

# ANNUAL GARDEN AND ALLOTMENT COMPETITION

## AGENDA ITEM No. 10

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**MEETING: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024**

**REPORTED BY: WORKS AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGER**

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### **1.0 Purpose of the Report**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Councillors regarding the annual garden and allotment competition and awards.

### **2.0 Background Information**

2.1 The Town Council organise an annual garden competition which involves members of the public nominating local gardens and floral displays which deserve recognition and acknowledgement.

2.2 The categories for the competition are as follows:-

- Best Front Garden
- Best Hanging Basket / Tub Display
- Best Community Garden.

Certificates are awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

2.3 In addition to this, the Council awards certificates for the best allotment plots on Council sites within the parish. The current awards are made up of:

- Best 3 Plots at Aycliffe Village
- Best 3 Plots at Byerley Park
- Best 3 Plots at Clarence Chare
- Best 3 Plots at Finchale Road
- Best 3 Plots at St. Oswald's
- Best New / Most Improved Allotment
- Best Overall Allotment

2.4 Special awards and trophies to keep for the year, are also presented for:

- Angela Fleming Memorial Trophy for Best Plot at St. Oswald's
- Ken Woodhall Memorial Bowl for Best Overall Allotment
- Edward Hubery Memorial Trophy for Best New or Most Improved Allotment.

### 3.0 Current Situation and Matters for Consideration

3.1 Nominations for the garden and allotment competition were promoted in the local press and on social media, with nominations judged by the Chairman and a second member of the Environment Committee.

3.2 Gardens nominated for recognition were:

9 Village Close, Woodham	37 Hareson Road
3 Village Close, Woodham	39 Hareson Road
41 Ryder Court, Woodham	104 Oakfield
6 Burghley Mews, Woodham	106 Oakfield
71 Pemberton Close, Woodham	20 Cumby Road
10 Langley Road	29 Cumby Road
2 Hylton Close	1 Castlereagh Close
9 Hylton Close	2 Gargill Close
22 Eden Road	9 Gargill Close
26 Greathead Crescent	10 Gargill Close
Acorn Residents Association (Silkin Road)	15 Gargill Close
35 Stephenson Way	1 Durham Road
8 Hareson Road	St Clares Care Home
The Royal Telegraph, Aycliffe Village	Neville Parade Community Centre

3.3 All those nominated will receive a certificate of nomination.

3.4 The winners of the Garden Competition were:

Front Garden 1<sup>st</sup> – 41 Ryder Court  
Front Garden 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6 Burghley Mews  
Front Garden 3<sup>rd</sup> – 10 Langley Road  
Hanging Basket Tub Display 1<sup>st</sup> – 22 Eden Road  
Hanging Basket Tub Display 2<sup>nd</sup> – 20 Cumby Road  
Hanging Basket Tub Display 3<sup>rd</sup> – 71 Pemberton Close  
Community Garden 1<sup>st</sup> – St Clares Care Home  
Community Garden 2<sup>nd</sup> – The Royal Telegraph, Aycliffe Village  
Community Garden 3<sup>rd</sup> – Neville Parade Community Centre

3.5 Due to the low number of nominations received from allotment tenants, the judges inspected all allotments on each of the sites to determine a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place on each of the sites.

3.6 The winners of the Allotment Competition were:

Site	Award	Winner (Plot)
Aycliffe Village	1 <sup>st</sup>	8
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	9
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10 & 11
Byerley Park	1 <sup>st</sup>	8b
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	8a
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	12
Clarence Chare	1 <sup>st</sup>	17
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	11
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	27a
Finchale Road	1 <sup>st</sup>	8
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	18b
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	19
St. Oswald's	1 <sup>st</sup>	45
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	46 & 47
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	30
<b>Best Newcomer / Most Improved Allotment</b>		Clarence Chare Plot 13
<b>Best Plot Overall</b>		Clarence Chare Plot 17

3.7 It should be noted that there are no monetary prizes this year for both the garden and allotment competition due to the financial savings implemented during the setting of the 2023/24 Revenue Budget which continue into this financial year.

3.8 It is proposed that all prizes for garden competition will be awarded on site, within the winning garden rather than attempting to organise a more formal presentation evening later in the year. Allotment awards will be presented at the Allotment AGM in November. Photographs will be shared in the local media and on social media.

#### 4.0 Policy Implications

4.1 This report complies with the Council's Strategic Aims No. 2 and 3: -  
*"To manage the Council's finances and assets in a responsible manner".*  
*"To provide accessible, affordable leisure facilities and opportunities".*

#### 5.0 Staffing Implications

5.1 Staff time is required to administer the nominations and co-ordinate the judging and award process.

#### 6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 All trophies will need engraving with this year's winners' names at a cost of approximately £50 in total. This will be paid for via the Environment Events Budget.

#### 7.0 Crime and Disorder Implications

7.1 None.

## **8.0 Equal Opportunity Implications**

8.1 None.

## **9.0 Environment, Biodiversity and Climate Change Implications**

9.1 This annual garden competition encourages the local community to manage their gardens to benefit the environment.

9.2 Not only are well tended gardens aesthetically pleasing to local residents, but the plants will also attract declining invertebrates and pollinators and will take in carbon dioxide and produce oxygen.

9.3 If designed correctly the gardens soak up large volumes of water rather than the water washing over paved or surfaced areas potentially helping to reduce local flooding problems.

## **10.0 Risk Assessment**

10.1 It is not considered that the matter contained in this report poses a risk to health and safety of staff or to the financial or public standing of the Council to a degree that a risk assessment should be appended to this report.

## **11.0 General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)**

11.1 Is any personal or sensitive data required for this proposal which may have any implications for GDPR? **NO**

## **12.0 Recommendations**

12.1 It is recommended that:

- i. Members receive the report.

**Works and Environment Manager**