

**Minutes of a Meeting of the St Helier In Bloom Committee held on
Thursday 20th April 2023 at 5.30pm in the Le Capelain Gallery.**

Chair: Simon Crowcroft (SC)

Present: Ian Syvret (IS), Bob Kearsley, Jane Pollard

Apologies: Ted Vibert, Sheena Le Brocq

Last year's judging

SC confirmed that we did well in last year's competition, and we scored highly on Grow and Jersey Hemp. The negative comments included being light on horticulture, lacking diversity and sustainable planting. SC believed that these comments were not accurate and commented on Grow having a large section of wildflowers for insects. The judges also commented that schools were not involved in the tour. SC explained that there were issues showing the Town Park as it is owned by IHE and heavily used. It was expressed that more time was needed for the tour to be able to fit everything in. SC emphasised the need for a more active 'Friends of the Town Park' group. It was noted that the judges wanted to see a group getting their hands dirty. In relation to this SC is going to try and reenergise the Town Park and is hoping to set up a Parade Gardens group. It was also noted that there is a Friends of People's Park group but that it only seems to be active when the government is threatening to build on the park. SC aims to bring in people from all the different groups to join the St Helier in Bloom group. It was further noted that Victoria Park features a pollinated patch which may be good to include in the tour. It was resolved that the judges missed a lot of things that they were shown. It was noted that the judges didn't see much community involvement and that the winning town had loads of volunteers wearing branded t-shirts along the route.

Next year's competition

Judging for the local competition will be on 26th July between 09:15 and 13:15. The Town Hall will be judged and then a tour will follow. The Parish needs to win to enter the RHS competition. It was resolved to involve nurseries and school. IS confirmed that some schools were already getting involved as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award. SC confirmed he will speak to Westmount Day Nursery about their potential involvement. IS confirmed that there will be a royal insignia for King Charles. The idea was raised to collect the judges from the airport in a recycling truck to make an impression on them whilst displaying the town's recycling programme. The following ideas were brought up to include in the route for this year:

- Allotments and Grow
- Apprentices in the glass house
- Children from Mont A L'Abbe
- Jersey Hospice grounds
- Working with Macmillan on their allotments
- La Collette Gardens

- Shipyard Gardens (this was highlighted as a good opportunity to get volunteers involved)
- St Ewold's Gardens (it was raised to get residents involved as planters are wheelchair height)
- Green Street (diversity of plants)
- Surville Cemetery

Any other business

It was raised that some people don't like having their allotments scrutinised and that a few would be chosen, and the flower gardens could be shown.

SC raised the idea of giving out awards for the best greenery outside businesses to include pubs and alfrescos. SC will speak to Andium about residential awards to include gardens and balconies. SC expressed an interest in having a member of the Parish on the judges panel for Andiums awards.

It was decided that Bob would put together a proposed route for the competition.

It was resolved to hold the next meeting on Thursday 25 May.