

RECREATION, LEISURE & OPEN SPACES MEETING – 14th MAY 2008**Planter – on pavement outside Ringwood Physiotherapy, Southampton Road**

1. Members will recall that the Working Party set up by the Committee to find new positions for planters and railings troughs to further enhance the town centre planting, last summer installed a large square planter on the pavement outside Ringwood Physiotherapy (adjacent to the entrance to Carvers Industrial Estate).
2. We have now received a complaint from the resident who lives in the cottage on the opposite side of the entrance to the Industrial Estate. The resident states that she suffers frequently from vandals pulling up the plants and throwing them at her front door, which, she says is only 20yds from the planter. She has, she says, reported this vandalism both to the Police and to the Town Council on previous occasions, although there is no record in the office of complaints having been received. The lady also said that the Police advised her that the Town Council should have CCTV in that area and they have advised the Town Council of this and also suggested that the planter be moved. Again, the office has received no such communications from the Police.
3. The resident appreciates that the Town Council is doing its best to continue to improve the appearance of the entrances to the town, but she does feel that this particular planter is just too close to residential properties which suffer the consequences of vandalism.
4. Whilst evidence of vandalism should not be treated lightly, the Working Party did consider all issues before deciding to install at this location. The location of the planter should not be a problem. The problem is the anti-social behaviour of a small minority of people walking home from town. It would be inappropriate to continually remove or close facilities simply to remove an attractive feature from attack by hooligans. Efforts should be made to stop this behaviour and it is recommended that at the present time the planter be retained in its current location and the police be requested to address the problem of late night vandalism more assertively.