

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING**

5TH MARCH, 2012

(NOTE – Prior to the meeting and in accordance with the decision at Minute 186(2)/Mar/09, a 15-minute slot was allocated for public participation. No questions had been raised in advance and no members of the public were present.)

PRESENT:- Councillor Cooke (Town Mayor)(in the Chair); Councillors Mrs Bailes, Mrs Hamilton, Hinchcliffe (Minutes 192 to 202 inclusive), Peat (excluding Minute 202), Robinson (Minutes 192 to 202 (part) inclusive), Watson, Wood (Minutes 192 to 201 inclusive) and Yarker.

Also in attendance:- Dr A. Allen (Barnard Castle Vision)(Minutes 192 to 194 inclusive).

Officer:- Mrs Plant (Assistant Clerk).

192. APOLOGIES:- None.

193. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with this Council's adopted Code of Conduct (Minute 20/Jun/07 refers), Members were asked whether they had any personal or prejudicial interests in any matter on the agenda and, if so, to declare those interests at this point of the meeting. Members were reminded that a declaration could be given later in the meeting if a need arose during discussion. Councillor Peat declared an interest in respect of Minute 202 and left the Council Chamber during the discussion of that matter.

194A. BARNARD CASTLE VISION – ATTENDANCE OF REPRESENTATIVE

Pursuant to Minutes 160(b)/Jan/11 and 172/Mar/11, Dr A. Allen from Barnard Castle Vision was in attendance and provided an update on the Vision's current projects, partly based on a briefing note (submitted by Mrs A. Ward of the Vision). Issues discussed included The Witham Hall situation, the Digital Dale scheme, NeST, The Barney Guild, the Shop Front Improvements scheme, The Market Cross situation and the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership.

Resolved – (a) That Dr Allen be thanked for her attendance.

(b) That the information be noted.

194B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members enquired as to the well being of the Clerk following his recent health problems.

Resolved – That a letter expressing the Council's get well wishes be sent to Mr Bosworth.

195. COUNCIL MEETING – 16TH JANUARY, 2012 – MINUTES

Resolved – That the Minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record.

196. 'EN BLOC' ITEMS

Submitted – In accordance with Minute 72/Aug/04, a further set of items with the accompanying recommendations to be moved 'en bloc'. The seven items considered at the meeting were as follows:-

(1) Special Finance Committee Meeting – 19th January, 2012 – Minutes

Resolved – That the Minutes be received.

(2) Planning Committee Meeting – 23rd January, 2012 – Minutes

Resolved – That the Minutes be received.

(3) Christmas Festival Committee Meeting – 30th January, 2012 – Minutes

Resolved – That the Minutes be received.

(4) Planning Committee Meeting – 13th February, 2012 – Minutes

Resolved – That the Minutes be received.

(5) Finance Committee Meeting – 13th February, 2012 – Minutes

Resolved – That the Minutes be received.

(6) Town Mayor's Activities

It was reported that, since the Council meeting on 16th January, 2012, the Town Mayor had attended the following:-

20 th January	Meeting with Ms D. Jenkins of Barnard Castle Vision (Town Council office).
25 th February	Durham Army Cadet Force's Tree Planting event, Cadet Training Centre (Stainton Grove).
26 th February	Barnard Castle Girl Guides' Association 'Thinking Day Service' (St Mary's Church, Staindrop).

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(7) Royal Garden Party 2012 – Result of Draw

It was reported that, pursuant to Council Minute 178/Jan/12, the successful nomination, drawn completely at random, came from Waldrige Parish Council.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

197. NORTH WARD VACANCY – UPDATE

Pursuant to the announcement of Councillor Mrs Dixon's resignation and Minute 189B/Jan/12, it was reported at the meeting that the Notice of Election had been posted with a closing date for nominations of noon on 2nd March, 2012 and that two valid nominations had been received. However, as the deadline for candidates to withdraw their nomination papers was noon on 7th March, 2012, it would not be known until that date as to whether an Election was to take place. It was noted that the financial implications of a possible election were to be discussed at Minute 198(C) below. It was also noted that if an election was to take place, it would take place on 29th March, 2012.

Resolved – That the overall situation be noted.

198. REFERRALS FROM COMMITTEES

(A) Modernisation Committee and Finance Committee – Teesdale House – Non-availability for Meetings

Reference was made to the recommendations of the Finance Committee, at Minute (61) of the set of Minutes at sub-section (5) of Minute 196, regarding the non-availability of Teesdale House for meetings as Durham County Council had advised that the Council Chamber in

Teesdale House would not be available for meetings as from 19th March, 2012 because of the Library being relocated to that room. It was noted that the Modernisation Committee had also considered the matter at a meeting on 6th February, 2012 but that the Minutes from that meeting were not currently available.

It was also noted that Durham County Council had subsequently confirmed that all the fixed items in the Chamber (including the nameboards etc.), except the dais, would be left in situ whilst the Library was operational from that room. However, endeavours would be made to obtain those items belonging to this Council at the appropriate time.

Resolved – That, the following recommendations of the Finance Committee be approved:-

- (i) that this Council seeks financial recompense from Durham County Council to pay for alternative accommodation up to 31st March, 2013;
- (ii) that, if the action at (i) above is not successful, the use of the Contingencies budgetary allocation for 2012/13 to pay for alternative accommodation; and
- (iii) that the booking of the alternative accommodation at Woodleigh be approved.

(B) Finance Committee – Allocation of Donation to The Meet Committee

Reference was made to recommendation of the Finance Committee, at Minute 59 of the set of Minutes at sub-section (5) of Minute 196, regarding how all or part of the donation of £5,000 that had been agreed to be given to The Meet Committee for the 2012 event (Minute 191(e)/Jan/12 refers) was expected to be spent. The recommendation was formulated from the consideration of a list of major expenditure items that The Meet Committee had supplied.

Resolved – That the recommendation of the Finance Committee be approved and that the majority of this Council's donation to The Meet Committee be as follows:-

(1) Stage	-	£1,500
(2) Professional Stewards	-	£1,400
(3) Hiring of Castle	-	£1,000
(4) Road Closure	-	<u>£1,000</u>
		£4,900

(C) Finance Committee – North Ward Vacancy – Financial Implications of Possible Election

Pursuant to the announcement of Councillor Mrs Dixon's resignation and Council Minute 189B/Jan/12, reference was made to the recommendation of the Finance Committee, at Minute (60) of the set of Minutes at sub-section (5) of Minute 196, regarding the financial implications if an election to fill the vacancy was called for.

The Committee considered the estimated overall election costs and the current situation regarding this Council's 2011/12 Contingencies allocation were outlined, as well as alternative financial options and the fact that there was another potential 'call' on the 2012/13 Contingencies budget, i.e. meeting room hire charges (see Minute 198(A) above). It was further reported that poll cards were normally issued for such an election but that it was not obligatory. It was noted that, because of the tight timescales involved, the Finance Committee had acted on behalf of the Council.

It was confirmed at the meeting that the last day for the receipt of Nominations was noon on Friday, 2nd March, 2012. However, it would not be known until noon on Wednesday, 7th March, 2012 as to whether an Election was to take place (see Minute 197 above).

Resolved – That, the following recommendations of the Finance Committee be approved:-

That, should an election take place:-

- (i) Durham County Council be asked to produce and arrange for the delivery of poll cards to all electors in the North Ward;
- (ii) the election should take place by 31st March, 2012;
- (iii) the 2011/12 Contingency budget be used to pay the election costs; and
- (iv) it be acknowledged that the decision at (iii) above will result in an overspend in the 2011/12 Contingency budget.

199. COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS – VACANCIES

Following the resignation of Councillor Mrs Dixon, a report seeking the filling of vacancies on the Council's subsidiary bodies for the remainder of Municipal Year 2011/12.

Resolved – That consideration of the vacancies on the various Committees and Working Group be deferred to the next ordinary Council meeting scheduled for 16th April, 2012.

200. REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES

Submitted – A report providing updates on some of this Council's representation on other bodies. The four items included in the report were as follows:-

(1) Barney Guild – Meetings on 16th January and 20th February, 2012

Submitted - The Minutes and Officers Reports of the Barney Guild's Annual General Meeting on 16th January, 2012 and Minutes of the Guild meeting on 20th February, 2012.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(2) Small and Medium-Sized Local Councils' Forum – Meeting on 17th February, 2012

It was reported that, at the first meeting of the Small and Medium-Sized Local Councils' Forum on 20th February, 2012, items discussed included suggested Terms of Reference for the Forum, Service Delegation, the forthcoming Durham County Council Library Consultation, an update of a meeting with Durham County Council's Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Partnerships, the Joint Local Government Association and National Association of Local Councils Summit, the Queens Diamond Jubilee Celebrations and 2012 Olympic Torch Relay. It was noted that the Forum was considered to be worthwhile and a good networking opportunity.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(3) Teesdale Local Councils' Forum – Meeting on 20th February, 2012

It was reported that, at the meeting of Teesdale Local Councils' Forum on 20th February, 2012, matters discussed included updates on Teesdale Action Partnership, Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership, County Durham Association of Local Councils' Executive Committee, the first Small and Medium Local Councils' Forum meeting, Neighbourhood Watch scheme, Wind Turbines and also sought a venue for future meetings following the non-availability of Teesdale House.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(4) Teesdale Residents and Travellers Forum – Meeting on 17th January, 2012

It was reported that, at the Forum's meeting on 17th January, 2012, issues discussed in respect of Barnard Castle centred on the entrances to The Demesnes, including that a letter to those affected residents regarding bollard security on the Demesnes would be again distributed. It was also confirmed that the temporary traffic restrictions along Bridgegate would be in place again for the 2012 migration period. All Bridgegate residents would be kept informed of activities and the alternative location where those residents affected could park during that period. It was verbally reported at the Council meeting that relevant bodies from the Forum had undertaken a 'walk about' of the temporary areas of acceptance and subsequent issues raised had been rectified.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

201. SERVICE AND PROJECT UPDATES

Submitted – A report providing updates of some of this Council's services and current projects. The six items included in the report were as follows:-

(1) Allotments Issues

It was reported that a meeting of the Allotments and Play Areas Working Group had taken place on 20th February, 2012 and the following allotment issues had been discussed:-

(i) Review of Tenancy Agreement and Rules

Submitted - Pursuant to Minute 181(1(i))/Mar/11, a revised Allotment Garden Tenancy Agreement and revised Allotment Rules arising from a review by the Working Group. The revisions were required for general administration purposes.

Resolved – That the revised Allotment Garden Tenancy Agreement and Rules, as now submitted, be approved for issue to all allotment tenants with their allotment rental requests for 2012/13.

(ii) Allotment Representatives

Pursuant to Council Minute 124(i)/Dec/10 and Working Group Note 8(i)/Nov/11, it was confirmed that those tenants who were considered to be acting as Allotment Representatives had now been informed of the decision to discontinue the official role of the Allotment Representatives.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(iii) Allotments Improvements Action Plan

An update was provided in respect of the Allotments Improvements Action Plan, including the fact that the Council had agreed to the recommendation of the Working Group in respect of the provision of skips at the Demesnes allotment site being provided bi-annually (Minute 153(3(i))/Dec/11 refers), options to improve the paths at Raby Avenue allotment site were currently being sought and that costs to install guttering and a water butt to the building at Crook Lane allotment site were also being sought.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(iv) Complimentary Letter

It was noted that a complimentary letter had been received from an outgoing tenant in respect of this Council's Allotments service.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(2) Play Area Issues

At the meeting referred to in (1) above, the following Play Area issue was discussed:-

(i) Dawson Road Playingfield – Multi Use Games Area

Pursuant to Council Minute 158(5)/Dec/11, it was confirmed that the installation of the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) was complete, albeit that some of the earth mounds required reshaping and grass seeding with this work anticipated to be complete by the end of March 2012. It was also confirmed that arrangements for an associated celebratory opening event were underway.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(ii) Fields in Trust – The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge

Pursuant to Minute 92/Sep/11, it was reported that Fields In Trust (FIT) had confirmed that all of this Council's play areas (Bouch Way, Dawson Road, Green Lane, Kalafat and Marwood Drive) and its playingfield (Ten Fields) had all been accepted Queen Elizabeth II Fields, a scheme launched by FIT to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

It was also reported that, as Bouch Way was owned by this Council (via a Section 106 Agreement with Wimpeys and the former Teesdale District Council) and did not currently benefit from any form of protection to safeguard this play area in perpetuity, a Deed of Dedication must be completed. This Deed would allow FIT to act as a guarantor between the landowner and any potential future development. However, there was an associated cost of £100 to register the Deed.

Resolved – That the ring-fenced allocation for the Bouch Way play area be used towards the Deed of Dedication registration cost to safeguard Bouch Way play area in perpetuity.

(3) Floral and Open Spaces Issues

It was reported that a meeting of the Floral and Open Spaces Working Group Working Group took place on 20th February, 2012 and the following issues were discussed:-

(i) Garden of Remembrance Project

Pursuant to Note 11/Nov/11, it was confirmed that a meeting had taken place between the Project Manager of the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership and the Assistant Clerk to seek assistance with the progression of the project. It was noted that, whilst the meeting had not proved to be totally conclusive, it established that the best course of action at this stage would be to examine the details of the project again and a report scrutinising the details of the Garden of Remembrance project was submitted.

Members' views were sought as to whether the previously agreed design should be progressed or whether the appearance of the Garden could be sufficiently enhanced using its existing layout within the funding available for the project. Options to enhance the street furniture, rose bed border and the area where a sycamore tree had to be removed were provided. It was noted that any changes to the previously agreed design would have to be approved by both the full Council and the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership.

It was considered that further investigations should be made into proposed revisions of the Garden of Remembrance project, using the existing layout, with that information reported to the next meeting of the Working Group.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(ii) 2012 Floral Displays

In anticipation of the start of the floral displays tendering procedure (see Minute 207), Members views were sought as to whether this Council's 2012 Summer floral displays should have a specific colour theme as two largescale commemorative occasions were due to take place during the Summer of 2012, i.e. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the 2012 London Olympics. Reference was made to the potential installation of ownership signs on this Council's tubs and investigations into associated costs would be made.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(iii) Replacement Mini Golf Course Project – Update

Members were provided with a summary of the progress to date in respect of the replacement Mini Golf project, 'A Journey through Teesdale', including the fact that, whilst some funding had already been secured, other funding options continued to be worked on.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(4) Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership

Submitted - The latest Newsletter update from the Partnership.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

(5) Mini Golf

Pursuant to Council Minute 124(2)/Oct/11, details of the 2012 Mini Golf season were submitted, including the opening times and the fact that the Mini Golf Supervisor and the Attendant would be returning for a fifth and fourth year respectively. Press and radio coverage plus an entry on the Events in Teesdale website to promote the course was again planned, with the Town Mayor to 'tee off' the 2012 season. The essential repairs to the course approved at the October Council meeting would be carried out during March 2012.

Reference was made to the redevelopment plans for the Scar Top area involving the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership and, as this Council had had detailed involvement with this project from the outset, it had been requested that this Council remained fully involved and, in particular on matters relating to the securing of the necessary additional funding and redevelopment of the replacement Mini Golf Course, with the project being generally overseen by the Floral and Open Spaces Working Group.

Resolved – That the arrangements for the 2012 season be noted.

(6) 2012 Olympic Torch Relay

Pursuant to Minute 177/Jan/12, it was reported that the Assistant Clerk had attended a Teesdale Action Partnership (TAP) Tourism Task and Finish Group meeting on 3rd February, 2012 and also a TAP Board meeting on 15th February, 2012 as the 2012 Olympic Torch Relay had been included on the agendas of both meetings but no new information in respect of the Torch Relay was received from either meeting. It was noted that, whilst it was still intended for this Council to co-ordinate any events for the day of the Torch Relay, scheduled to pass through the Town on 20th June, 2012, the TAP Co-ordinator was to arrange a further meeting of those organisations interested in being involved and with a view to assisting with the progression of the arrangements. Members' views were sought as to what events should take place on the day the 2012 Olympic Torch Relay was scheduled to pass through the Town.

Resolved – That the 2012/13 Events budget be used towards the cost of purchasing Union Flag hand waving flags to be distributed to spectators on the day the 2012 Olympic Torch Relay is scheduled to pass through the Town.

202. PLANNING APPLICATION – LAND AT HIGH RIGGS, DARLINGTON ROAD

Submitted - Pursuant to Council Minute 175/Jan/12, a planning application in respect of a residential development comprising of 100 dwellings (30 affordable) and associated infrastructure for land at High Riggs, Darlington Road from Taylor Wimpey North East Limited. A Design and Access Statement, Statement of Community Involvement, Planning Statement and Affordable Housing Statement had been circulated for Members' information.

Councillor Watson provided Members with pertinent information in respect of relevant planning policies applicable to the proposed development and made a number of recommendations.

Resolved – That conditional approval be recommended subject to the following matters being taken into consideration and satisfactorily resolved:-

- (i) Durham County Council Planning Officers must be satisfied that the release of the land for housing development is justified after recognising the following:-
 - a) the proposed development site is currently considered primarily unsuitable for housing by the 2011 Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, albeit there is an apparent shortfall of 100 dwellings against the SHLAA approved housing requirement of 400;
 - b) the proposed development is located within an Area of High Landscape Value;
 - c) the site is outside the development limits of Barnard Castle; and
 - d) that SHLAA approved sites 6/BC/01 (Groves Works) and 6/BC/06 (Rear of High Riggs) will only be available in the medium to long term pending relocation of current occupants and completion of the Shaw Bank Masterplan.

- (ii) Durham County Council Planning Officers must be satisfied that Taylor Wimpey NE Ltd have submitted a robust case to satisfy National Planning Policies PPS1, PPS3, PPS7, PPG13 and PPS25 and Teesdale Local Plan Policies ENV1, H1A, H12, H14 and GD1 such as:-
 - a) demonstrating why the site should be released for housing now;
 - b) proving that the proposal delivers current housing needs and contributes to improved facilities in the locality;
 - c) proving that the proposal meets the objectives of the emerging County Durham Plan;
 - d) demonstrating that the proposal is sustainable; and
 - e) proving, by analysis of the preferred development sites around Barnard Castle (SHLAA Green Rated), that the release of land outside the development limits (SHLAA Amber Rated) will not undermine either the deliverability of more sustainable sites or protection against urban sprawl.

- (iii) that, in accordance with National Planning Policy PPS1, i.e. housing developments must offer variety and choice, the proposed mix of dwellings should be amended to include a more sensible number of 3-bedroomed properties available to the general market, i.e. 15 to 20 as opposed to just 7;
- (iv) National Planning Policies PPS1 and PPS3 and Teesdale Local Plan Policy GD1 (A and B) specify quality of design principles. However, as the proposed development is based on Taylor Wimpey's regional and national house designs, with only a small number of properties adjacent to the A67 stone finished to reflect local character, high regard must be given to ensure that the overall appearance of the proposed development is in keeping with the character of the surrounding area;
- (v) that it be noted that the 30% affordable housing provision, split equally between social/affordable rental and intermediate (discounted) purchase, satisfies National Planning Policy PPS3 and Teesdale Local Plan Policy H14 and this Council;
- (vi) that it be noted that the landscaping elements of the proposed development satisfies Teesdale Local Plan Policies GD1 (B, L and M) and H1A and this Council;
- (vii) that it be noted that, this Council wishes to express an interest in becoming the future owners of the land designated as allotment space in the proposed development, by way of a Section 106 Agreement; this Council manages 5 allotment sites in the Town and the proposed provision will contribute to the reduction of the associated waiting list;

- (viii) that it be noted that, this Council wishes to express an interest in becoming the future owners of the land designated as play areas in the proposed development and to be allocated a sum of money for the future maintenance of the area and any equipment installed, by way of a Section 106 Agreement; this Council manages 5 play areas in the Town and the proposed provision will contribute to an overall play strategy;
- (ix) during community consultations, Taylor Wimpey indicated that provision may be made to the contribution of a wider environmental project in Barnard Castle. This Council wishes to express an interest in securing a sum of money, by way of a Section 106 Agreement, for the renovation of the green areas along Galgate. Such a project complies with the emerging County Durham Plan by securing the enhancement of a Conservation Area; and
- (x) that a venue in Barnard Castle is chosen for when Durham County Council's Planning Committee meets to deliberate the proposed planning application so that local residents can attend without any transport difficulties.

203. SCHEDULING AND TIMES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS – MUNICIPAL YEAR 2012/13

Submitted – A report incorporating a recommended schedule of meetings for the 2012/13 Municipal Year, based on the standard six/seven-week cycle of meetings. A starting time of 7.00 p.m. was recommended for all meetings in the schedule, albeit with a 15-minute public participation 'slot' at 6.45 p.m. It was noted that the venue would have to change (see Minute 198(A) above). The prospective attendances of representatives of Durham Constabulary and Barnard Castle Vision were also referred to.

It was also reported that it was intended that the main four Committees of the Council would determine their 2012/13 meeting dates during the next Council cycle. The need for Committee and Working Group meetings (primarily to appoint Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen) immediately after the Annual Council meeting on 14th May, 2012 was also highlighted. The Administrative Support Committee and the various Working Groups would meet as and when required.

Resolved – (a) That the following schedule of Council meetings during the Municipal Year 2012/13 be approved and that all meetings commence at 7.00p.m., with a Public Participation 'slot' 15 minutes before each ordinary meeting:-

2012

Monday, 14th May (Annual Meetings)
 Monday, 11th June
 Monday, 16th July
 Monday, 3rd September
 Monday, 15th October
 Monday, 3rd December

2013

Monday, 14th January
 Monday, 21st January (Budget)
 Monday, 4th March
 Monday, 15th April
 Monday, 13th May (Annual Meetings)

(b) That a representative from Durham Constabulary be invited to attend the Council meetings scheduled for 11th June and 3rd December, 2012.

(c) That a representative from Barnard Castle Vision be invited to attend the Council meetings scheduled for 3rd September, 2012 and 4th March, 2013.

(d) That the determination of the meeting arrangements for the Council's Committees and Working Groups be noted.

(e) That all nine of the Council's current Committees and Working Groups meet immediately after the Annual Council meeting on 14th May, 2012 to appoint Committee and Working Group Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen.

204. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING EVENTS

It was reported that the County Durham Association of Local Councils had arranged a Neighbourhood Planning event to take place on 29th March, 2012. The event would be an opportunity to learn more about Neighbourhood Plans and gain an insight on the Localism Act.

Recommendation – That Councillors Harrison and Watson and the Assistant Clerk be authorised to attend the Neighbourhood Planning event.

205. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (in respect of Minutes 206 and 207 below)

Resolved – That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the matters referred to at Minutes 206 and 207 below on the grounds that they may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Parts 1, 3 and 4 of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

206. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT 2012/13

Submitted – A report regarding the annual awarding of the contract for the Council's grounds maintenance contract. It was confirmed that the Council's Auditors were satisfied with this Council's current arrangements as 'best value' was being obtained. Specific references were made to the current contractor's excellent local support service and his competitive rates.

Resolved – That Robson Horticulture Limited be appointed to provide the Council's grounds maintenance works for the period 1st April, 2012 to 31st March, 2013.

207. FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS 2012/13 – TENDERING PROCESS

Submitted – A report on the intention, prior to the next ordinary Council meeting scheduled for 16th April, 2012, to carry out the tendering processes for the 2012/13 floral displays so that quotations could be accepted at that meeting. Consideration was given as to whether this Council's 2012 Summer floral displays should have a specific colour theme as two largescale commemorative occasions were due to take place during the Summer of 2012, i.e. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the 2012 London Olympics. Information was provided on prospective tenderers and the scheduling of the work.

Resolved – (a) That this Council's 2012 Summer floral displays to have a red, white and blue colour scheme.

(b) That the following businesses be asked to submit quotations for the supply of the contents of the floral displays for 2012 Summer and 2012/13 Winter/Spring periods :-

- (i) Eggleston Hall Gardens;
- (ii) Elm Ridge Gardens Limited, Darlington;
- (iii) Ravensworth Nurseries, Darlington; and
- (iv) Woodburn Nursery, Darlington.

(c) That Durham County Council be authorised to carry out the associated watering service.

(d) That the floral displays be installed during the working week commencing 21st May, 2012.