

## Briefing note – Valley Gardens floral changes 23/24

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### Introduction

The Valley Gardens sees over 4 million visitors each year who enter the gardens to enjoy the open space, floral features, play and fitness, and various events which take place for all to enjoy.

As part of the experience the Parks team work tirelessly to maintain the high standards which draws in the visitors, to achieve this we work within the 5 year horticultural development plan to constantly improve the space from a horticultural perspective and to ensure the horticultural excellence is maintained.

### Background

To achieve the above the floral colourful bedding displays are a key part of the gardens, and as such over the last 2 years we have noticed the existing bed designs have deteriorated with the plants not showing their full potential.

During the summer months soil sampling has taken place to try and ascertain the cause and what could be done to improve the situation. The results showed there was a lack of potassium in the soil and the beds are “worn out”.

### Proposal

To ensure the continued visitor numbers, the experience as well as improving the floral displays I am proposing we make the following changes in the coming months.

The Friends of Group have been consulted in regards to this proposal and are supportive of these.

- Well Beds  
Remove the existing outer flower beds and replace with 4 tear drop shape designs (as per image of the roundabout below).
- Two Great Lakes beds  
Remove the existing 2 flower beds and transform into a Victorian floral design more in keeping with the history of the space. One of the beds is currently used for the school design during the summer months and this will be relocated into the main circular entrance bed in the gardens.

### Detail

- Well Beds
  - ❖ Remove 8 beds and turf
  - ❖ Create 4 new tear drop designs (one in each quarter)
  - ❖ Design similar to those on Prince of Wales Roundabout



- Victorian Bed (Great Lakes beds)
  - ❖ Remove beds and turf

- ❖ Create new design as per below concept
- ❖ Include 2 ornamental urns (currently stored at the Nursery) as centre pieces to the design



### Conclusion

By undertaking the above will be an improvement on the existing displays and will provide new interest for the visitor to ensure the continued investment as part of the 5 year Valley Gardens Strategy.