Cyngor Tref Trallwng Welshpool Town Council

Welshpool Town Council, The Vicarage Gardens, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7DD
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Title	Flower Bed Transfers - outside NFU
Date	6th February 2026

OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION

1. **To approve the request to Powys County Council to transfer ownership of the two flower beds outside the NFU building on Mill Lane / Church Street;**
2. **The principle of licensing town centre beds and planters to voluntary groups for maintenance is adopted; and**
3. **The Town Clerk is authorised to draft a standard flower bed maintenance licence agreement for use with interested groups and seek expressions of interest.**

1. Purpose

1. To seek a decision from Members to approach Powys County Council to transfer ownership of the flower beds outside the NFU building to Welshpool Town Council and to approve a framework whereby these beds can be licensed to voluntary groups for ongoing maintenance.

2. Background

1. We have been in recent correspondence involving councillors, residents and community groups that the two flower beds outside NFU are currently owned by Powys County Council but are not maintained by any authority.
2. Maintenance has historically been undertaken on an informal and voluntary basis by individual councillors. Local community groups, particularly U3A and Rotary, have expressed a clear willingness to adopt and maintain flower beds within the town centre.
3. Similar informal arrangements already exist elsewhere in the town, including:
    1. Rotary maintain the bus station beds through a verbal understanding.
    2. A councillor informally maintains the bed outside the TIC.
4. At present there is no written agreement, no clarity over responsibility, no clarity over insurance arrangements, no formal waste disposal route, and no consistent standard of care. This results in prominent beds in the town centre appearing neglected and creates a governance gap

regarding responsibility.

3. Advice

1. It is advised that Welshpool Town Council requests Powys County Council to formally transfer the beds into Town Council ownership.
2. It is not proposed that Town Council staff undertake the maintenance of these beds. Instead, the Town Council would enter into simple written licence agreements with voluntary groups (e.g. Rotary, U3A) who would agree to maintain specific beds on the Council's behalf.
3. Under this model, the Town Council would provide:
    1. A clear governance framework,
    2. Public liability cover under the Council's insurance,
    3. A to be defined waste disposal route, and
    4. Basic guidelines on standards.
4. This approach formalises what is already happening informally, removes ambiguity around responsibility and risk, and enables willing volunteers to improve the town centre environment safely and properly.

4. Links to Strategic Objectives and Interim Strategic Plan

1. TC2 - Pilot town centre planting and hanging basket sponsorship scheme
2. TC3 - Develop long-term "clean and green" action plan for pavements, signage and public spaces
3. EN2 - Implement Section 6 action plan for next 3 years, which should include tree planting, community green days and growing volunteer base

5. Resource & Legal Implications

1. The financial implications are negligible. There is no requirement for staff resources to maintain the beds. Administrative time will be limited to preparing and overseeing licence agreements.
2. The Council has powers under Section 96 of the Highways Act 1980 to by agreement with the highway authority, plant and maintain shrubs and planting within the highway maintainable at public expense.

6. Specific Implications

1. **Crime and Disorder** - well-maintained public spaces contribute positively to perceptions of safety, reduce opportunities for anti-social behaviour (Crime and Disorder Act 1998).
2. **Biodiversity** - improved planting and ongoing care of flower beds contributes to local biodiversity (Environment (Wales) Act 2016).
3. **Well-being** - encouraging community involvement, improving the town environment, and fostering civic pride contributes to the Well-being Objectives (Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015).
4. **Risk Management** - N/A

7. Recommendation

1. To approve the request to Powys County Council to transfer ownership of the two flower beds outside the NFU building on Mill Lane / Church Street;

2. The principle of licensing town centre beds and planters to voluntary groups for maintenance is adopted; and
3. The Town Clerk is authorised to draft a standard flower bed maintenance licence agreement for use with interested groups and seek expressions of interest.

8. Decision

1. To resolve to adopt the recommendations as above.