

Attleborough Station Car Park

To: Attleborough Town Council

Please find below a report and request for funding towards the cost of creating hedging and gardens at the new Station Car Park.

History: Attleborough Heritage Group (AHG) for a number of years AHG have been the 'Adopters' on behalf of Greater Anglia (GA) at the Attleborough Train Station. The duties for adopters being the ongoing works and creation of station gardens. Other tasks include tidying up, reporting minor safety issues if not previously reported e.g. broken glass or vomit.

As you will have probably seen the flowerbeds on Platform 2 – Cambridge/London end are remarkably well cared for and a beautiful backdrop to the rather unsightly view of the Chicken Abattoir. However, the Car Park area since being completely re-built looks bare, unkempt and rather like a depressing Lowry without the people! Feeling that this Car Park did nothing to enhance the Town or its reputation, Hannah Nairn and I began to investigate the possibility of creating a Car Park that both Attleborough and GA could be proud of. With this in mind we approached AHG, both being members, and asked their permission to form a second group of Station Adopters with a remit for the Car Park. This was agreed and we then applied to Alan Neville – Community and Customer Engagement Manager – Greater Anglia for their acceptance of a second team in Attleborough. Greater Anglia have over 300 Station Adopters in an area from Liverpool Street to the Fens, Essex & Suffolk Coast and Norfolk. In every area they are promoting biodiversity as well as creating beautiful gardens on land that would otherwise just lay barren. Lastly, we contacted the Attleborough Bloomers as our aims are so close with regard to planting in the Town that we wanted the Bloomers on board with us.

Focus: Our initial focus is to create a 60-metre backdrop of native species of hedging along the chain link fence bordering the driveway to the Football Club. This will be the most costly part of the venture as donations and seeds (already provided) will be used in the other areas. The idea being that there will be dedicated wild flower areas and areas of lavender and rose. Once the hedging is in place we can proceed with the remaining work in the Spring but currently it is imperative that the hedging saplings be planted by Christmas. We did manage to receive some stock from the Woodland Trust but we needed another 120 which have been purchased today. We are going to ask you to help us pay for this project which is so important for the Town for so many reasons.

Conclusion: Firstly, this will enhance the Town. People arriving into the Town will be greeted by flowering gardens, people leaving will have their last memory of the Town as having beautiful gardens in Queens Square, the Church and the Train Station. People living here will be encouraged to feel good about the Town. Secondly, We will be creating a wildlife corridor and encouraging ecology which has sadly been affected by the much-needed improvements to the Station Car Park and the use of weed killer over the years. We can begin to turn back the damage done. Lastly, and this is probably more personal to me! I worked within the Rail industry for nearly 30 years! My vision is that we create a Garden that makes people feel happy, at peace and relaxed. We have been lucky here in Attleborough, the Station is open and there is a lot of footfall going past by way of the level crossing. We have not had a suicide but living in the crisis we are in at the moment it is possible that we could have one in the future. The week leading up to Christmas and the New Year are the when rail suicides peak. I remember on Christmas week having one every day between Kings Cross and Cambridge. For this reason, having an area of calm for those using the station is such an importance, in the Spring we plan to plant Lavender by the Bowling club to enhance the calm for those waiting or alighting. I hope you agree with us that this will be a great enhancement for Attleborough as a Town.

Costings:

The amount below is the total that we would be asking for, we cannot see that this project would create any further expense to Attleborough Town Council.

Additional Saplings to complete the Hedging along the Chain Link Fence to the Football Club. £86.00.

Tree Guards for Saplings. Amazon – 200 Biodegradable Spiral Guards for hedge plants £164.99

Total: £250.99

Author: Jane Doughty on behalf of Jane Doughty and Hannah Nairn