

### **Item 13 - Addiscombe Recreation Ground update**

There has not been an organised gardening session in the park since 3 June but there has been plenty of activity.

We received the great news that the Parks Department were happy to approve the fencing devised by Chairman, Steve White. Completion of the fencing will be taking place in the near future. This will greatly enhance the look of the flower beds and hopefully create a deterrent to inquisitive dogs.

The established and newly planted shrubs, perennials and bedding plants have been thriving during the summer months. A new water butt was acquired and a hosepipe purchased. When connected to the water supply it can stretch and reach both of the beds. This has greatly assisted the watering process. Special thanks should be given to the residents and dog walkers who have regularly taken time to fill the watering can or directed the hose pipe onto the now very colourful flower beds.

Five sections of trellis will soon be erected on the 'toilet block' wall. They will be spread evenly across the wall but still allow the stonework to be seen in the intervals. Once in position a variety of climbing plants will be purchased and planted to give all year interest.

Now that the group has been responsible for looking after the beds for several seasons, we are learning which plants thrive and those that do less well. Our aim is to bring colour and interest to the beds and reduce ongoing maintenance and the need for regular weeding. A planting plan is being devised and the money from the Tesco Bags of Help initiative and our local councillors community budgets will be used to purchase plants.

In addition, local residents have continued to offer plant and seed donations which have been gratefully received.

As the two main flower beds continue to be developed, going forward we can start to think about enhancing the planting in the three entrances to the park, possibly using cuttings from the main beds, excess plants or donations from local residents. The objective would be to keep this to a very low maintenance planting scheme as the main flower beds already keep us quite busy.

This report is written ahead of the next gardening session on 2 September so a verbal report will be added at the meeting on 4 September.

Lyn Simmons