

*Harlequin services,
Clays Building,
Ellesmere Road,
Wem,
Shropshire.
SY4 5TU.
15th October 2020*



Dear Penny and Wem town council,

Please find attached my invoice for the summer planters 2020. I have added the extra couple of weeks as requested, for the pole, 1x3 tier, and barrel planters.

Considering the challenges facing us all this year, we should be rightfully proud of providing some colour and vibrancy to help cheer an occasionally downcast residents of the town. I as always take immense pride and pleasure in providing this service, indeed for the sixth year in succession, and we have received regular words of thanks for our continued efforts, particularly in these unprecedented times.

Theft from the planters this year was almost non existent, however some damage was caused by persons unknown on a couple of occasions during the early part of the season. Also the frequent squalls and wind during the summer caused not a little damage and added frustrations along the way!

With regards to the quality and variety of the plants this year, my thoughts are as follows. The Plants provided were of good quality, particularly in the pole planters, which towards the second half of the summer were glorious in colour. Obviously they took a little longer to get going this year and therefore longer to “thicken out”.

I thought the entrance planters benefited from a different approach in plants and planting. However, I struggled with weeds throughout the year, possibly they were already present in the compost if it was partly recycled. Also the variety of plant used at the rear of the planter became somewhat unruly and scruffy towards the end , and the bedding plants at the front died off and had to be removed early.

I thought the three tier planters were of good quality, but perhaps lacking in abundance of growth that we have enjoyed in previous seasons. The colours could however not be faulted. Maybe some more variety, ie, less petunias.

The barrel planters I found a little uninspiring, lacking in colour and variety of plants. The petunias were weakly also despite my best efforts to feed and encourage healthy growth.

My comments are of course intended in a professional and constructive manner as on the whole I consider the season to have been a success.

I think that the trough planters would benefit from new plants next year, however, I think they were colourful, and attractive for the most part.

Thanks have been made to John for his time and efforts afforded in helping with the movement of the pole containers this year.

It has once again been a pleasure to provide maintenance and care of the planters again this year, offering some degree of normality, and cheer for the good people of Wem.

Yours Sincerely,

David Murray.