

## Report on Bulbs for Parks and Open Spaces September 2019

The Parks and Open Spaces sub-committee is attempting to develop a process and timetable for planting within our Parks and Open Spaces. This should consist of areas where bulbs are planted in successive years and those that have 'one-off' or 'as needed' planting. In larger spaces and parks there may be a combination of this as a particular area may have a 'one-off' planting but the whole park or open space may also have a repetitive planting programme. An example of this could be Belle Vue Park. Both the Peace Garden and the Sunken Garden had one-off plantings which should not need adding to unless bulbs go blind (such as tulips). However, areas such as the banks along the Ravine and Cart Score will need annual plantings to gradually build up the plantings in the area over time and therefore spread the cost. Planting in these areas would also be on the types of bulbs that naturalise and suit their environs so that they natural multiply over time.

This proposed bulb order seeks to meet that goal and consists of a mixture of naturalising bulbs alongside some bulbs which are 'showier' but may actually decline over years. In effect some bulbs, such as tulips can be treated as annuals but they are more environmentally friendly than actual annuals as they only require planting and not large amounts of water and maintenance.

The committee is also aware of the needs placed upon the council due to the climate crisis and is looking at plants and bulbs which will naturalise and provide food for wildlife, whilst providing pleasure to the public and be as cost effective as possible for the council and tax payers.

The usual practice for purchasing bulb has been to source them from Norse unless their preferred supplier (Lubbe) could not supply them. The Parks and Open Spaces sub-committee followed that procedure and obtained a quote from Norse. Having received the original costs the committee revised the order to bring it to a cost which fell within the budget set by the previous council under the Parks Development section of the budget. This proposal was submitted to Finance and Governance however the Clerk advised that Council that would require three quotes so it was referred to Full Council.

Preparing multiple quotes for such an order is not straightforward as many suppliers do not carry stocks of all the varieties and the timescales to prepare the additional quotes meant that it was not possible to get quotes from companies. This paper has been prepared by consulting trade catalogues where possible and websites and then selecting three companies which can supply the closest specification to our requirements. Two companies are quoted on trade prices and the third is quoted on retail prices, all three are exclusive of VAT. You will see that the retail prices are significantly higher and even if that retailer would supply at 50% of the retail price it would still be higher than the other two suppliers.

As mentioned previously, planting will be looked at site by site and specific areas may be targeted each year. The aim is to work out a plan for planting which will, in time, ensure that all areas are considered. This year the concentration is on Belle Vue Park, Fen Park,

Gainsborough Green, Kensington Gardens and Sparrow's Nest. Some of these will still have planting in future years but the main focus will then pass to other sites.

This plan does not include bulbs which are planted 'in the green' such as snowdrops and bluebells although it does include the aconites requested by FoKG, which are usually planted in the early spring when they are actually growing as there is a higher success rate for planting those bulbs in that way.

In the table below the bulbs are in location order. The key to the locations is at the end of the report along with any abbreviations used.

Location	Bulb	Quantity	Norse**	Parkers	De Jager
KGHL	Crocus Chrys. Goldilocks	1000	55.00	85.00*	171.29
KGHL	Narcissus Golden Bells	250	33.00	32.50	131.07
KGHB	Iris Reticulata Blue	25	2.75	1.93	57.78
KGHB	Iris Reticulata Purple	25	2.75	3.30	3.54
KGHB	Iris Reticulata Yellow	25	2.75	1.79	10.21
KGHB	Erythronium Pagoda	25	8.25	6.88	5.17
KGBH	Fritillaria Michailovskyl	25	2.75	6.05	24.87
KGHB	Narcissus Hawera	50	4.95	7.15	24.90
KGHB	Tulipa Lady Jane	50	8.25	9.35	18.70
KGHB	Tulipa Tarda	250	20.63	16.50	24.66*
BVWB	Anemone Nemerosa	180	23.76	24.00	56.62
BVWB	Camassia Leicht white	60	23.10	25.20	80.62
BVWB	Crocus chrys. Ard Shenk	120	9.90	9.24	25.46*
BVWB	Fritillaria Meleagris Alba	180	31.68	31.68	82.02
BVWB	Muscari auscheri White Magic	120	11.88	14.52	37.68
SNHB	Iris Bronze/Yellow	20	2.20	3.99	7.16
SNHB	Narcissus Cheerfulness	50	5.50	9.08	31.55
SNHB	Narcissus Tamara	50	5.50	7.15	48.58
SNHB	Narcissus Professor Einstein	50	5.50	10.18	57.54
SNHB	Tulipa Virifolia Artist	50	8.25	11.28	37.79
SNHB	Tulipa praetans Shogun	50	8.25	13.98	21.83
SNHB	Tulipa Fabio	50	8.25	10.45	31.91
SNHB	Tulipa Muscadet	50	8.25	9.90	27.11
SNPB	Narcissus Pink Smiles	200	22.00	72.00	250.25
SNPB	Narcissus Thalia	100	11.00	17.20	62.78
SNPB	Tulipa Estella Rjinweld	60	9.90	15.18	45.58
SNPB	Tulipa Groenland	60	9.90	11.55	42.58
SNPB	Tulipa Huis Ten Bosch	100	16.50	20.90	57.24
SNPB	Tulipa Marilyn	60	9.90	12.87	37.08
SNPB	Tulipa Queen of the Night	60	9.90	12.54	33.84
SNPB	Tulipa Shirley	60	9.90	13.86	43.66

SNHW	Anemone Blanda Blue Shades	180	19.80	14.30	26.26
SNHW	Camassia Cusickii	60	23.10	25.74	87.94
SNHW	Muscari auch. mix	240	23.76	17.16	109.36
SNHW	Scilla Peruviana	30	66.00	39.60	120.00
FoKG	Narcissus	500	0***	0***	0***
FoKG	Daffodils	500	33.00	74.25	162.84
FoKG	Muscari	250	20.63	17.88	60.02
FoKG	Iris reticulata	250	24.75	16.50	33.74
FoKG	Leucojum vernal	250	68.75	82.50	183.78
FoKG	Puschkinia scillides	500	27.50	22.50*	86.30
FoKG	Aconites	250	33.00	34.38	103.94
FoKG	Fritillaria michailovskyl	250	55.00	50.00	124.56
FoKG	Tulipa Yokohama	250	22.00	44.00	115.66
FoKG	Tulipa Purple Prince	250	22.00	44.00	97.44
FoKG	Allium Mount Everest	100	99.00	90.00	372.53
FoKG	Allium Azureum (Caeruleum)	100	11.00	9.50	25.84
FP/GG/KG	Crocus species mixed	2000	110.00	80.00	284.92
	Narcissus species mixed***	2500	0	0	0
			1051.38	1527.01	4056.65

\* closest substitute

\*\* Include 10% uplift

\*\*\*Included in the Norse provision

The Norse figure is higher than that which went to F&G as we were not aware of the 10% uplift at that time

## Recommendation

That we proceed with the order with Norse as it represents a significant saving (even with the uplift) and they have already have a contract in place. This figure goes £51.38 over the figure originally set of £1000 for bulbs however we did not spend that sum on bulbs last year so there should be funds in the Parks and Open Spaces Development reserve. Along with this recommendation we also recommended a maximum budget of £250 to plant the round bed that the Holocaust tree is in.

## Abbreviations

BVWB	Belle Vue White Bed
FoKG	Friends of Kensington Gardens
FP	Fen Park
GG	Gainsborough Green
KG	Kensington Gardens
KGHB	Kensington Gardens Holocaust Beds
KGHL	Kensington Gardens Holocaust Lawn
SNHB	Sparrow's Nest Hot Beds
SNHW	Sparrow's Nest High Walk
SNPB	Sparrow's Nest Pastel Beds