

## **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Report by Acting Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development (Land and Environment)**

**Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee:**

**7 November 2007**

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**Subject:     Ayr Flower Show**

#### **1.     Purpose**

- 1.1**    To advise the the Committee of the successful municipal display by the Council's Grounds Maintenance Section at the 47<sup>th</sup> Ayr Flower Show which was held on 3, 4 and 5 August 2007.

#### **2.     Background**

- 2.1**    The Ayr Flower show is a prestigious event organised each year by Ayr Horticultural Society Ltd with a number of entry categories to recognise the talents of both amateur and professional horticulturalists and gardeners.
- 2.2**    West Dunbartonshire Council's Grounds Maintenance Section has successfully competed in the show in previous years and has gained the following awards:-

- 2002 Bronze Award and Auchincruive Cup
- 2003 Gold Medal
- 2004 Silver Gilt Award and Provost McDonald Trophy

#### **3.     Main Issues**

- 3.1**    Upon entry to the competition, a design team comprising one of the Section's Technical Officers, the Parks Officer, a Supervisor, Gardeners and Apprentice Gardeners develop a theme and design a display.
- 3.2**    The design theme for 2007 was "Heavy Metal" and the garden, which was based on a formal design, incorporated the use of various steel structures including twisted steel and stainless steel spheres, stainless steel garden planters and a copper water feature. The design also incorporated ornate Grampian Marble, Japanese Black Pebbles, Moray Pebbles, granite paving and cobbles and a wide range of shrubs, alpine and ferns were used within the display.
- 3.3**    Following a rigorous judging process which took place at the start of the show on Friday 03 August 2007, the Council's Grounds Maintenance team were delighted to be awarded both the Large Gold Award and the Provost McDonald Trophy.

- 3.4** The team's success was highlighted on Scottish Television's 6 o'clock news on Friday 03 August 2007 and many visitors commented that the WDC display was on a par with those which they had seen at Chelsea Flower Shows in recent years.

#### **4. Personnel Issues**

- 4.1** Development of the design and display for this year's event was undertaken by Grounds Maintenance Staff from WDC. They took great pride in receiving the top award and rave reviews from visitors and competitors at the show.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1** All costs involved in creating the display were met from the departmental Grounds Maintenance revenue budget and plants and materials were thereafter reused within parks throughout the district.
- 5.2** The sum of £350 was received in prize money as part of the prize awarded to WDC. This sum has been credited to the Grounds Maintenance account to offset some of the participation costs.

#### **6. Risk Analysis**

- 6.1** There are no risks associated with the content of this report.

#### **7. Conclusions**

- 7.1** Since 2002 Grounds Maintenance staff have gained considerable experience and confidence participating in this event and positive feedback in relation to the team's achievements is inspiring and provides a boost to staff morale.
- 7.2** Positive publicity at a national level was also gained and this assists in raising the profile of the Council across the country.

#### **8. Recommendation**

- 8.1** The Committee is invited to note the success of the Grounds Maintenance Section in achieving the top award (Large Gold) and Provost McDonald trophy at Ayr Flower Show 2007.

**Ronald M Dinnie**

**Acting Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic  
Development (Land and Environmental)**

**Date: 15 October 2007**

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**Persons to Contact:** Lynda McLaughlin, Manager of Commercial Operations  
Elm Road, Dumbarton  
Telephone: 01389 772097  
e-mail: [lynda.mclaughlin@west-dunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:lynda.mclaughlin@west-dunbarton.gov.uk)

David McLeish, Section Head - Grounds Maintenance  
Elm Road, Dumbarton  
Telephone: 01389 608405  
e-mail: [david.mcleish@west-dunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:david.mcleish@west-dunbarton.gov.uk)

**Appendix:** None

**Background Papers:** None

**Wards Affected:** All