

Community Adopt-a-Planter Scheme – Terms & Conditions

Purpose of the Scheme

The Adopt-a-Planter Scheme encourages community pride and enhances the village through seasonal planting and care of agreed public planters.

Who Can Adopt

Adoptions are open to:

- Individuals (aged 18+)
- Community groups, charities, clubs, schools (with a named adult lead)
- Businesses (subject to sponsorship/branding rules in Section 12)

Adoption Period

- The adoption period runs from planting (May onwards) until the 2nd week of November (so that the village looks its best for Remembrance Day), depending on weather and planting.

Planter Allocation

- Planters are allocated by the Council and remain Council property at all times.
- The Council reserves the right to reassign planters if an adopter is unable to maintain them or if circumstances change (e.g., works, safety, damage).

What the Council Will Provide

The Council will:

- Prepare the planter(s) prior to planting by providing fresh compost (and/or topping up as required).
- Provide watering throughout the season as part of routine rounds (where feasible and subject to operational conditions such as drought demand, breakdowns, emergencies, contractor availability, and access).
- Provide basic guidance on suitable planting if requested.
- Confirm key dates (planting window, judging month, end-of-season arrangements).

Note: Council watering is supportive but does not replace sensible plant choice and routine care by the adopter (e.g., deadheading, weeding).

What the Adopter Will Do

The adopter agrees to:

- Plant the allocated planter(s) from May onwards.
- Maintain the planter(s) to a good standard until mid-November, including:
 - Regular weeding
 - Deadheading and light pruning where appropriate
 - Monitoring plant health and replacing failed plants if desired
- Use plants that are appropriate for the location and season.

Planting Standards & Acceptable Materials

To keep planters safe, attractive, and suitable for public spaces, adopters must:

- Use non-invasive and non-toxic planting suitable for public areas (particularly where children and pets may be present).
- Avoid plants with excessive thorns/spikes or known allergenic risks in high-footfall areas.
- Avoid planting that obstructs sightlines or causes hazards (e.g., spilling into footways).
- Use good quality plants/plug plants/bedding.
- Not use stones, gravel, sharp ornaments, glass, or anything that could create a hazard.

Not permitted (unless expressly agreed in writing by the Council):

- Trees, shrubs that will outgrow the planter, or deep-rooting species likely to damage the planter
- Pesticides, herbicides, or chemicals (see Section 8)
- Fixings, signs, structures, or attachments to street furniture/planters
- Plastic flowers or ornaments

Chemicals, Pesticides & Peat

- The use of chemical weedkillers/pesticides is not permitted.

Health & Safety (Important)

Adopters must:

- Take reasonable care for their own safety and that of the public.
- Only work on the planter when it is safe to do so (e.g., avoid peak traffic times, poor visibility, icy conditions).
- Wear suitable clothing/footwear and use tools safely.
- Ensure any tools/materials are not left unattended and do not create trip hazards.

Vandalism, Theft, and Damage

- The Council cannot accept responsibility for vandalism, theft, weather damage, or accidental damage by third parties.
- Adopters should report significant damage, hazards, or persistent issues to the Council as soon as possible.
- The Council will decide whether repair/replacement is possible.

Missed Maintenance / Withdrawal

If a planter is not being maintained to a reasonable standard:

- The Council will contact the adopter to agree support.
- If no improvement is made within a reasonable timeframe, the Council may:
 - Remove the adopter from the scheme
 - Reassign the planter
 - Restore the planter to a standard Council planting arrangement (where resources permit)

Adopters may withdraw at any time by notifying the Council.

Branding, Sponsorship & Signage

- Small “Adopted by...” recognition (if offered) is at the Council’s discretion.
- Advertising, logos, or promotional signage is not permitted unless agreed in writing as part of an approved sponsorship arrangement.
- No items may be attached to nearby street furniture, railings, posts, or trees.

Judging and Prizes (Top 3)

- Planters will be judged in July by a panel appointed by the Council.
- The Council will award prizes to the top three planters.
- Judging will consider (example criteria):
 - Overall visual impact and colour
 - Plant health and condition
 - Creativity and design
 - Seasonal suitability
 - Tidiness and presentation
 - Appropriateness for the location/public space
 - Biodiversity e.g. bee-friendly flowers

Judges' decisions are final.

Photos and Promotion

By joining the scheme, adopters agree that:

- The Council may take photos of planters for publicity (website, social media, newsletters, press).
- The Council may name the adopter/group in promotional materials unless the adopter requests anonymity in writing.

Data Protection

- Contact details will be used only for the administration of the scheme and managed in accordance with applicable data protection legislation.
- Adopters can request access to or deletion of their data subject to legal requirements.

Agreement

By signing up (or confirming by email), the adopter confirms they have read and understood these Terms & Conditions and agrees to follow them for the duration of the adoption period.