

PRESENTATION 2014

Good morning and welcome to St Just. You have seen our port-folio so I do not want to repeat what has already written. I want to concentrate on our main projects during 2013/14 and what has been achieved by working with partners locally and within Cornwall.

We carried out a review of the comments of the judges from last year and then decided on our priorities. The first one was to ensure what happened at the Closed Churchyard never happened again with the wrong side being cut by Cornwall Council just before the judging last year. We, Stuart & I, had discussions firstly with Robert Moor, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, and decided to contact Cornwall Council, Tom Marks & Jackie Mace, to see if the money allocated to cutting the grass could be given to us to use locally in commissioning a local provider. This was not possible but further discussions suggested that they would be able to give the money to the local Town Council who could then commission someone locally to do the work. The Town Council were very supportive and the new contract began early in 2014. This is working well and the local provider takes a pride in what he does and works closely with Stuart. However, things are changing and it looks that in future the unitary council, will be paying for only two cuts instead of the seven it pays for now.

The second one was to get advice on the comments made by the judges in 2013. The Bloom group contacted Richard Budge who attended one of our meetings and gave us some very good advice. At the same meeting was a gentleman called Colin Warne, who lived in St Ives. Colin was developing a new nursery and made a presentation about producing our plants for the 2014 season. Members of the committee were impressed with what he had to say but were cautious about the commitment. After they left it was decided that a sub-committee should liaise with Colin to get more detail and to discuss what he would provide, for how much and agree on a colour scheme. This sub-committee met on a number of occasions and brought recommendations back to the main committee with costs. After a good discussion it was agreed that we should have our plants from Colin for 2014 if the money can be found. This would include the amborels, 3-tiers and tubs around the town. The latter would be planted up by the group. We asked the Town Council whether they would pay the bill as they could recover the VAT and we would pay the plant bill, without the VAT. Not only did they agree to do this but they agreed to pay the full bill. It was also part of the agreement that the 3 tiers and amborels would all be 'wicked' and they would be taken away before Christmas, which Colin agreed to do free of charge. What a good decision that was in view of the storms we had during the winter.

During the winter and early spring I was talking to Jackie Mace, from Cornwall Council, about the school gardens at the comprehensive. I had also made contact with a gentleman called Stephen Maunder from Cornwall College in 2013 about a project he had launched in St Just concerning the unemployed. He wanted to give the unemployed work experience through community based projects. A discussion between Jackie & Stephen suggested a project for St Just with those off work to gain skills which might enable them to get a job. It was suggested that Cornwall College, Job Centre Plus work with St Just in Bloom and the local schools and Town Council to deliver the project. St Just in Bloom was responsible to identifying and co-ordinating the work to be done and ensuring that the materials were all ready to be used. The project would last for a month and would hopefully involve a maximum of

15 people. They would need a base in the town and being the secretary of the local cricket club that was easy to organise. For the club had all the facilities required, that is toilets, kitchen and car parking. While the people for the course were being found we had to talk to the schools and Town Council on the work to be done.

The following is suggested as work that can be done at the comprehensive school: ---

1. School gardens---tidy up the beds and plant appropriate seeds for the coming summer. Produce taken home by selected children at the end of term. The hope is that we would be able to put in raised beds on two of the plots. Also general clear up in this area including any repairs to the greenhouse etc.
2. Garden by Cape Cornwall Road to clean, repair and stain this fence.
3. Jack Perry Memorial area to carry out the changes to this as directed and agreed with the school.
4. To have a general clear up around the school, car parks etc.

The following is suggested as work that can be done at the Brambles Nursery: ---

1. This includes paths, garden areas and the possible clearing of a plot
2. Also the start of a new project, The Mud Area, in their back garden.

The primary school would like 2 volunteers to join the Friday afternoon lessons when work in their gardens happened.

WORK TO BE DONE IN ST JUST 2014

Cleaning of the street furniture

The following needs to be done:

1. All lamp posts and bike racks in both squares and the car park need to be painted with Hammerite to a height of about 6 feet.
2. All waste bins need the same treatment in the same areas and then the wood slats painted with green Cuprinol.
3. All the seats like the ones by the War Memorial need to be cleaned, dried and Teak Oil applied. This includes benches in the car park and opposite the library, Bank Square, the closed churchyard, playing field, up by the top garage, on the plot below the drill hall, at the vehicle entrance to the comprehensive school and outside the Star Inn.
4. Other seats, outside council offices on the northern wall of closed churchyard, where appropriate to be stained.
5. All display features at both entrances to the town and outside the cemetery need repairs and painting.
6. All street signs need to be cleaned.
7. Recreation Centre.

The comprehensive school had a special fund which would allocate £500 to the project. This was mainly used to purchase the scaffolding boards for the raised beds and paints, wood, screws etc for the work around the school. We organised this and stained one side of the boards for the beds.

The project began on the 19 May but instead of the 15 hoped for only 5 started the project and one of those was given a job on that day so there were 4. These worked with 2 instructors from the college and things went well in the first week. In the second week 2 went AWOL and we were left with 2. I joined them for 2 days and by

the middle of the following week the project was stopped. However, in this time they had managed to do the following: ---

- Put in the raised beds and fill nearly 3. The soil I managed to get donated from the Town Mayor who owns the land where the new development has occurred at the entrance to the town. It was very hard transferring it from the poly-tunnel to the gardens in a wheelbarrow. Also the mayor donated and delivered more soil for the remaining raised beds.
- Stained both sheds in the garden, one needs to be completed by the school
- Painted the gate by the entrance to Kites
- Repaired and stained the fence on the main road between the entrance/exit to
- Painted the Jack Perry Memorial with 2 coats of Weathershield to enable the youngsters at the school decorate in their way. What a fantastic job they have made of it.
- Cleared out the main bed in the front of Brambles
- They prepared and then painted the street furniture in Bank Square. This included the light columns and the gates around the War Memorial.

We also organised a shredder for the school as it had 3 years of branches etc that Richard had pruned. The shredder came from the deputy mayor and Richard and I, together with a little help from Neil's employees completed the work. Including a break down it took about 3 hours to complete the task.