

# Community Adopt-a-Planter Scheme – Terms & Conditions

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## **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 (before Easter) until the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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) before Easter.
- 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.