

Councillor Representation Reporting Form

Councillors: Neil Coleby, Sue Barnard and Alice Taylor

Body: AID Plant suppliers

Report Date:12/4/19

**Meetings
attended and
dates**

Meeting with Goose Green Nursery

**Key issues
discussed at
the
meeting(s)
(relevant to
LTC and its
constituents)**


I contacted Stephen Malster of Goose Green Nursery when we were recently looking for plants for Kensington Gardens. The plants which we were looking for were too specific at that time for him to be able to help us however he was interested in working with us in the future so it seemed sensible to pay a visit to the nursery as it was so close and have a discussion about future possibilities.

Goose Green Nursery is a small wholesale nursery which both grows its own plants as well as sourcing plants from other British nurseries. This later is important due to preventing import of various pests and diseases. He has worked with a lot of larger plant chains many of whom are no longer in business and seems to have lots of connections in the plant world.

Goose Green Nursery is located in central Beccles near to the rugby club and skatepark and is well established. They provide plants for Pride in Beccles and Carlton Colville parish council as well as other local parish councils. At present they are preparing for Easter open days but are also goring plants specifically for Beccles and planting up hanging baskets for Carlton Colville.

The nursery, although not large, appears well maintained and well run. There was a large selection of shrubs and perennials with some unusual varieties. There were also large number of plants taken from cuttings etc which were in various stages from pricking out to planting up.

Talking to Stephen his plant knowledge and love for the industry came across clearly.

	<p>Stephen would be willing to grow plants specifically for us or source from other British nurseries. He does not have availability or price lists instead we would provide him with our requirements and he would then advise and provide a quote for the plants. We would need to implement the planned planting programme where we would look to start any new beds or replanting for end September through October. Ideally plans to that planting would be considered once the current years planting is carried out ready to place an order between November – March (the earlier the better). This would enable plant sourcing and growing on by Goose Green.</p> <p>Stephen does not do garden design but would happily provide plant recommendations and alternatives/better options for any design which we undertook. He recommended that, having spoken to us, it would be easier for us to plan planting ourselves. He has also offered to visit to give area specific plant recommendations if we are having problems and also to host tours of the nurseries for our Friends groups in order to provide more knowledge and interest. David does not do plant talks as his work on the nursery takes up the bulk of his time.</p> <p>Whilst we were there, we also met with a local rose grower who grows on the Sotterley estate who was also extremely helpful and who has invited us to visit and look around. He grows roses for several major names in rose growing including Peter Beale roses. He also, until recently, grew for David Austin but they have taken everything back in house. He does a lot of procumbent roses which are used a lot for ground cover in a lot of new build sites due to their low maintenance and long flowering period.</p> <p>I believe the three of us would recommend to the Council that we consider using both these nurseries and put together an order for the autumn as soon as possible so that we can obtain quotes and trial working together.</p>
<p>Any actions required by LTC?</p>	<p>Plan autumn planting in liaison with Norse and Friends Groups Submit to council in May Provide list to Goose Green Nursery for quote</p>
<p>Signed: </p>	<p>Date: 12/4/19</p>