
REPORT 7
(1215/12/IM)

HANGING BASKETS OUTSIDE MAIN ROAD SHOPS

1. Purpose of Report

To provide ongoing support and further funding for the hanging baskets now in place outside the shops on the east side of the Main Road central shopping area.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Tawa Community Board:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Agree to provide further funding from the Tawa Community Board Discretionary Fund (C590) to cover costs incurred by the Tawa Community Board in setting in place a number of hanging baskets outside the Main Road shops. \$1500 was agreed by the board in November 2011. Further funding of a maximum of \$1000 is required.*

3. Background

The hanging baskets are finally up and appear to be running well – the irrigation system, that is. Some teething problems were encountered with leaks and tubing being blown off due to water pressure but with careful control of water pressure they are now being watered twice daily at 7am and 7pm for 30 minutes at a time. I will monitor this but I believe they are being watered for ideal growth. Some sealing of leaks may need to be done.

As a board we must thank Brian Frampton from ITM for giving his time and expertise to set up the bolt to attach the baskets.

The process started with a letter from Justin Lester and me to landlords and retailers to seek their approval. Only one landlord contacted us to decline having the baskets attached to his property.

The irrigation system was attached by Justin Harris Plumbing.

I made contact with several local suppliers of hanging baskets but none were able to supply so I contacted and met Lansdowne Nurseries, Masterton, who agreed to supply the baskets, freight-free for the first delivery. The baskets will be replaced twice a year, summer and winter flowers.

The costing for the next baskets should be about \$23 plus GST per basket with about 50 baskets required. This works out about \$1.00 per week per basket. Should we decide to continue, suitable funding arrangements would need to be made.

I am very grateful to Justin Lester for arranging a grant from Mayor of Wellington's fund of \$3000, the total costing is estimated to about \$5500. The shortfall will be needed from Tawa Community Board discretionary funds for the balance of around \$2500 - not all accounts are yet in. I believe this is about what we discussed earlier in the year.

Going forward:

At this time we have been unable to convince the local service clubs, Rotary or Lions to take up the ongoing running of the baskets, although Lions have indicated they would be likely to make a financial contribution.

It is therefore suggested that we investigate the possibility of seeking, perhaps through the TawaLink newsletter and the Kapi-Mana newspaper, a small number of local residents who may be prepared to give up a small amount of time to coordinate the ongoing running of this project if the Board decides it is worth continuing.

As feedback from residents has been very positive I would recommend to continue, but with the potential changes to Local Government Act I would suggest we seek outside people to run it. Obviously assistance, particularly financial, may be required. I suggest that Lions, Rotary, landlords, retailers, the Tawa Community Board and even local Tawa people may be prepared to donate.

I recommend the Board discuss this at some time and if we decide to continue we would need to advise Lansdowne Nurseries by about March/April 2013. It is suggested that rather than pre-purchase a second set of baskets at a cost of about \$500, they would be happy to refill our current set. That would mean we take down the current set, transport them to Masterton and they would refill them. We would be without baskets for 2 or 3 weeks. To be honest by then they are likely to have finished their display anyway.

My thanks to Robert Tredger, Malcolm Sparrow and Justin Lester for the support given to me during some testing times with the irrigation set-up.

Report prepared by: *Chris Reading, Tawa Community Board*