be transported to The Memorial.

Regarding the three tiered planter that Mark from The George asked us to move to allow room for his al fresco dining, after a somewhat heavy discussion, Mark agreed that he would get it moved and if it broke, he would reimburse us. I personally am disappointed as Andrew made such an issue about the three tiered planters being symmetrically placed on the Enhancement and yet now it does not seem to matter but Mark and The George have been so supportive of Bloom that I feel we should be supportive of him too.

I had arranged with the permission of Andrew and the agreement of The Deputy Head that The Primary School would redo the Mural Gardens murals and do the gardening there too. Then all of a sudden Andrew informed me that The Library and Glenys Laws had put a stop to the murals being repainted and Andrew had backed them. I therefore wrote to him and said the Mural Gardens go with the murals so SMIB would be withdrawing from the Mural Gardens completely.

We are nearly out of Bloomers Corner now but still have to get rid of the roller but luckily have made a significant amount of money from the items there thanks to Brenda.

The workmen are still at Livarot Walk but they have agreed to give us £500 compensation now after much toing and froing. Even better, the Deputy Head of the Primary School has agreed to work there from time to time weeding and planting starting this Friday at 9.45 with

12 children and 2 adults; so it would be fantastic if as many of us as possible could meet them there and help.

I have been informed by the new conservative councillor that Raleigh Mead was bought by Eastleigh Care Home.

As you are all aware, there has been much disappointment and discussion about the three town signs. Sue Sewell and I went to see Andrew and have been told that our three original signs cannot be reused as the new signs with the Pannier Market and very small lettering about us have been stuck over the top. Andrew has said he will look into adding 2021 but that if we want three more signs he thinks we should approach the councillors at the May meeting. We also need to write to Richard Sables from Devon County Council and I will email him.

The other important issues are on the agenda that follows...