

Thorverton in Bloom: Potential Sites

I have walked around the village with Ann Parkinson, who has given some advice on brightening the village centre with flowers. While I am aware that some councillors are keen to have several patches of wild flowers, these may look pretty but they are difficult to grow successfully, in particular because most of our grass verges are too lush. As a consequence any wild flowers sown there would probably be choked out by the grass. I am told that successful wild flower growth requires the removal of nutrient-rich soil. Two other points to take into account are that most of the grass verges are not the parish council's responsibility and, therefore, we should try to avoid making grass cutting for others more complicated by having patches to be avoided; and also we should take into account that flowers do require a certain amount of attention to keep them coming each year, although spring flowering bulbs such as daffodils, crocuses and tulips require only minimal attention.

The following suggestions are offered:

1. Silver Street, beside the stream in front of the Memorial Hall



Suggested planting:

- Increase quantity of daffodils between road and stream directly in front of Memorial Hall. There are currently a few gaps.
- Plant new row of daffodils (in autumn) alongside road closer towards the ford and bridge

2. Corner of Raddon Road

Suggested planting:

- Plant row of daffodils (in autumn) in grass just below wall and [donated] primroses just above it
- Plant small area of wild flowers, and perhaps oxeye daisies above them, just above wall near to the entrance to Cleaves Close (a small patch that Ann considered not to be too fertile)



3. Outside Quarry Car Park



Suggested planting:

- Plant row of tulips (in autumn) alongside road just in front of wall to car park
- Increase volume of aubretia in gaps on top of the wall
- Plant fritillaries (in autumn) under tree just inside car park (this may be a bit ambitious – and expensive)

4. Verge of Silver Street opposite Court Barton Close

Suggested planting:

- Plant row of daffodils (in autumn) along verge – towards the post on the left of picture



5. Entrance to The Glebe (patch just to the left of the street sign in the photo)



Possible plan:

- Remove nutrient-rich soil and ensure that grass cuttings are cleared from area
- Sow wild flowers (probably wouldn't be effective until 2022)

Floral Thorverton Competition

Ann did make the suggestion that we could encourage parishioners to make the village look great with their own floral displays. She felt that a competition could encourage residents in each road to make their road look the most floral. This might be best judged at the end of June or early-July, when flowers should be looking good.

Consideration by Thorverton Parish Council

Subject to comments on the suggestions above, I would propose that we implement the planting plan for areas 1-4 set out and advertise the competition suggested by Ann Parkinson. Views on whether it would be worthwhile to plant area 5 are invited. We should limit any expenditure on bulbs etc to perhaps £50. (I would be happy to donate some money if a larger budget proves necessary, and we may find that other parishioners would also be happy to donate when they hear the plans.)