

CHRIS BARLTROP

11 SHERBORN STREET



5th July 2022

To: all Councillors

Dear Member

As you may know, at the recent Open Meeting organised by the Bromyard People's Project, members of the public put forward a number of excellent suggestions to benefit the town and its surrounds.

Three of those ideas are noted below. These three demand the Council's permission and cooperation. Would you be prepared to discuss these ideas at the next Council meeting so that permission can be given and time is not wasted putting them into action?

All these projects can be achieved with community involvement. All include plantings. None of the three needs imply any expense to the Council. Professional plants-person Ros Bissell of Moors Meadow Gardens has promised to contribute her expertise in guiding and advising on all three.

1: Plantings on roadside verges. Some approaches to the town are neglected and give a poor impression – Stourport Rd by the railway bridge is an outstanding example. On other roads such as the Bypass, the grass is trimmed but the verges are then characterless blank areas. Planting of colourful shrubs at the rear edges of the verges would make them more attractive, and large clumps of perennial flowering plants would provide low-maintenance colour.

2: St Peter's Churchyard. The Churchyard is also a blank area of mown grass – tidy but unwelcoming. As with the suggestion of roadside plantings, colourful plantings would enhance the Churchyard and make it a place for visitors to sit and enjoy what would then be Gardens. Lightly-rooted plantings would be selected so as not to disturb the former graveyard. This proposal has already been discussed with Church representatives, who have expressed interest.

3. Riverside Walk. While the grass is mown, this area is again somewhat blank. There is huge potential here to provide a selection of varied water and bog environments. Sensitive ideas have been requested from Queen Elizabeth High School, whose students are environmentally aware and who are our future.

The People's Project is already in contact with official funding sources, but as with the other two headings detailed here, the Council's permission is sought so that details can be formatted for discussion.

I would be grateful for the Council's urgent in-principle approval so that these ideas can be progressed without delay – plantings take time to organise, autumn is the ideal time, and it would be wonderful if the town's image became a floral one by next spring.

Thank you for your interest and involvement, and kind regards.

Chris Barltrop
on behalf of the Bromyard People's Project