

## Report to Rochdale Township Committee



Date of Meeting	13 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
Portfolio	Councillor Neil Emmott, Portfolio Holder for Environment
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Public/Private Document	Public Document

### Rochdale Township In Bloom

#### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Royal Horticultural Society has awarded Gold Medal Status to Rochdale Township for the last two years. As a result Rochdale has been selected by North West In Bloom to represent the North West nationally at the 2018 RHS Britain In Bloom awards. This is a great honour and the first time that Rochdale Township has ever been selected.
- 1.2 This year we have £107k funding approved by the Leader for landscape schemes, plus additional funding to ensure maintenance of the landscape schemes is of the highest quality. Work is already underway on a number of projects, and I would like to take this opportunity to update members in some detail with regard to new and ongoing schemes.

#### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Members note the information contained within this report.

#### 3. Reason for Recommendation

- 3.1 Members have been very supportive of the In Bloom projects for a number of years. This is a prime example of Rochdale working cooperatively with our communities, voluntary groups, Elected Members and Officers.

#### 4. Key Points for Information

- 4.1 What we are doing in 2018:
  - Ensuring previous year's schemes are in the best condition by replanting any gaps in floral schemes caused by winter deaths, vandalism, etc
    - St Mary's Gate lavender ribbon
    - Co-op van floral display
    - Rochdale Memorial Gardens
    - Sudden Junction mini and floral display
    - St Chad's Gardens and Packer Spout

- Sunburst display at A58 / Drake Street
- Norden rose beds, Jubilee Park floral display and cenotaph planting
- All the large planters in the Town Centre
- Upgrading the Denehurst Park shrub beds; this being the main park the judges are visiting
- Manchester Road Broadfield Park shrub bed renovation: worst shrubs pulled out, new shrubs planted and annual flower seed display sown
- Re-sowing the popular annual flower seed display near Sudden junction
- Bamford in Bloom new group - various planters in Bamford and Brimrod
- New floral display verge in front of Caldershaw Primary School
- Major new landscape scheme at Oldham Road/Kingsway/Queensway junction (gyratory). Focal feature will be industrial revolution era steam machinery purchased from Ellen Road Steam Museum (pictured below at the Steam Museum). Floral feature will weave through this remembrance of our industrial heritage.



- Attention to some neglected furniture, e.g. Jutland Avenue bollards with peeling paint, overgrown and damaged stone planter round a large tree on Churchill Street, etc.
- World War 1 commemorations including:
  - A World War 1 bedding scheme below the John Bright statue in Broadfield Park will form the shape of a poppy as per two years ago
  - Soldier cut outs in the Town Centre and Norden and Balderstone cenotaphs
  - Lamp post poppies
- Rochdale Town Centre pop-up show garden. Like the show gardens you pay a lot of money to see at Tatton in the Town Centre, free for everyone to enjoy. It will be located in the centre of Gracie Island. It will be built and planted up week commencing 11th June and will have a World War 1 theme. A WW1 commemoration bench will be placed there, looking through a picture frame that frames the view towards the cenotaph and which people will be able to place poppies in. Marshall's, the main sponsor for the garden, are providing large stone pillars with WW1 relevant quotes on them. Amongst other plants, there will of course be poppies which Bowlee Nursery are currently growing. Other features include a line of three columnar trees to provide structure, signage, stone seating with side and backs with a representation of the heritage tiles in the Town Hall and cut outs of WW1 soldiers. The garden will be maintained by the existing Town Centre gardeners.

The garden will stay there until after the November commemorations and then be dismantled and re-erected in a slightly simplified format in a park

