

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

Meeting	Community Services Committee
Date	16 September 2020
Report by	Phil Wright – Community Services Manager
Report title	Harpenden In Bloom Competitions
Business Plan theme	Promote a wide range of public events and initiatives that help to create a vibrant Town where residents are involved in community life.

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 This report sets out suggested 2021 Harpenden In Bloom competitions for this Committee to consider. Implementation of this Committee’s decisions will be dependant on the prevailing covid-19 circumstances during 2021.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to approve the 2021 competitions as outlined at paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6.

3. Background information

- 3.1 On 14 November 2018, this Committee approved that the Town Council run the following competitions:

- Most Creative Container (mainly primary schools)
- Tallest Sunflower
- Sunflower with the Most Heads
- Best Communal Garden
- Best Logo

- 3.2 In 2019, all these competitions proved successful except for one. The Best Communal Garden competition attracted only one applicant. Usually it attracts the same two entrants every year, but one of them was unable to enter last year. The Most Creative Container competition attracts entries almost exclusively from primary schools.

3.3 At the 2019 Harpenden In Bloom Forum, there was strong support for competitions. Suggestions included adding a photographic competition, a secondary school competition, and a scarecrow competition.

3.4 The Harpenden In Bloom Forum includes some excellent community spirited individuals who perform a fantastic role in judging competitions on behalf of the Town Council. These members of the public are very passionate about the competitions and work very hard in their own time to make these possible. But it also has to be recognised that the success of the competitions rests on the shoulders of just a few excellent individuals.

3.5 Taking all factors into account, including a desire that all competitions receive a reasonable number of entries, the following list of competitions is suggested for 2021 for consideration by this Committee:

- Most Creative Container (market it more widely to the community to attract entries from more than just primary schools)
- Tallest Sunflower
- Sunflower with the Most Heads
- Best Logo (Already marketed due to timetable pressure)
- Best Scarecrow Made From Recyclable Materials. This could be constructed using plants alongside all types of recyclable materials, old clothing, recyclable plastics, string, hay, straw etc. It lends itself to the imagination of the entrant in that it could be a traditional scarecrow or an animal.

3.6 This means that the Best Communal Garden competition which attracts either just one or two entries may not run, but a new scarecrow competition would be introduced. Wider community marketing of the Most Creative Container competition will take place to attract individual entries in addition to primary schools. Primary schools will also remain very important.

4. Resource implications

4.1 Administration of the competitions is time consuming, but this activity is allocated to an officer. Judging is carried out by members of the community. In 2019, one of these members of the public obtained sponsorship prizes for most of the competitions from a garden centre and intends to try to do so again in future. Separate to this, HTC budget is set aside to fund competition prizes if required.

5. Other implications

Other Implications	Comment
Legal	None
Environment and biodiversity	Encourages children to get closer to nature – growing plants
Crime and Disorder	None
Risk/Health & Safety	None