

---

# Briefing Note

## Blooming Marvellous Menheniot 2025

3 minute read

### 1.0 Background

1.1 In December 2024<sup>1</sup>, residents and volunteers with Menheniot Green met to review their work for the past year and to plan ahead for 2025. The meeting noted that: *Cllr Keith Goldsmith had led the charity event for the Nation Garden Scheme and an entry in the RHS Village in Bloom competition by using his organising and fund raising skills. Some of the gardens visited during the NGS event were judged for entry into the RHS Village in Bloom Pennant Cup<sup>2</sup>. This entry won overall with a gold award and took the cup. The meeting recognised all individuals and community groups, with thanks to all of the sponsors which meant that the project was self funding. Sponsors have been thanked personally and given a copy of the certificate.*

For 2025, the group agreed that:

*Again this year Cllr Keith Goldsmith is to lead the NGS event and provide limited support with fund raising, plant selection and planting. The members of the Garden Club may provide assistance if time allows<sup>3</sup>.*

1.2 Preparations are in hand for this years Village in Bloom competition, and Cllr Goldsmith, together with Cllr Cole and the Parish Clerk met on 23 April 2025 to discuss and draft a plan for planting and finance. These notes summarise the proposal that will be presented to councillors at their 19 May public meeting.

### 2.0 The 2024 Project

2.1 For the entry in 2024, Cllr Goldsmith secured funding in the form of a grant from Cornwall Councillor Phil Seeva, in addition to donations and sponsorship from residents and local businesses. The total amount raised for the summer season 2024 was £1850. Direct expenses during that same period were £1494, so there was a surplus of £356 remaining and the project was self financing. The parish council acted as 'banker' for the project, receiving monies and refunding expenses in the form of cash advances to Cllr Goldsmith with a total of £1500. All expenses were covered with receipts and have been accepted by our internal auditor. Planting for the winter 2024/spring 2025 season has been costed at £270, leaving a balance carried forward of £86. This sum has been available to the ViB group for incidental expenses.

2.2 Council financing for other planting across the parish comes from two sources. No specific budget has been allocated to the competition, but funds may be drawn from the Menheniot Green budget and the separate Maintenance budget where appropriate. Both of these budgets were drawn up and approved in November 2024 with specific pieces of work

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.menheniotparishcouncil.gov.uk/data/uploads/2373\\_2036203324.pdf](https://www.menheniotparishcouncil.gov.uk/data/uploads/2373_2036203324.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Cllr Goldsmith writing

<sup>3</sup> Cllr Goldsmith writing

costed into them (eg the Tree for Life, Trelawny Gardens, wood treatment for the Menheniot bus shelter, steam cleaning of the Lower Clicker shelter, minor repairs to other council assets). It is important to note that the Menheniot Green budget (£1000) needs to cover the cost of planned projects (approximately £550) leaving a smaller balance for unexpected items and the small grants and donations that are awarded to residents carrying out environmental work.

### **3.0 The 2025 Project**

3.1 The ViB group will continue to press for sponsorship and donations, and has received pledges of £620 (to be confirmed). Approximate costs for ViB planting is:

Plant food	25.00
Barrels Doddycross	60.00
French drain area	20.00
20 plants for tubs @ £15	300.00
Village Green summer	200.00
Village Green spring	50.00
	655.00
Contingency 10%	66.00
<b>ttl</b>	<b>721.00</b>

On this basis, there is a shortfall of £101. Additional tubs and floral displays would be provided by individual residents – Menheniot Green can support them with small donations, although the spirit of the competition is that gardeners should demonstrate their skills in growing plants from seed or seedlings, without over-reliance on purchasing ready-to-go plants and shrubs.

### **4.0 Support from the Parish Council**

4.1 Councillors will be asked to endorse the ViB plan and support their finances by allowing the group to use the council's bank account to receive and make payments on their behalf. Councillors will also need to consider if they would cover any shortfall in funding for the 2025 project, to what extent and from where the funding would be sourced.

4.2 Councillors are reminded that any monies that are paid into the council's bank account is considered to be public money and its expenditure is subject to the council's Financial Regulations.

Author: John Hesketh, Parish Clerk

Date: 12 May 2025