



2014 Judges Comments

Category 1A: Small Village

Bradfield Silver Rose Award

Introduction

It was great pleasure to revisit this charming village in the stunning Peak District. Again, the weather did us proud and this time the judges had the added anticipation of the Tour De France. The In Bloom group had requested this date so as to tie in with their preparations for this very special event. We were impressed by the energy and commitment of the group and pleased to see the amount of community support they enjoy.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

We were impressed with the tremendous efforts the group makes to ensure that watering is carried out efficiently.

We saw attractive and well-tended gardens around the village. Perhaps a gardening competition for the village might be a nice idea.

There was plenty of colour in tubs and containers around the village.

Full marks must go the group for the time and effort they spent on the road side Tour De France display at High Bradfield. It was commendable that everyone had mucked in together to produce this.

Rather appropriately, the summer bedding had been planted out completely in red, white and blue!

We were impressed with the group's efforts to eradicate knotweed.

The Old Horn Inn looked splendid with the hanging baskets.

Areas for Improvement

Perhaps try to use a wider variety of bedding plants and then if one variety is suffering a poor year, the others might make up for it.

Consider introducing more sustainable planting in tubs to cut the cost of yearly bedding plants.

Invite residents to help with pruning the community orchard.

Keep building up the planting around the village hall.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

It was good to hear that the group obtain their water for the summer bedding from water storage butts in nearby fields.

The annual autumn river clean-up is also very commendable, with strange items ending up in the river even in this rather prosperous area!

The whole area is very clean and a testament to vigilance of the group.

A fruitful relationship with BT has resulted in the re-painting of the traditional old phone box, which looks superb!

The judges await with anticipation whether or not the new enviro-friendly slug pellets the group are trying are successful. Credit to the group for looking for things like this.

It was good to see the car-parking area by the village hall had been resurfaced since our Spring visit. The group had been raising funds and can be well-pleased with their efforts.

Areas for Improvement

Perhaps it might be possible to consider interpretation boards on the site of the old corn mill.

Perhaps some kind of art installation would add interest to the corn mill site.

Consideration could be given to some scented and wildlife planting around the village hall which would add interest for those using it, especially for the children.

The areas around the boundary stones might also be suitable for wildlife planting.

Wherever possible continue to work on water harvesting and conservation.

Perhaps using containers with reservoirs where possible might make watering easier.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The group currently have a foothold at the local farmers market for fund-raising, and continue with a presence at local festivals and fairs, including the local Barn Dance.

The group are obviously making great efforts to increase their membership in lots of ways. It is good to hear of members coming from beyond the immediate area.

We were pleased to hear of work being done with the local schools and hope it will be possible to continue and expand this.

Areas for Improvement

The judges look forward to hearing about the group busy themselves in two future projects: - creating a wildlife area to compliment the planters by the river; and creating a feature to celebrate the industry of the local corn mill.

Perhaps invite children from the nearest school to come and build 'mini-beast' hotels. A couple of these could be made with a host of recyclable materials and placed near the wildlife area by the river. Perhaps consideration could be given to log, leaf and other habitat piles. We are sure the children would enjoy making them and perhaps also insect hotels.

It might be possible to introduce more scented and insect friendly planting to the village.

Esholt

Silver Rose Award

Introduction

Esholt is a small, delightful village with a lovely church, schoolrooms, war memorial and most notably the Woolpack public house, featured in Emmerdale. Grass verges and gardens are very neat with lovely planting and the newly swept streets and general cleanliness are a great credit to the In Bloom group.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The inclusion of the farm, sports club, and now the village pub in the In Bloom initiative is a big step forward.

Flowers and sustainable planting around the War Memorial area are lovely as is the whole area near the Church.

The farm had beautiful planters and an attractive pond and was all beautifully maintained.

Areas for Improvement

It would be nice to see the car park and surround of the Sports Club a little tidier.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Wonderful nature reserve and hedges to encourage wildlife on the farm, recycling throughout the village and composting for use on the allotments. Lovely wildlife and wildflower area behind the sports club.

There is a lack of graffiti and fly posting and the condition and cleanliness of the streets- due to a small dedicated group of dedicated helpers is quite remarkable. Very well done

Areas for Improvement

Lovely to see the allotments, but perhaps the unoccupied ones could be tidied, and the path in the wildlife area behind the sports club kept clear for people to enjoy.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

It was very pleasing to see more people involved, who obviously take pride in their village.

Good that the children's group are part of the poster campaign and wonderful to see the education and love of the environment which many groups and parties gain from visiting the farm.

The wonderful community spirit is very apparent in the help the group and villagers give to less able neighbours by helping with their gardens

Areas for Improvement

It would be good to see evidence of funding and support and also photographs of events taking place throughout the year.

Ledston Silver Rose Award

Introduction

Ledston is a very attractive small village with a mixture of old estate properties and more recent dwellings. The village is essentially residential and has a popular primary school. Unfortunately, the village pub in the centre of the village is still closed and the site is starting to deteriorate. The 'In Bloom' teams consists of just two residents who work very hard to make the village an attractive place to live and it is as a result of their ongoing commitment that makes the village look so lovely.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The two bloom members have worked hard to improve the entrances to the village by planting colourful bedding plants and strimming the verges on the approach. Planted barrels are spread throughout the village to add colour and interest and the majority of residents maintain their front gardens and some of the grass verges to a high standard. An overgrown area of ivy has also been cleared since the spring visit.

Areas for Improvement

Although many residents mow the grass verge outside their property, other areas are not cut on a regular basis by the council contractors. It might be worth approaching the council to ask if alternative arrangements can be made for next year. With just a two-man team, it might be worth considering planting some shrubs and perennials in some of the large planters around the village to save time and money on bedding plants.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The village is very tidy and litter free and street furniture is in good conditions. The long verge leading up the hill to the Hall is maintained sympathetically and includes a good range of wild flowers and is wildlife friendly.

Areas for Improvement

It would be good to see the local school more involved in village projects such as recycling and wildlife habitat. It might be worth contacting the owners of the empty pub to ask if they are prepared to carry out some basic maintenance in front of the building and to remove ivy from walls which may cause a problem if left!

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

It is encouraging to see that the school is starting to get involved and have planted a perennial and shrub border in front of the school and that they are also planning a vegetable garden for next year. Lots of posters in house windows as a result of the poster competition in conjunction with the bloom group and school

Areas for Improvement

Continue to work with the school where possible and encourage them to become involved in projects within the village. Carry on trying to recruit more help and volunteers to help spread the work.

Introduction

We were met by the community, school, and even a police woman to guide us round this delightful unique village. The contours and hills had been met with flowers everywhere in tubs, baskets, and every available space of land filled with planting both sustainable and complimentary planting for the Le Tour De France. Congratulations on such a good show

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The planting throughout the village had been planned with care and thought for the difficult terrain, colours of plants and flowers were vibrant with sustainability well in mind. Areas had composting and water catchment available .Public parking areas were welcoming very well maintained as also was the complete absence of any litter, even weeds seemed banned, the Beck was a delightful stream with much care to its banks and care of the bank side trees. There was a wonderful community spirit very evident in the many tubs and baskets in the houses and even a community garden for all to use.

Areas for Improvement

Just keep up the good work, spirit, and encouragement to residents so evident

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The Beck area was being looked after and plants monitored with the school playing a big part in composting, water conservation and even Bugingham Palace formed for all the bugs on the playing fields for all to see. No evidence of litter or dog fouling could be seen at all with every space filled with planting where possible. There was unbelievable pride of place throughout Mill Bank. The church yard was a peaceful area with seating, sustainable planting, composting and a water but all beautifully kept. A herb garden was planted and residents encouraged to cut the herbs for their own use

Areas for Improvement

Once more just keep up the good work and relationship with the schools and residents.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Very strong community spirit was evident with news of the judge's visit placed well, planting was evident wherever the terrain allowed and a great effort to use sustainable

plants had been used. A communal garden where residents encouraged to help themselves was very well stocked and planted, composting and water but was available, similarly the school was playing a big part in teaching children to plant vegetables, use rain water from the gutter and a small composting area for them. We were treated to a well presented history of the local work and working conditions and involvement throughout the year is evident with the care of trees shrubs and planting beds. Thought was being given to replacement of stone copings that had been stolen

Areas for Improvement

All we can say is keep up the excellent work using natural resources and perhaps think that the existing stone copings now becoming a target could be marked with a stone saw disc to identify them if ever taken

Welwick & Weeton Silver Rose Award

Introduction

The two Villages have come a long way since the Spring. With very little money but a huge amount of hard work and community support you have transformed the environment you live in for the benefit of all.

Everyone who visits your villages or just passes through cannot help to be impressed by them.

You should all be very proud of what you have achieved in such a short time. Keep up the great work.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The planting of the two boundary markers were of a good quality with a good selection of plants been used.

A great deal of hard work has gone into the Kelk bed which is now brightening up an unloved corner and is now brining enjoyment to local residents.

The colourful planting either side of the War Memorial makes a focal point in the heart of the village.

Church graveyard is maintained to a high standard.

The planting in Weeton was of a high standard everyone was getting involved and were doing their bit. All should be congratulated.

The hard work put in by the caravan park owner in Weeton along with local residents was clear to see. What a transformation from the Spring.

Areas for Improvement

Consider not increasing the areas you maintain but instead focus on improving the quality of what you have.

Think hard about your plant choice and its long term sustainability i.e. more perennial planting and less annuals.

We appreciate that it is hard to do this when, as with many groups, you rely on plant donations but think about what plants you want and ask if anyone has them in their gardens. With autumn coming it's a good time to divide and transfer a lot of perennial plants.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The wildflowers on the traffic island and road verge in Weeton and the church embankment in Welwick were as good as the judges have seen anywhere.

The painting of the railing around the war memorial.

It was good to see the Gunpowder Plot statue up close, a great example of art in the landscape.

It was very interesting to visit the church and learn a little of its history.

The permanently placed old farm implements in Weeton were totally in keeping with the village setting and a great addition to the Village.

The overall cleanliness of the village is a credit for all involved.

Areas for Improvement

Think about strimming around the Gunpowder Plot statue to improve ease of access for visitors and think about creating a wild flower border in the corner under the hedge row.

Consider using Welwick Saltmarsh Nature Reserve as part of your route in either the Spring or Summer Judging.

The church is part of your local history and the inclusion of a history board at the entrance to the grave yard would enhance the visitor experience.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The purchase of a plot of land from the Council by the local community to be developed into a community garden is a very positive step and something the Judges look forward to see develop over the coming years.

A very well presented and informative presentation at the beginning of judging. A well prepared and informative summer update.

The holding of open gardens and scarecrow trail.

Although the group lacked funds the Community has pulled together by both growing and donating plants.

There is good evidence of ongoing projects throughout both villages, keep up the good work.

Areas for Improvement

Think about having high visibility jackets printed for each member of the in bloom group to wear when out doing jobs around the villages to let everyone see who you are and what you are doing to improve your villages.

Think of using Twitter and Facebook to keep people informed what you are up to and it can be a good way of getting what you are doing on local radio stations.

Although the Youth Club has closed we felt that it's very important for you to try to keep up your work with the young people in the village.

We know it is very hard these days to get press coverage for your campaign but you have to keep on sending articles and photos into your local paper and hope they print at least some of them.

Category 1B: Village

East Morton

Introduction

East Morton is a pleasant village, cut in half by a major road. There is a welcoming, high quality of the planting. The village is very clean and tidy. The judges were impressed by the number and friendliness of all the people we met.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The 50th Anniversary of Britain in Bloom sign and display.

Good mix of plant material using both permanent and annual.

The reuse of bulbs and spring planting.

Runner beans using a tree for support and the community planters cared for by villagers.

Areas for Improvement

Following the successful example of the pub, could more involvement of village businesses be encouraged? Would it be possible for the golf course to be included in the future?

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The reusing of other areas bulbs is very impressive and the reuse of the groups own spring planting.

Maximising opportunities to develop the available land e.g. the orchard, wildflower meadows, play area and planter behind the institute.

Spotlessly clean, especially as it was the day after the Gala

Areas for Improvement

Could the group use their expertise to improve local woodlands?

Have the group put up bird and bat boxes? A possible activity for the Morton Meet?

The interpretive board will help explain the history and community management of the village green.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The number of people at the coffee morning and the diversity of the groups represented was very impressive.

The display board at the institute showing the group's activities.

Morton Meet's involvement in the raised bed and the support of Morton in Bloom.

The "Judging Today" banner and the school posters around the village.

Evidence of the involvement of the school was outstanding, especially the enthusiasm and knowledge of the children.

Areas for Improvement

Photos of the Judges visit could have been taken and sent to the local paper to further promote Morton and Yorkshire in Bloom.

Grassington Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Once again Diane and the Bloom team had been hard at work enhancing this very attractive Dales Village following on from the invasion of the many Tour De France spectators.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

On arrival at the Dales information centre, bus station and car park, everywhere was neat and tidy and welcoming. Many attractive containers in various locations throughout the village. The many bikes in celebration of Tour De France which for a welcome change were not painted yellow, but adorned with appropriate plantings. The lovely memorial garden opposite Grassington Lodge. The grounds of the Congregational Church were very neat and tidy. The colourful displays on many businesses, Rustic Rabbit, Bunny, Forester, 43 Blue Arch, 49 Main Street, Oh La La. Whimsical Cottage Tea Rooms, Fish and Chip shop. Flower Loft, Black Horse Hotel, Burnt Rock, Grassington House hay racks, The Craft Shop, Coffee Eco, Bay Tree interiors, Spar shop, etc. The revised plantings in the circular bed were very appropriate. Well done to the watering volunteers.

Areas for Improvement

The boxes adjacent to seats on the main road are too small to create a meaningful display, Suggest that either they be planted up with just one species to give impact, or preferably be increased in size, or that shrubs are planted in the ground to give enclosure.

We would have liked to have been shown more private gardens.

Some colour schemes were considered to be a little insipid, perhaps consider something with more 'wow' and impact.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The novel colourful kerbside recycling bins in two locations making it easy to dispose of recyclable waste, and promoting the Grassington Festival, all processed by the Bloom team (a great idea). The Pig Pen in the centre of the square with the new Welcome to Grassington stone plaque in the circular bed. The large areas of cobbles in the village which must be difficult to maintain.

Areas for Improvement

There are plans for wildflower areas adjacent to the main road, which will improve the visual amenities. The car park adjacent to the Police Station and leading to the Volunteers storage hut is in need of maintenance. Until this 'grot spot' is improved suggest the judging tour avoids this area.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The Bloom team are very hard working, organizing events throughout the year to raise much needed funds to create and maintain features in the village. In general the businesses are very involved in enhancing the village through creating and maintaining excellent displays on their premises. Church House in the centre of the village where many of the fundraising events are held when it is not being used for church services. The Library forecourt had a Bloom notice board with posters. The Bloom website had information about the campaign. The school had some interesting features in the grounds, veg beds etc which is a start of providing interest and stimulus for the youngsters. The Bloom team have encouraged youngsters by providing RHS sunflower seeds and these will be assessed later in the year.

Areas for Improvement

There would appear to be certain sections of the community who don't share the enthusiasm of the hard working bloom team and get involved or encourage the volunteers in improving the environment for the benefit of all the residents, businesses and visitors. This added involvement could have a big impact on the village. Additional funds from various sources could make a difference and help the bloom team realize more of their plans. A little more PR for the Bloom team could achieve great results.

Introduction

Even the traffic and the odd tractor doesn't disturb the peace in Kirkby Malzeard. Only the yellow bikes were a reminder of the proximity of the Tour de France.

The judges were to meet the In Bloom team at the Mechanics Institute who, along with everyone else, seemed to care about the welfare of their village.

The tour of the long High Street was sympathetically covered by part walking and part driven. From the West End very good views of Kirkby Malzeard were to be had. The development of the Pinfold from the Spring visit was remarkable, and highlighted the successful growing of fruit and vegetable in a restricted location. One of the delights to visit was The 'Tour de France' garden that reflected the first day of the race through Yorkshire, and was inspired by the YIB group and the village children. An asset to the village is the Highside playing fields and the All-weather multi-usage Pavilion, and judges were able to watch a game of bowls in play. Another highlight was the return to the village Primary School, and to further learn about the Make better use of the Press, Eco Club. Congratulations to both staff and children for all their efforts and their success.

Kirby Malzeard is both deceptively small and equally deceptively big, and hides many interesting features looked after by caring villagers.

At the request of several, the judges were given opportunities to stop and talk to many enthusiastic gardeners.

A well thought out itinerary that gave a real taste of life in a Yorkshire village.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement**Areas of Achievement**

The very obvious care given by so many of the villagers that made the return to Kirkby Malzeard so enjoyable.

The many small floral frontages, that brought the High Street stone houses to life

Areas for Improvement

Probably mentioned previously. Some thought might be given to placing a noticeable floral feature to soften the unsightly closed pub in the High Street.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility**Areas of Achievement**

The enthusiasm and success of the eco-schoolchildren, with their vegetable and sensory gardens. And especially the resulting knowledge they have gained.

Areas for Improvement

More time might be given to discuss recycling, and the advantage of good composting.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The continuity by the In Bloom group to promote Yorkshire in Bloom, with the purchase of banners and posters, has paid dividends.

Areas for Improvement

The coming garden visits should reinforce the village's involvement in Yorkshire in Bloom, as should plant sales and plant swops.

Make better use of the Press.

Spofforth in Bloom Gold Rose Award Category Winner

Introduction

Several yellow bikes are a reminder of Le Grand Depart passing close to Spofforth. From the eastern approach, the excellent new village sign and the floral frontage of the Castle Pub greet the judges even before arriving at the Village Hall to an impressive welcome from the In Bloom team and tour guides.

The Village Hall this summer seems to have more features than ever and makes the perfect commencement of a well thought-out itinerary, both by car and on foot.

The view down the commendably clean High Street is without the telephone box unfortunately hit in a traffic accident, and is clearly missed by all. The In bloom team have prepared a different itinerary from the Spring visit, giving the judges a different perspective of Spofforth.

No visit is without seeing the Ginny Green Holes Environment Project. The Wilderness areas are broader and more defined than ever and the whole site has to be seen, well deserving its Open Space Award. It is hoped further Information Boards can be purchased. Buzzards and Red Kites circled above. Little wonder Ginny Green Holes is so well used. Similarly, no visit is without spending time at the C of E Village School to meet the children and learn about their Gardening Club and the innovative Flower Feature. The notice on the school railing reads 'Pleased to support Spofforth in bloom.' Close to All Saints Church, is the new commemorative WW1 Garden, and the judges heard about future development plans, like the Manor Garth Corner, the Castle Ings corner is to be commended. The well timed itinerary led to the Millennium Garden and a short appraisal of Broomhill - all to be congratulated. The judges were to meet the Spofforth in Bloom team and learn more about the continued enthusiasm and achievements since their Spring visit. Impressive.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The high standard of floral maintenance from all approaches to the village.

Areas for Improvement

The continuous through traffic does little to prevent such cleanliness, Total absence of and so many floral features.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Total absence of litter and graffiti. Well done.

Areas for Improvement

Despite any visible evidence of recycling. There appears little impact on the environment.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

There is much evidence of community participation, from all ages. The obvious enthusiasm makes the judges' visit to Spofforth so worthwhile.

Areas for Improvement

Though photographs were being taken along the itinerary, there seemed little evidence of any Press coverage. Spofforth deserves recognition for all their considerable efforts.

Category 1C: Large Village

Barwick Gold Rose Award Category Winner

Introduction

Barwick in Elmet is a large village and the established 'In Bloom' group was formed almost 20 years ago. Over that time a great deal of work has been done in and around the village to create a very attractive place to live, work or visit. The judges were shown around on a beautifully sunny day and saw much of the hard work done by such enthusiastic volunteers across the community. There is a great deal of pride in the village which is evident from the lovely public areas and private gardens.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The summer bedding displays, hanging baskets and planted containers around the village were well planted and maintained to a high standard. Even the roof of the village bus stop had been planted to make the structure look more attractive. An annual wild flower verge has been created this year with great success on the edge of the village to smarten up an area by a garage. The church and chapel gardens were very colourful and well maintained and the long herbaceous border running the length of the Main Street looked great. All mown areas around the village were very tidy as were the communal gardens. We also saw some very attractive front gardens around the village.

Areas for Improvement

Consider reducing the wild flower area near the village hall car park in an attempt to control the wild oats problem. It may take a few years to get on top of the wild oats, but it will be worth it!

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Everywhere was tidy and litter free and street furniture was in good condition and well maintained. It was good to see so many bird boxes, bug hotels and wildlife habitat boxes spread around the village. Some areas are being managed to attract wildlife and there are large composting bins for old bedding plants and autumn leaves.

Areas for Improvement

Consider having some signage or an interpretation board in the garden at the rear of the chapel explaining why areas have been allowed to grow long.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

There is a great deal of community participation in the village and no-one is excluded. The church, chapel, school, pubs, local businesses, groups and organisations all play their part and work together to make Barwick the lovely village it is. There are various fund raising events and the In Bloom campaign continues all year round.

Areas for Improvement

It is difficult to suggest how you can get more community participation as there are already so many individuals and groups involved. Continue to take on new members to ensure the group will continue for another 20 years!

Bramham Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Bramham is to be congratulated on their Primary School. Staff, children and scarecrows gave the judges a warm welcome, demonstrating their enthusiasm, courteousness and importantly, the seeming to be at ease with adults when detailing their vegetable garden.

Whilst not wishing to overplant their village, the Summer planting well reflected the 'Horticultural Achievement'.

The new stone trough at the church gates of All Saints Church seems to please everyone, including the watching scarecrow, as have the future plans for care and maintenance.

The enhancement of Front Street, with hanging baskets, has been a success, and further baskets are envisaged. Bowcliffe Corner is better than ever. The Community Garden has achieved its purpose.

Again, appreciation must be given to those who maintain and care for the Bramham Senior Citizens Centre - surely one of the highlights in The Square.

The hanging baskets on the Red Lion are a blaze of colour, and a credit to all concerned.

To end the visit to Bramham, a leisurely walk past the many floral features, only highlights the continuing work done by the In Bloom group and everyone else who helps.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The enhancement of Front Street with hanging baskets, being watered and maintained by the residents.

The floral impact at the All Saints churchyard gate by the addition of a second stone trough.

Areas for Improvement

The decision to avoid over-planting, and the continued improvement of the existing presentation, has not lessened the overall impact of the village.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

As in the Spring, litter and dog-fouling is non-existent, and cleanliness shows throughout.

Areas for Improvement

The issue of composting remains under consideration.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The judges were able to meet several villagers throughout the tour, and Community Participation is most evident, especially in The Square and at the Bramham Senior Citizens Centre. Thanks to the generosity of a villager, high visibility tabards are now worn by all gardeners.

Areas for Improvement

The very recent reporting of the Tour de France, and the village scarecrow display, seems to have led to an absence of the Press. They missed an excellent Yorkshire in Bloom presentation.

Burncross Gold Rose Award

Introduction

On the hottest day of the year, it was particularly befitting to be judging this entry which left the judges suitably impressed in spring. The judges were looking forward to seeing whether the superb community spirit which the Burncross Action Group seem to have engendered continues to prosper, which it clearly does. It was good also to hear about the exciting plans which the group have for the future. We particularly enjoyed the poetry reading from local children, Burncross clearly has a lot of talent.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The two entry/exit points of the A61 were an absolute pleasure to see. The group have done a commendable job maintaining the grass, and they have done a first-class job planning and planting up the summer bedding here - the colour schemes were stunning! The herbaceous border at the top of Hallwood Road complimented the neighbouring woodland very well and as been cleverly thought out to compliment the woodland around it. We are glad that Costcutter are getting behind the group.

Areas for Improvement

Consider using the council depot site for a community allotment, using raised beds. This might give the residents a valuable opportunity. Providing allotments of different sizes might meet the needs of a range of people.

Look for areas where scented planting might be a good idea.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The level of street cleansing was very high with not a drop of litter to be seen.

That the group have taken on graffiti-removal duties with The Council is particularly commendable. They have been issued with kits and their vigilance has ensured none is allowed to blight the neighbourhood for long!

It was good to see that the local CostCutter have eventually been persuaded to tidy up the shrubbery on their property.

It is good to hear that the group garden without the use of chemicals.

Recycling is taking place where possible. Plans for considering recycling at the council depot are very interesting.

We were pleased to see the introduction of a wildlife area at the recreation ground.

Areas for Improvement

Continue looking for areas around the village where wildlife planting could be developed.

Consider working with children to create habitat piles, insect hotels etc.

Keep working to install bird and bat boxes and perhaps hedgehog hotels.

Perhaps there are areas around the village where flowering shrubs might be planted to bring in insects.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The judges were very impressed to hear that the group had posted newsletters to nearly 2000 properties. Because of efforts like this to increase community awareness, participation is very high considering the small population.

This summer, the group invited the children of the local Windmill Hill Infant School to take part in a poetry competition. The judges thought this was an excellent idea, with environmentally-themed poems hopefully educating children about their environmental responsibilities in a fun way. The garden competition is a good idea, as is asking residents to look after tubs in their area. Clearly there is a good relationship with the local council.

Areas for Improvement

The judges were pleased to hear the group had started to make head-way with the Council with regards to improving the old depot on Bracken Hill. With work, the site could potentially become a community allotment.

Continue to involve the children with the work of the group.

Cayton Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Cayton in Bloom gave a very informative briefing about their activities, which then led into a well-planned route of the village. The village was well presented with strategically placed and colourful seasonal planting in hanging baskets, tubs, beds and troughs. The inclusion of the caravan park was an interesting bonus as was the visit to the primary school to meet the children who designed the salt bin bed. A thoroughly enjoyable visit meeting enthusiastic people who are delivering much through hard work and endeavour.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Through experience and know how the In Bloom group have delivered many highly colourful and quality displays throughout the village. With a mix of perennial and seasonal plantings providing floral and foliage displays there is a year round interest that gives the group a profile which it richly deserves.

The contribution to the visit made by the many splendid private gardens seen on the tour, some in Harford Road, did much to enhance the entry. From the business quarter the displays at The Star and the inclusion of Cayton Caravan Parks many schemes and projects were successful examples for other businesses to follow.

Areas for Improvement

To ensure the displays seen throughout the village are of consistent quality, the group needs to be prepared to remove disappointing plantings, as seen at the waterwheel, and replant. The much mentioned burgeoning allotments should be included in the tour to give an even greater opportunity for the group to demonstrate, the wider communities involvement and contribution to horticultural achievement in the village.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The In Bloom group and wider community to present the village in its spotless condition had carried out a tremendous amount of work. Clearly the result of many dedicated hours of commitment and effort. The numerous examples of conservation good practice were highlighted at Cayton Caravan Park where the conservation ethos is an integral part of the sites management practices and philosophy. The new tubs with their own water reservoirs, made from recycled plastic, is indicative of the reuse principals the In Bloom group strives to adhere to.

Areas for Improvement

A review of the many varied benches, seats and floral features about the village, would help with the development of a strategic five year plan for their maintenance and renewal. This would support a consistent level of presentation across the village and help identify future project priorities.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Cayton In Bloom are an example to all in the way they raise funds, manage budgets, seek and enlist the support of individuals and organisations for the betterment of their village community. The involvement of the school children and Brownies was a real plus and not only raises awareness but also will encourage participation in future years. The year round presence of the Cayton in Bloom group at local events and throughout the village gives a positive profile to an organisation supporting the enrichment of the environment.

Areas for Improvement

With the richly deserved success of the group invariably comes increased work for the groups existing membership. Recruitment of additional members is a priority that should be tackled as soon as possible.

Great & Little Preston Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The group are continuing to make steady progress on the projects they are involved with throughout the village.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Residential areas are maintained to a high standard throughout, those to note are Glencoe estate, Whitehouse Crescent and Avenue, Little Preston Hall and The Grove cul de sac.

The colourful perennial boarder at the cricket club, the gardens at Bower Mission Chapel, the Village Hall, hanging baskets and numerous barrels throughout.

Areas for Improvement

Attention to weeds in the Village Hall car park.

Consider re-staining flower barrels.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Big plans for the wildflower meadow later in the year, this will provide a wonderful habitat to compliment works already under taken in the woodland and path links to the mature reserve, increasing bio diversity across the entry.

"Keep it Clean" notices, campaign funded by the Parish Council.

Generally litter free and well maintained throughout.

The Geo terrace, and sundial, learning resource is an interesting educational feature at the village hall.

Areas for Improvement

The provision of interpretation around the footpath links through the woodland will add to the entry.

The continuation of the works planned for the verge along Whitehouse Lane.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The involvement of local residents in looking after particular areas, such as the beds and gardens at Glencoe, the entrance verges and planters along with litter picking at Little Preston village carried out by James & Malcolm.

The success of the village litter picks and numbers attending.

The continued support from Steve, Jim & Bob in sustaining the efforts of the in bloom group

Areas for Improvement

The proposal to hold a competition for villagers to come up with a design for planting at Preston Corner, a good way of getting the community involved.

Continue to look at ways of encouraging new members to the In Bloom group.

Continue to look at ways of encouraging young peoples participation in the in bloom campaign.

Grenoside Silver Rose Award

Introduction

It was good to visit Grenoside this summer. It was good to see the cohesive efforts, which we first recognised in spring, of residents and various community groups continuing. It is clear everyone tries to do their bit in in this charming little village. Obviously there is a great pride in it.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Pride of place here must go to the War Memorial, tended to almost exclusively by Ian and Roger Wood. The attention to detail is quite stunning and this feature is well worth a reward in its own right. We saw some really lovely private gardens around the village. The gardens at Grenoside Close were very impressive, it would have been nice to speak to the gardener. The planting at Ernest Fox House also is a great asset to all the residents there. The gardens at the Reading Rooms are really developing well.

Areas for Improvement

It would be worth finding out whether or not it would be feasible for the grass plots on School Lane could be cut by Community Payback and, if possible, the beds in the Grenoside Park tidied up.

Consider the local volunteer group (Voluntary Action Sheffield?) for a day's gardening in the park. Perhaps also the Friends of the park could consider volunteering to do some work in the small beds.

The air raid shelter on Grenoside Green is very interesting. Perhaps thought could be given to developing planting around it which would have been appropriate at the time.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The judges were impressed with the level of street cleansing in the village.

The Reading Rooms continues to be a source of inspiring task and slide shows about long gone local industries.

The New Oak Tour De France feature in Grenoside Park was impressive and the park Friends group will benefit the area.

It is good that unrecorded heritage features around the village have now been highlighted.

The Reading Rooms garden is valuable to wildlife.

Areas for Improvement

Perhaps the group would consider taking on a new wildflower area with in Grenoside Park with the help of the friends group.

Consider planting native flowering shrubs in the park to bring in insects and birds. Look for quiet corners around the village where work can be carried out with children to create habitat piles, insect hotels etc. Consider installing more bird and bat boxes.

Consider finding areas around the park to be left unmown to benefit wildlife. Be proud of them and use posters, notices and the press to convince unsure residents of their value.

Introduce information boards around the village to make residents and visitors aware of their historical features. Consider planting around the troughs and wells to enhance them further.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The judges were pleased to see the community orchard is slowly developing.

It was also pleasing to hear of the two ladies taking on the maintenance of beds at the Ernest Fox House.

There was a good use of small posters put up asking residents to support the In Bloom Initiative.

Areas for Improvement

It would be great to see a focused 'In Bloom' group here to bolster the efforts of the many residents. An idea perhaps for the future? It might be a good idea to develop future plans for projects around the village, apart from the reading rooms. Continue trying to involve more residents in the group work.

Hutton Cranswick Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Well Done Hutton Cranswick in Bloom another excellent entry. You went the extra mile giving us plenty of new things to see. Approaching Hutton Cranswick you could not fail to be aware that it was 'In Bloom' judging day. However it is obvious that great pride is taken by residents and businesses and not just on judging day. This is demonstrated in the way the village and individual properties are cared for with very colourful floral displays, beautiful green open spaces and a very tidy and clean village throughout. We congratulate and thank all those involved for their warm welcome, commitment, hard work and effort. We do appreciate it. Once again the route was well thought out and included things we had asked about in the spring.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Your planting plan themes of Growing for Gold, Colour Yorkshire Yellow (The Grand Depart), World War 1 Remembrance and Perfect for Pollinators were very successful. Horticultural achievement is excellent with a very high standard of planting producing very effective and attractive displays. Maintenance of all your planters and borders are excellent, each appropriately planted to fit in with the themes, and their position throughout the village. The wildflowers at the Hutton Green fingerpost and the new heart border are welcome additions to this lovely area. The yellow ladybirds outside the school are very effective. The village green and pond area is immaculate and the War Memorial with its perennial planting a fitting tribute to those recorded on the Memorial. The wildlife corridor planting by the church is growing well and continues to the bees. The 'new' bed at Hobman Lane & Beverley Road junction has come into its own and is a very good 'welcome' at the village entrance. Dedicated development at Centenary Wood is ongoing and is showing rewarding results. The railway station displays are a delight, the sedum bed was very colourful and attracting bees, the floral and herb borders are stunning and impressive given its position and the soil condition. We were very impressed by the thought, research and the appearance of the central raised bed planted in the language of flowers for remembrance. We are not surprised that it has been entered for the Association of Community Rail Partnerships Small Projects Award. Your allotments are well managed, used and productive.

Areas for Improvement

There is very little we can add here as your entry has been enhanced by the inclusion of a few more businesses along the route. Keep on going you are getting there.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Environmental responsibility within Hutton Cranswick is excellent and of a very high standard. Your hard work to encourage wildlife and improve natural habitats is paying dividends with water voles at the village pond, little owls at Hutton Balk, and an abundance of bees and birds throughout the village. The village is immaculate and appropriately maintained with an absence of any litter or graffiti. Enhanced by the floral displays (and yellow baskets) your signage and street furniture are good. You are proud of your local heritage. This year in addition to the village boards, agricultural architecture, displays of tractors, the Way of the Roses cycle route displays and the 'recycled' train structure at the railway it was acknowledged by vintage bikes, vehicles, Grand Depart 'Tour Shirts' bunting and sheep. You know how to have fun in Hutton Cranswick.

Areas for Improvement

We were pleased to see the first draft of the village leaflet. Consideration could be given to how it would be used/who the target audience is e.g. given the number of cyclists who visit some specific links to assist them and boost local economy as a consequence.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Your community's participation is your strength and your work with them is impressive. You also understand the need for succession planning as well as planting. We can see that you are working on this with younger members of the community and this year the 'icing on the cake' was our visit to the new garden at the playgroup. Meeting the children and hearing about their 'blooming' related activities was a delight and certainly strengthen your entry. Well Done.

Areas for Improvement

There is very little we can add. We do know how hard succession planning can be and wish you success in this area. We are sure there are budding In Bloomers out there to assist Gina, Anita, John, Sonia, Glynis, Maureen, Yvonne, Sandy, Bunny and all the other members of Hutton Cranswick in Bloom.

Leven Silver Rose Award Joint Best New Entry

Introduction

The attractive village of Leven is situated amidst agricultural farmland almost 7 miles from the market town of Beverley.

Great credit must be given to Mark and David for their outstanding success in forming an 'In Bloom' committee comprising of representatives from many village voluntary organisations and the Parish Council.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The judges were shown some delightful private gardens around the village. Of particular note were the floral displays at 64 Barley Gate. In the same vicinity, resident's had created a peaceful corner with pleasant planting and decorative trellis. Gardens at The Orchard and at 1 Linley Garth demonstrated good horticultural practices and colourful displays.

The 'In Bloom' team are actively involved in producing planting schemes, having identified around a dozen areas requiring some enhancement.

Areas for Improvement

Visual impact could be significantly improved by better maintenance of roadside verges.

The introduction of your planting schemes (now possible through very successful fund-raising) will, without doubt, improve your village floral displays.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The Group have already produced a Constitution which outlines their positive environmental policies. They have also recognised the importance of improving public spaces and instilling civic pride.

It was a delight to see the not-so-common Great Spearwort growing and flourishing in a roadside ditch.

Areas for Improvement

There are immense opportunities throughout the village to develop the local heritage and show recognition of the ancient historic links. The judges are hopeful that the 'In Bloom' group will consider this when implementing their future plans.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

There is exceptionally good community co-operation in Leven village. The formation of an 'In Bloom' committee and the forging of greater links with the community are all positive aspects. Your immensely successful fund-raising efforts will permit you to further your floral plans for the village. Well done!

Areas for Improvement

Continue to involve all of the community groups in your future campaigns. You may consider producing a local action plan in order to gain public awareness of 'In Bloom' activities.

Consider issuing 'certificates of achievement' for attractive floral features or conservation projects, this might stimulate interest in any of your future competitions.

Ripponden Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

There has been steady progress in the pride and maintenance of the whole of Ripponden It is evident in the colourful displays and the vibrant and clever use of colours for the Tour de France It was indeed a splendid all round effort

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Planting to steep bank sides is now achieving good result, Church area is a credit where children attend nursery, colourful planting with sustainable plants all around, hanging baskets well looked after and giving a good impression to visitors.

Very litter free and the War Memorial looking fuller of plants. Yellow planting made the area alive for "Le Tour" to pass through. The school had made wonderful efforts -- with children's work on the railings. Grass and verges throughout Ripponden were neat and well maintained.

Areas for Improvement

Really well done, just try to keep on planting sustainable plants to fill up the bank sides, especially the steep garden near the War Memorial.,

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Better and more use of sustainable plants and evidence of composting. Residential gardens are well planted and tidy adding much more to the attraction of Ripponden.

Areas for Improvement

It was very interesting the work done on all the horticultural improvements, but would have liked to see any wildlife projects ongoing and perhaps details of community involvement and advertising

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The school involvement is a success and a very good effort to welcome and embrace the tour. Community and visitors could see the efforts made for the tour.

Areas for Improvement

Would like more evidence of community involvement and fund raising to give more pride of self-help. Would like to see records of school achievements and books

Scholes Gold Rose Award

Introduction

A good entry backed up by a descriptive and informative portfolio with a clear itinerary which kept to time impeccably.

The judges were made to feel welcome from the outset by the group who took great pride in showcasing their village and judging by the number of 'Scholes in Bloom' notices in windows it is evident that there is support throughout the village.

It was noticeable that whilst there are impending housing applications that could in future impact on the village it didn't show on the group who are committed to continually improve the entry despite outside influences.

The quality of plants on show was noteworthy and thought had gone into bedding designs.

A very enjoyable day spent with a committed 'in bloom' group whose many hours of hard work have been worthwhile in making the village floral and a great place to live.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The quality of plants both in hanging baskets and in flower beds was excellent, very few weeds evident and deadheading obviously carried out and the pastel colour scheme throughout the baskets worked well.

The mix of sustainable planting and bedding works well giving height and structure to flower beds a theme carried out throughout the village.

The 'design a flowerbed' seems to have been successful with school children eager to submit designs and an enthusiastic young winner (Samuel Bliss) who explained his sunflower design to the judges.

The judges were pleased to see a substantial improvement on the work carried out by Mr Southworth and pupils especially with the veg and fruit garden with produce going straight to the school kitchen!

Areas for Improvement

Keep persevering with the wildflower meadow ensuring a weed free area before commencing sowing.

Ensure features such as the topiary conifer (Green Court) are cut/pruned ready for judging day.

The mowing of the school grounds is still of concern, maybe a discussion/agreement between the school and contractors is needed

The scout hut area was a new area shown to the judges and whilst still in it's infancy with regard to horticultural features and standards the area has much scope for future development, the addition of raised beds for example will allow the growing of vegetables to be more successful.

The judges were also pleased to see some improvements within the grounds of St Philips Church and would encourage continued dialogue with the church in the future to raise standards.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Good conservation work was evident at the school with bug hotels, a wildflower bank, pond and several shrubs and trees to encourage birds and butterflies.

Household recycling takes place in Scholes along with recycling of green waste generated by the group at the allotments.

Good to see the Scholes stone plinths cleaned to give a good impression on entering the village and the addition of the two planters and benches add quality to the entry.

Areas for Improvement

Could be possible to create a wildflower area adjacent to the allotment within the play area to act as an informal barrier?

Plenty of scope at the scout hut to develop areas within the grounds to encourage bio-diversity and natural habitats.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Great engagement is evident at the primary school and links with the scouts/beavers can only be beneficial for Scholes in Bloom, this in turn should encourage younger members to become actively involved.

The twice yearly newsletters inform residents of developments and is a key document for attracting new members.

Scholes has a good range of sponsors who no doubt are pleased with the floral displays hence their desire to re sponsor year on year.

Areas for Improvement

Keep encouraging new members to join the group who can offer different ideas/projects to take the entry to the next level.

Shadwell Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

On driving in to the village it was apparent that a great deal of work had been done since our Spring visit with floral displays, planting features hanging baskets and barrier troughs throughout the village providing a blaze of colour. The use of deep red poppies in some of the displays to commemorate the anniversary of the 1st World War added to the overall effect.

The group had clearly reviewed the planting schemes throughout the village and had embarked on a program of phased improvements and alterations. The construction of the well feature by the bus terminus putting back the well in Shadwell looked great. The barrier baskets outside the village hall on the busy main street corner were full of colour and of the highest quality.

The support from the local community in planting and watering was a sign of village commitment to the in Bloom initiative. This was backed up by the large number of in Bloom posters in hundreds of windows on the streets which we passed through.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The quality of the floral displays and ongoing maintenance including dead heading weeding and watering.

The choice of plant material used throughout the village.

The incorporation of herbaceous plant material in some beds to reduce the use of seasonal bedding plants particularly at the Shadwell Bridge end of the village.

The levels of sponsorship and support from the village residents and local businesses.

The dedication of the Church yard garden of remembrance volunteers who have developed the area and look after it throughout the year.

Areas for Improvement

It was good to see that the group had started to review and make improvements to some of the floral features throughout the village. It is important that this continues to refresh sites as part of a long term plan.

The use of wild flowers in some of the verges may need to be revisited with some areas expanded in future years and some reduced to ensure that these areas compliment some of your formal bedding schemes.

There may be a long term need to increase allotment provision within the village and early planning needs to start on this process to ensure an appropriate site is identified.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The visit to Dan Quarry and meeting enthusiastic volunteers and the incite in to the history of the site

The village was free from any form of litter, dog fouling and graffiti and was a credit to the group's hard work in getting the message out to the residents.

The Schools vegetable garden, herb garden and recycling area had been well used by the children throughout the year

Areas for Improvement

Need to look at up grading the water capture scheme for the allotments to further reduce the quantities of mains water usage.

Need to look at developing a long term management plan for the Dan Quarry site to protect the sites diverse range of habitats and species. It would be good to carry out a detailed ecology survey of the site and develop a maintenance plan to meet some of the survey findings

Building on the successful containers on Blind lane it would be good to add two planters outside the main entrance door of the village hall in the car park to add extra interest the planters could include a selection of herbs

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The use by the group of Children's poster designs used throughout the village.

The support of the parish Council and fund raising events throughout the year

It was good to see that the church garden of remembrance volunteers have now established a fund to carry on their work in future years.

Areas for Improvement

Identify a project which could be undertaken by children and young people within the village using the scouts or local school which would provide a feature as their

contribution towards the Shadwell entry. This could also provide a spin off for the formation of the Shadwell young bloomers.

Still a bit more work to refine the portfolio and incorporate some photographs and a judging tour map so that it can be sent out to the judges before the judging day. It does not have to be posted it could be e mailed in advance so that the judges can look at the progress that the group has made since the last judging. A summer judging can easily be added each year.

Thornton Silver Rose Award

Introduction

The rain just about held off, for our enjoyable return visit for summer judging in Thornton. The areas we were shown were once again largely maintained to a good standard.

For such a small group, Thornton in bloom are doing a great job under difficult circumstances. The leadership and organisational skills shown by Valarie are excellent.

One of the challenges for the group moving forward is to gain new volunteers to build on what is already started. If that happens, there is no reason why the entry cannot continue to get even better.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The raised beds at the Heritage site were again in tip top condition. The Rotary club do a good job helping to maintain this area.

There is a very healthy number of hanging baskets dotted around Thornton. It was nice to see so many baskets at the frontages of independent retailers.

It was good to see the herbs in the containers at the front of the Bronte Birthplace building which is also tastefully restored inside.

Areas for Improvement

Could more perennial flower beds be created near the gentle slopes of Kipping Garden to provide all year round interest there?

There is a particular need to engage with a local school and young people along the route.

It is useful for the judges to see a portfolio, although we do appreciate the difficulties the group has had over the past few weeks.

There were some areas that had weeds in the paving that slightly detracted from the otherwise good work being done. Can any help be gained from the Council with this prior to summer judging?

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Bell Chapel is an inspiring example of what hard work and dedication can achieve. It is managed completely free of chemicals and as naturally as possible by Steve and his small team.

The signage near Kipping Park is tasteful and in good order.

The entry was relatively litter free on judging day, despite it being quite a busy day.

Areas for Improvement

Would it be possible to incorporate a greater recycling element to the judging route? Are there any household recycling centres nearby or any smaller recycling schemes in the village that could be added to the route?

Some of the green spaces in the village that we were shown would be suitable for wildflowers.

Could Eddie's garden have a bird box fitted to the wall?

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

It is clear there has been quite a lot of funding sourced in the past. The work this has facilitated is now starting to bear fruit.

There is a good relationship with the Rotary Club.

The community garden on the allotment site is a good scheme and is progressing well.

Areas for Improvement

Consider displaying some posters at selected locations to advertise Yorkshire in Bloom judging day.

Try to encourage a closer working relationship within the relevant departments of Bradford Council.

Consider engaging with the two new special category 6 entrants in Yorkshire in Bloom; Hospitaller Order of Saint God and Saint John of God Hospitaller services. It would be of mutual benefit to all.

Wilberfoss

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The sun was certainly shining during our tour of Wilberfoss. Committee members met us in various locations around the parish. The summer floral displays were maintained

to a very high standard with excellent colour and design features. The standard of horticulture across the delivery was very good. The overall criteria across the entry was clearly demonstrated. Everyone involved should be very pleased with their efforts. The introduction of the 'Tour de France' was also to be commended as was the RHS anniversary bed.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

A1. Some wonderful floral displays with interesting innovations. A real highlight was the planted logo celebrating 50 years of the RHS.

A2. Good practice of horticulture.

A3. Some excellent examples of residential gardens.

A4. Businesses all working well to support the aim and objectives of Wilberfoss In Bloom.

A5. All green spaces maintained to a high standard.

Areas for Improvement

A1. Continue to identify appropriate location for permanent planting.

A3. Continue to encourage residents to enter into the spirit of the competition. One thought is to encourage a Wilberfoss In Bloom garden competition to stimulate interest.

A5. Identify a sustained maintenance programme with the environment agency on appropriate areas of land.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

B1. Some good examples of conservation and bio-diversity were visible during the visit.

B3. Local heritage demonstrated, especially a number of farm implements.

B4. The area was extremely well maintained.

B5. Floral planters and other horticultural features were all maintained to a high standard.

Areas for Improvement

B1. Look to standardising and improving the interpretation at the wildlife area.

B2. Consider evidencing more resource management in this area of the criteria.

B5. The introduction of some new planters will greatly support the overall entry.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

C1. Great evidence of developing local In Bloom initiatives.

C2. Good to see the local school children getting involved in the competition.

C3. The community continue to support the aims and objectives of the In Bloom group..

C4. Some fantastic evidence shown of all year round involvement.

C5. Fundraising team are to be commended on their various campaigns which take place throughout the year, e.g. Annual calendar and the scarecrow festival. The festival was themed on children's TV characters past and present.

Areas for Improvement

C2. Consider photo opportunities.

Category 2A: Urban Community

Allerton Bywater Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

What a difference a few months can make, the judges were delighted to see the improvements across the entry.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Colourful seasonal and sustainable displays through the village, some to note are Highfield Hill and the new beds complimenting the existing herbaceous border and mine cars, maintained by Peter & Ian, window boxes outside Edward VII WMC, the Meadows, and the incredible planting on the banking alongside the footpath looked after by Roy. The gardens at St Mary the Less looked after by Sue were outstanding and the colourful bed outside the pharmacy maintained by Gail & Michelle

Residential gardens were good throughout those to note were the Main Street, Meadows cul- de - sac, Vickers Court.

Areas for Improvement

The banking at Ticklecock Bridge, consider future planting such as sustainable ground cover which will reduce maintenance and improve the overall appearance.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The ingenious scheme to collect grey water from the Miner's Memorial on the Millennium Green.

The works carried out at the Lines, Ticklecock Bridge area and the mining memorial all serve as a strong reminder of Allerton's heritage.

The entry was spotless throughout and planters had been improved since spring.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to work towards the future plans for the Allerton Staithes and Old Pottery site development.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The excellent standard of vegetables, fruit and herbs at the allotment, and the new cottage garden area was stunning, and plans for the entrance will make a welcoming feature.

The children's poster competition down at The Meadows, a lovely idea to get local children involved in the In Bloom, and a scheme that can be built on for future. The winning poster to be used for next years In bloom publicity.

Support from local business's including Valentines, and Papico's to note.

Areas for Improvement

Keep working with the Head at the local primary school to find ways in which they can get involved.

Good to see new members since spring, continue to encourage others.

Beeston Silver Rose Award

Introduction

On a lovely summer day, the group greeted the judges at the newly restored Watsonia Pavilion which has been extensively and imaginably modernised to provide a versatile facility for the community groups in the area. Pride in Beeston was evident throughout our route.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The shrubs and perennials in the Millennium garden and surrounding area are beginning to thrive as the groups' horticultural experience increases. The baskets, planters and floral displays were colourful and well planted with good use of perennials to reduce the number of geraniums by half. Plants and vegetables grown from seed at Sunnyview house have also contributed to the displays. The grasses planted at Cardinal Triangle add stature and form to a difficult area. Jack and Tilly at St Anthony's school were rightly proud of the flowers and vegetables they had grown. Some of the allotments showed their owners followed high standards in their cultivation. Joy and Brian ensured that garden in front of St Mary's church is welcoming with a neat lawn, planters (even a raised planter on the notice board) and beds of marigolds and roses.

Areas for Improvement

As the area the group covers is a large one, encourage other residents or sub groups of diverse ethnic backgrounds to care for their own small areas nearby which has proved so successful at Park Fisheries.

The new rose bed in the park has produced more colour in some of the wedges than others and requires careful monitoring.

The under tree planting might prove more successful if drought tolerant perennial plants e.g. sedums or similar, are used rather than geraniums.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The 90 participants on Give and Gain day created a magnificent five star bug hotel at St Mary's church and several bird boxes.

Visitors to the park will appreciate the interpretation boards at the Millennium garden giving details of the heritage of Beeston.

Areas for Improvement

Explore and include in the judging route the places to illustrate the history of Beeston as displayed on the interpretation board and that of the Watsonia Pavilion.

Continue to liaise with the local authority and local residents with the project at the playground adjacent to the Millennium Garden and consider bidding for vandal proof picnic benches. With permission from the Local authority consider designating an area of the park for Wildflower planting or a nature trail for the children.

Consider involving the local community in creating other wildlife friendly attractions at other venues in Beeston.

In future judging, have one of the local authority Recycling Officer explain the contribution Beeston makes to the local authority resource management policy

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The Green Beeston day was successful in providing hanging baskets for back to back residents'

Sponsorship from businesses and individuals has been successful in paying for 2/3rds of the hanging baskets this year.

The Give and Gain day enlisted 90 volunteers who completed tasks such as repairing walls and tidying the children's play area and bowling green border

Areas for Improvement

Encourage those who turn up for the Give and Gain day to join the group on a regular basis and possibly include some of the households in the Green Beeston campaign on the judges' tour and use a choice of easier to maintain planters rather than hanging baskets.

Consider publishing the notes from the meetings on the website to encourage new members to join the group---'when and where the next gardening sessions are to take

place. Liaise with other community groups and members such as Sunjeeda who has a wealth of knowledge on working with children and elderly Asians.

Continue the close association with St Anthony's school.

Encourage community groups to be involved in the choice of sites and in placing the bird boxes

Birstall Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

This West Riding Town is full of heritage and character. Being welcomed by the district town crier was special, and being accompanied by him on the town centre tour made it very memorable for judges and traders alike, enjoying this special atmosphere that had been created. In the 21st Century to still have a weekly market day, in a well-kept market place surrounded by today's excessive traffic retains tradition to which Birstall can be very proud. The relationships shared and enjoyed throughout the Town are very strong. None more so than demonstrated at Kings Court Sheltered housing, where it is a delight to visit the grounds and residents.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The market place with its many colourful baskets, barrier troughs, traders' wooden barrels and three tier planters enhances Birstall greatly. Where ever possible everyone's floral contribution now greatly enhance many areas and help with the appearance of the open spaces with a good standard of local authority grass cutting. The Wellbeing Centre is a good example of this.

Areas for Improvement

Continue with the groups great efforts in convincing that places can be transformed by example. Continued encouragement for traders and residents alike in becoming involved with the Birstall in Bloom initiative. Consider a uniformed colour scheme or floral theme, working with the local authority to achieve this.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The standards achieved in a relatively short period are to be complimented on. With the new additions, reaching re-cycling targets, and pride of place in many areas all add to become an impressive locality.

Areas for Improvement

The added proposed details to the newly created WW1 Memorial garden will be a fitting tribute creating an addition to the newly sited excellent town's heritage display boards. Areas of broken paving have already been addressed by the group and with the volunteering builder we are sure this will be completed. Having been presented with a picture of Kirkgate pond it would be beneficial to the entry to have shown the judges the site and any environmental work carried out.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Ongoing improvements are always on board. The entire children's contribution in every aspect is rewarding. Taking part in the children's award ceremony with the President of Rotary, and the Town crier was a pleasure to share.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to develop, enhance, and publicise Birstall in Bloom through its website, Facebook page and media opportunities. Consider more fund raising projects to raise the in bloom profile higher. Retain the harmony with local authority, community, businesses and all organisations. Your 'Bridge Building' outlook is rewarding.

Bramhope Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

We were met by an enthusiastic group from the committee who showed us a comprehensive range of items, meeting most of the criteria, as they had developed a planned route with each criteria identified on it - very helpful. It is a community split by the main Otley - Leeds trunk road.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Many very good house gardens with well cared for curtilages, businesses and other institutions also playing their part. The cemetery and its adjacent lay-by had been modified and the whole area looked neat and tidy. Business people at The Parade were helping by maintaining the communal displays. Puritan Chapel area maintained appropriately. There is good liaison between the

Areas for Improvement

Complete work by the War Memorial, investigate use of rabbit resistant plants in some areas, and consider using wild flowers perhaps on the open area near the hotel entrance.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Good work ongoing with the school, local businesses and the community - all helping to create an attractive environment. Everywhere very clean. Local heritage valued and well respected.

Areas for Improvement

Maybe worth considering some form of art/interpretive boards in the landscape areas.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Children growing maize to create a Maze - good interaction with adults, knew about crop rotation! Much work going on by the old well and in winter with bulb planting, etc.

Areas for Improvement

Not sure how much integration there is with folk living on the Creskeld Lane area of the community - very good gardens, but are they involved with the other parts of the district/committee?

Calverley Gold Rose Award

Introduction

A very impressive entry once again by the well organised and enthusiastic Calverley in Bloom group which is supported by a substantial number of organisations from the public, voluntary and private sectors. The floral displays were of excellent quality and included a pleasing mix of annual bedding and sustainable planting providing a range of colour and texture throughout the village.

The excellent portfolio and displays indicating on-going and future projects demonstrate the group's commitment to maintain and further develop this high quality entry. It was a pity the Judges were unable to see the continuing work on the Diamond Jubilee Woods Project, the new Brookfield Allotments and the developing work being undertaken on the Commemorative Way due to road works within the area. This will no doubt be a treat for next year's Judges.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The patriotic red, white and blue summer displays provided a WW1 commemorative theme through the village and Le Tour de France Grand Depart was also depicted with yellow displays particularly in the bedding and herbaceous displays in Victoria Park which also accommodated a yellow themed edible garden bed designed and planted by the children of Parkside School complete with yellow bicycle wheels!

The summer displays in private residential gardens, particularly Capel Court and Foxholes Crescent/Lane areas were once again to a very high standard as was the displays at the Library and Methodist Church.

The grounds of St Wilfrid's Church and Brookleigh Sheltered Housing are upholding their very high standards and are a tribute to the continuing hard work put in by volunteers and residents.

It was good to see the improvements made to the Town Wells garden following the Spring judging.

Areas for Improvement

It was good to hear that further plans are in hand to enhance the prominent open space in the Towngate Wells area and the adjacent Town Wells garden.

It was pleasing to see the work being achieved at the village schools and for the children to be rewarded for their efforts in the poster competition, however, more time might be available if only one school is visited on each occasion. Also better use of time would be achieved if the visit to the children's nursery was limited to just one of the judging days.

As before, continue to maintain and enhance where possible the high standards being achieved throughout the village and particularly along the well-used Carr Road.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

St Wilfrid's Parish Church grounds remain a haven for wildlife and through careful management continues to encourage a range of wildlife habitats. The beech tree trunk carved in the shape of an angel provides a stunning artistic feature in the landscape.

It was pleasing to see the improvements being made to the historic water feature in the Towngate Wells garden and the consideration being given to undertake further works to improve accessibility.

The encouragement given to the village schools in promoting the conservation of wildlife.

The responsible approach to environmental issues with many examples of recycling practices including rainwater collection, composting bins, re-use of plant material. The village as a whole was once again almost totally free of litter, graffiti and dog fouling.

Areas for Improvement

Consider more interpretation at the Town Wells garden and maintain and develop the links with local schools.

It was disappointing not to see the new plantings at the Jubilee Wood Project and Commemorative Way due to unforeseen road closures. Ensure these are included next year.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The Calverley in Bloom group are very well established and have excellent links with other local organisations which offer strong support to the groups aims of bringing people together for the overall benefit of the village.

The resourceful group are continually looking to make improvements and have a number of on-going and new projects evidencing all year round planning and involvement.

St Wilfred's and the Methodist church provide very good support for the competition as do the two village schools and a large number of local businesses and individuals.

There is clear evidence of close links and support and advice from Leeds City Council including funding through various grants. Also good generation of awareness through posters, fliers and social media.

Areas for Improvement

Maintain the excellent current levels of community participation and continue to attract more young people in active participation.

Elland Bronze Rose Award

Introduction

Elland is a changing town from busy industry to buildings being converted into new and interesting homes. Grand empty Victorian buildings also show this sad decline. However The Elland District Partnership and Associates continue to embrace and improve wherever possible, but further assistance would really make a big difference to the area which could be very much uplifted.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The many floral containers continue to enhance many areas in very busy thoroughfares especially the increased numbers of barrier baskets and flower tower around the precinct. It is so encouraging to see such vast support from differing aspects of the community from private gardens, schools and businesses to the delightful allotments. Whitwell Green with the endeavours of volunteers Sue Monty & Sue O'Hara.

Areas for Improvement

This year's weed growth has been exceptional, but extra attention to detail would have been very worthwhile with a good clean-up needed with extra help required.

A more unified and cohesive planting scheme working with the local authority will create a more coordinated floral feel.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Combating the ever increasing environmental changes is evident during difficult times. The management of the local environmental quality is good with low levels of litter, graffiti and general street cleanliness.

Areas for Improvement

The lack of street furniture maintenance is disappointing. During the next four years the War Memorial Soldier would benefit from a clean, and his viewpoint opened up to command his original grand presence. More evidence needs to be shown to judges on environmental responsibility. Local authority employees can easily present some of this.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The Elland District Partnership has a HEART for the Town. But with added help, and a dedicated group of volunteers to form an 'In Bloom' group, could easily achieve so much more.

Areas for Improvement

The very noticeable involvement with schools and children in the area, will ensure that the future gardeners pride will rub off and convert the community into assisting. Continue further to cultivate this relationship and expand on this to include other groups within the community. A programme of development showing in bloom initiatives and projects would help with publicity and in gaining volunteers.

Introduction

Scarborough Old Town was a joy to judge and the people we met on the judging route were very well informed and passionate about the heritage of the area. The judges were amazed by the quantity and quality of the varied displays shown in the summer tour of old town, which was a credit to all involved.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement**Areas of Achievement**

The schools flower bed completion and creation along Valley Road was eye catching from aloft with good well maintained signage.

The residential back gardens known as the rope walk were amazing and a credit to the residents that saved the area from being created into a car park several years ago.

The Newcastle Packet public house and Winking Willys fish and chip restaurant had some very good summer baskets that were full of colour.

The crescent area had some very good and colourful front gardens to the residential properties and guest houses.

The resident at Number 21 Cooks Road garden was packed full of annual summer colour, as were numerous others on the route and all were a credit the owners involved.

Friarage Community Primary School was well maintained with some good summer colour to various planters and baskets.

Areas for Improvement

Make sure that all paved/ horticultural areas of the route are clear of weed as there were some present on Valley Road.

It would be good to consider entering such as Winking Willys and the Newcastle Packet into Yorkshire in Bloom (in their own right).

The group showed the plans for the revamped precinct and the plans to move the existing planters later this year which would be a good development to show the judges next year.

Friarage School developing well and the group need to keep working with them for the positive long term gains that this partnership will benefit from.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility**Areas of Achievement**

The signage at Valley Road was very informative about the flower beds and the three schools that designed them and help plant the finished designs.

The schools conservation projects in there grounds and the insect hotel was enthusiastically shown off by the children.

Trinity House Arms Houses/ the Quaker Burial Ground made an ideal wildlife corridor to a back street location.

The street lighting replacement is ongoing and of a very good quality giving the judges, a real period feel to the route the group took them round on judging day.

It was good to see the railings that Community Payback painted on the Crescent Gardens.

Areas for Improvement

The wooden barrels on the for-shore could have been refurbish and painted and maybe this is something the payback team could sort for next year's summer judging.

Taking in mind the refurbishment of the main precinct area it would be good to have a plan of where the old planters are to be placed around the town to maximise their effect on next year's judging route.

The judges would have like to have seen more interpretation along the route with regards biodiversity of the old town area.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

It was again refreshing to see the depth and diversity of the group and the positive way they have the ability to galvanise community into action.

It is positive to see the local councillors taking such a front line roll in Scarborough Old Town in Bloom and using the movement to drive forward real improvements.

It was evident on judging day and demonstrated in the portfolio that the group are linking in with many events during the year to raise the profile of In Bloom.

Areas for Improvement

Look into approaching businesses to display in Bloom posters or sponsor banners that could be displayed around the town.

As a visitor and judge it would be good to see some floral displays along the revamped High Street coupled with some information of the overall picture of floral Scarborough to let the visitor explore the diverse back street delights you have to offer.

Starbeck Gold Rose Award Category Winner

Introduction

A warm welcome awaited the judges throughout our visit after an extremely busy weekend when Starbeck was decked in glorious and innovative displays to celebrate

the festival of the Grand Depart of the Tour de France. Starbeck is fortunate to have a wealth of special features, all displayed at best in the appropriate season and the judges very much appreciated the different areas visited in the summer. We visited 17 different projects and Starbeck in Bloom and the whole community are to be congratulated on the mammoth task it must have been to ensure everything was at its best.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The planting is of the highest standard in all areas and great care is shown in the choice of plants for their location to give a spectacular display of yellow, green and white with a splash of red annuals in the high street, red planting around the cenotaph, the newly planted yellow Tour de France heritage feature in front of the library and the alpines in the stone trough at the Mews.

The colourful and well-tended gardens at the Golf Club and the residents' gardens at The Mews deserve special mention as do the allotments with their abundance of lush vegetables and fruit.

Areas for Improvement

Consider planting a wild flower meadow at the edge of one of the parks.

To facilitate tourism in the area consider leading guided walks around Starbeck or leaflets with numbered points of interest to leave in the library.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Starbeck in Bloom demonstrate a huge pride in their area with restoration of heritage projects such as the Old Mews to provide a tranquil retreat, by liaising with Northern Rail to improve the station and signal box and planting barrels on the platform at the railway station, having an official opening of the self-composting toilet at the allotments. The children are well catered for with new tree planting and wild flowers in Addyman's Wood and a 'please explore me' bug house in the wood so as not to disturb the two posh bug hotels at the park gate.

The Cone project ensures that every possible item which can be recycled is made into a useful products,

Even the 23,000 coloured jerseys knitted by volunteers to make the Tour de France bunting are to be sewn together to make blankets to send to Africa.

The local wildlife certainly appreciated the new natural planting on banking of the beck near the Mews and to have yellow wagtails and dipper in an urban space is really a coup.

Areas for Improvement:

Consider extending the natural planting to other areas of banking where the beck flows to encourage wildlife.

The area around the newly discovered well might be enhanced with some appropriate plants. Continue to develop the sparrow hedge.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The new library garden, the grow corner, the sustainable planting on the high street, bowling Club and Spa Baths are all wonderful example of on-going projects which give immense pleasure to the local residents. Community participation is evidenced by quizzes, leaflets, Supa shop Competition and the Starbeck Flower and Vegetable Show. Starbeck in Bloom are well supported by the Community fund and in their own funding efforts such as the bag packing at Morrison's.

Areas for Improvement

Although it might prove difficult, encourage one of the local schools to have an allotment or wildlife garden.

Perhaps placement of some rustic seats may be beneficial in the green space at the Mews

Swillington Silver Rose Award

Introduction

This old mining village continues to do well in the bloom competition. The bloom group do really well in this village but need support and guidance to move forward. The judges are happy to provide this support so that the group continues and moves in the right direction. The group do extremely well with the limited resources they have and should be encouraged. Swillington has a lot to offer. Planters through the village provide lots of colour and the entrance beds welcome you into the village. Banners made everyone in the village aware that it was judging day. An excellent effort by the bloom group who were very enthusiastic and we need to support groups like this.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Good residential gardens throughout the route.

Good to see small businesses giving their support to bloom initiative.

Planters and Hanging baskets along Main Street colourful.

Raised beds at entrances a big improvement.

Allotment site small but well maintained, good to see.

Areas for Improvement

More variety of bedding plants required in planters. Group did give reason for this. Use more trailing plants on edges of boxes.

Some areas of grass verge could be better maintained by contractors.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Plenty of initiative for community pay back to help the group.

Continue to improve existing projects around the village. Do not move onto other initiatives until you are satisfied projects complete.

Not a criticism but judges felt the group are spreading itself too thinly and taking on too much work.

Good to see old signs removed. Not missed as no one has commented they have gone.

More sustainable planting will aid the group in years to come.

Areas for Improvement

Some litter in church yard, Check route before taking judges round.

Composting area in church yard could be improved. Speak to the chaps at the allotments

Create a wildlife area. Church grounds would be ideal.

Keep working on school to get involved. A major role in Swillington's entry

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Community involvement with church grounds

Good portfolio. Get other community groups in area to assist in litter picks and site clearances, developing planters etc.

Good to see young people getting involved with bloom group

Areas for Improvement

Continue to develop the group, publicise what you do and what you are about.

Judges will continue to support this group and help its initiatives.

Keep link with school and develop if possible.

Re think the route and meet people along route.

As a bloom group keep with what you have at present time, reduce some work.

Support is available from both judges. I know what I want for Swillington and it is achievable.

Woodlesford Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The judges enjoyed their visit to Woodlesford in Spring but were even more impressed by this entry when they visited in Summer. A well organised and enthusiastic bloom group proudly showed the judges around the colourful route, good to see the different colour combinations in planters as well as well-maintained mixed borders. Cannot fault this entry for the effort put in by the whole community.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Sponsored planters throughout village very colourful

Sustainable planting all along route.

The Maltings residential area well maintained by residents and cared for. Good residential gardens.

Canal basin and colourful busy area used by many walkers and visitors.

Planters good changes of colour along route and worked well to show village off at its best.

Tour De France bed on village green very colourful along with its art work.

Areas for Improvement

Change shrub bed in front of old church.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Saw no litter or graffiti.

Village very clean. Plenty of notices asking people to keep area clean

Development of Canal basin very good, Orchard areas, well signed, developing areas will also link in.

Good signage around Woodlesford

Inclusion of school grounds excellent and showed young people how to grow along with different animal habitats

Areas for Improvement

Wildflower areas when developed.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Community well aware of what bloom group do and assist wherever they can either financially or by assisting with projects.

Work on going all the time which is good and shows what community spirit there is in Woodlesford.

All year round activities help raise funds for the group

Areas for Improvement

Continue to grow links with the community informing them of initiatives as they occur.

Support is there in the village well done

Category 2B: Small Town

Haworth Silver Rose Award

Introduction

Haworth is famous for Wuthering Heights in the Bronte novels but it was not wuthering at all on judging day in fact it was very hot and sunny. Despite the Tour de France having passed through only the week before everywhere was clean and tidy; a tribute to the hard work put in by both the In Bloom team and the local council.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The impact of many hanging baskets in yellow and white throughout the area was good. All the shops had played a part with many unusual displays. The Black Bull was noteworthy and many private houses in the Main Street were stunning especially as they had very little space to work in. No 22 West Lane was fabulous! At the church the long perennial border replaced the spring's snowdrops and daffodils and was worth a visit. It will continue to improve over the years. The new floral feature bed at the Primary school of the school badge looked good. In Central Park the ongoing maintenance improvements are beginning to show now that the shrubbery is being dealt with.

Areas for Improvement

The new Memorial Garden is an excellent project and will enhance the entry. As money becomes available bigger baskets on the new bandstand would give more impact

Railway Station gardens looked interesting - would be good to have seen more tubs facing the road.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Haworth school continues to be a centre of excellence for all schools in the area, growing tomatoes and vegetables for other schools as well as their own. Recycling in the district and street cleansing was good-especially liked Bag it Bin it posters for dog fouling prevention

The very large globe made of thousands of 2p pieces will be a wonderful addition to art in landscape when it is finally positioned.

Areas for Improvement

The wildlife areas at the school continue to improve and will be well used when their pond dipping platform is finished

The wildlife areas in the railway station looked interesting and would be good to see in more detail

Local heritage could be a strong feature of this entry in addition to Parsonage garden

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

This newly reformed group are working hard to ensure their future and have better embraced the criteria this time.

The school participation in planting and caring for village planters and at railway station is to be commended.

Areas for Improvement

The group still need to increase the numbers of volunteers to make the group sustainable. More posters are needed throughout and more publicity. Good to have Facebook as that appeals to a younger sector. Approaching the owners of the residential gardens pointed out on the route may well increase support for the In Bloom group.

Holmfirth Silver Rose Award

Introduction

We were treated to a warm welcome on our return to Holmfirth for the summer judging. The town was at its vibrant best. Many shops were resplendent with hanging baskets and decorations for the Tour De France, which was only a matter of days away. This entry has the potential to go further within the competition as there are many delights for the judges to see and enjoy.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The three tier planters and Victoria Square were a delight.

The bedding at Holmside gardens was a delight and it was good to see the consolidation of bedding plants in targeted beds working well.

The standard of the grass at Holmside gardens was high.

It was good to see the containers with herbs in the town centre.

The Civic Hall had a pleasing mix of fuchsias and yellow marigolds and was well cared for. It was a pleasure to be shown the local school.

Areas for Improvement

It would be complimentary for the town when future improvement work is done to the land next to the impressive heritage garden.

For future judging days it would be useful for the group to undertake a pre-judging tour of the route, prior to the actual judging to iron out any last minute potential problems.

While many allotment plots were of a good standard, there were some areas of the site where the grass needed attention.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The school has a large and well thought out wildlife area and the Viking Village was excellent.

It was pleasing to see the sedum green roof at the school.

The recycling station in the supermarket car park was clean and tidy and clearly well-used.

Areas for Improvement

There is scope to create a new wildflower bed at Victoria Park to create summer interest in that part of the town.

Attention to several litter bins would enhance the entry and compliment the good work already being done.

More information about Kirklees Council's garden waste and green recycling collections would be useful for future judges.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The school was excellent and has many exciting plans afoot. It would be a worthy entry in the Yorkshire in Bloom schools special category, while remaining an integral part of Holmfirth in bloom.

It was pleasing to see many different sections of the local community coming together for the betterment of Holmfirth. This has clearly been spurred on by the Tour De France. This has presented a unique opportunity to kick on for the future.

Areas for Improvement

It would have been good to see the all year round activities of Holmfirth in bloom in a portfolio prior to judging.

It would be beneficial to meet a greater cross section of the community, many of which support In Bloom.

Better advertising of Yorkshire in Bloom judging would be good to see, though we appreciate Le Tour was taking precedence.

It would be good to get the local press involved more in the In Bloom campaign.

Hunmanby Gold Rose Award Category Winner

Introduction

Truly the gateway to the Wolds. This village has some outstanding historical and floral features. The In Bloom group are interlinked with many other groups around the village which all seem to work well together to improve the quality of the local environment. At the heart of the village is a thriving school that will I'm sure foster a new generation of Hunmanby in Bloomers with their use of Horticulture as an educational tool.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The planters/barrels(33) around the village were very thoughtfully planted with a good mixture of annual and sustainable planting

The community centre frontage was a delight to see and is a real hub for many

The summer floral displays at Hungate court were a credit to the A Team and were comfort to the residents, really well thought out (well done all).

The variation of planting at All Saints Church which were mainly perennials offering a riot of colour.

The station maintained by John and Monica was truly marvellous you could not think of a more idyllic setting for a major entrance to the village.

The centre of the village had some very good planting and Vi's garden with its central information board surrounded by summer colour was a picture postcard for the village.

Hunmanby School had some very good annual planting which was planted by the gardening club and parents.

Areas for Improvement

Consider entering Hungate Court and the community Centre into Yorkshire in Bloom as Neighbourhoods as this would help you showcase these in their own right but help you manage the judging route time better.

Carry on developing the community orchard and the wild life pond within..

Consider using a wetting agent for the many containerised floral displays around the village to save on water and time.

The seed recycling scheme at Grimston Road could be rolled out in the village to include wipe and semi wipe cuttings that could be harvested and grown on at the school.

Continue to challenge businesses to not only sponsor floral features around the village but provide floral features outside their premises.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

It was good to see the work done by the group to provide the many bee hotels/ bird/owl/insect living space around the village.

The school was amazing in regards to providing an educational environment to give the pupils the tools to understand all aspects of environmental science at such a young age.

The local heritage of Hunmanby was demonstrated around the village in many guises and a good example of this was 'The seed drill' at Hungate Court.

The village's door step recycling and recycling at the allotments was excellent, as was the cleanliness of the entire village.

The interpretation signs around the village were excellent and informative of the local heritage.

The many benches/art in the landscape/public areas were all well maintained and a credit to all involved.

Areas for Improvement

Consider linking up with more local farmers to develop a biodiversity and conservation policy which includes the countryside and the whole community.

Look into the Filey Road gateway site and how to stop traveller's horses being tethered and destroying the floral displays.

Some of the allotments were not fully cultivated and consideration could be taken to reduce the size of some of the plots to reduce the waiting list, or expand the allotment site. Carry on with the links to the school and try to use their resources to grow some of your own plants for your display, this would ultimately make you more self-sustainable.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The judges were impressed by the very comprehensive information sharing event which Hunmanby in Bloom explained the summer update and new areas in the summer route before the judging tour.

The educational links with the school have to be commended; It was a pleasure to see the pupils happily engaging with the wider community.

The funding and the in Bloom groups continuing support in maintaining the barrels around the village.

Areas for Improvement

Engage local business with regards sponsorship for the many floral features and green spaces around the town.

Carry on with the fund raising for the new barrels which will save water and time which could be made available to double efforts on ongoing projects such as the orchard

Consider more interpretation on Hunmanby in Bloom around the village to raise the profile of the group (such as at the railway station)

Kirkbymoorside Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The pleasant market town of Kirkbymoorside is situated on the edge of the North Yorkshire Moors National Park in the district of Ryedale. Once again the judges received a very warm welcome from the 'In Bloom' team led by Gaynor De Barr.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

There were many colourful displays in well-tended barrels and planters throughout the town. The tiered planters at Old Road were especially attractive. The residential gardens at West Pasture and environs were very pleasing to the eye. The perennial borders at Sturdy Court together with pretty hanging baskets provided a pleasant backdrop to the car park. The gold-themed 'In Bloom' display with baskets, bunting and planters at Chisholm's Monument was a pleasing feature and focal point at the centre of the town.

Areas for Improvement

The judges would have liked to have seen more evidence of permanent planting. The floral displays were colourful but consisted mainly of traditional summer bedding plants. Edges of containers could be softened and enhanced with plants such as ivy or trailing rosemary. There is a wealth of information on the RHS website which may assist you in your choice of permanent planting and providing a 'wow' factor.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The team have worked tirelessly to maintain litter-free areas, well done! There are impressive recycling facilities on the edge of the town in continuous use and well supported by the residents. Some improvements had been made to the central feature at the A170 roundabout, since the judge's spring visit, to provide a more appropriate welcome to the town. It was noted that the tubs and planters throughout the tour were in very good condition.

Areas for Improvement

There is still some maintenance required to improve public seating. The main street was littered with cigarette ends, particularly outside public houses. It may be worthwhile speaking directly to the landlords and asking them to take responsibility for cleanliness outside their premises. The long-stay car park needs some attention particularly with weed removal. Continue to improve the feature at the centre of the A170 roundabout by reducing the height of the shrubs.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The 'In Bloom' team are well supported by the residents in their fund-raising to provide floral displays. Many local businesses have sponsored the 'In Bloom' planted tubs whilst a few have provided their own baskets and window boxes. Of particular note were the outstanding displays outside Moorside Fisheries. The very productive Gillamoor Allotments are very popular and, unsurprisingly, there is a waiting list. Many thanks to Elizabeth for the guided tour and for the interesting information she supplied.

Areas for Improvement

Sadly, due to on-going building works, the Primary School was not included in the tour. However, you should still develop links with the staff and perhaps establish a garden or allotment club.

You may wish to encourage more local businesses to provide floral displays. Also, you could consider a shop/premises window display competition with an 'In Bloom' theme. Local community groups may wish to offer some support to the elderly residents of Sturdy Court who would likely be very pleased to have some assistance with much needed weeding of their perennial borders.

Menston Silver Rose Award

Introduction

Menston in Bloom has achieved a lot in its nine years making Menston a more attractive place to live. The small in Bloom group has worked hard in the town, which

has a wide and diverse features that have provided challenges which the group have overcome.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The good work done at High Royd Cemetery and the maintenance work undertaken at all the local churches are to be commended also the move to more sustainable planting is good.

Areas for Improvement

It could be that as a small in Bloom Group the number of schemes taken on may overload the resources available so consideration needs to be given to low maintenance or reduced number of schemes unless further resources can be identify.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The wildflower meadow within the park is improving and should continue to improve as time goes by. There was no evidence of graffiti, litter, and dog fouling or fly-posting. The use of water harvesting and composting was well used by the group.

Areas for Improvement

Some of the planters and street furniture needs attention. Consideration could be given to hard landscaping some areas and placing some art feature within that hard landscaped area which could require low maintenance but still look attractive.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Menston in Bloom has good public support and donations from businesses and individuals are healthy also the contributions made by the staff and children of Meadowlea Children's Home should be congratulated.

Areas for Improvement

While Menston in Bloom has good public support it may be useful to look at ways of recruiting further active members on to the in Bloom Group even though it is accepted that this can be extremely difficult.

ShIPLEY Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

On a warm and sunny day, we were treated to a diverse and well-orchestrated summer judging in the West Yorkshire town of Shipley.

It was good to see the progress the town has made since it joined the Yorkshire in Bloom competition just a few years ago.

The town is full of unexpected hidden gems, many of which are not obvious to the passer by.

A good entry with the potential to go further within the competition.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The Market Square stone beds were tastefully and appropriately planted and certainly looked the part.

The Cliffe Gardens social housing complex was good throughout.

John and Susan's residential garden is a fine example of a terraced front garden.

Ros and Gwyneth have done a tremendous job in revitalising the patch of land next to the Baptist Church. A fine example of the community coming together for the betterment of the town.

Areas for Improvement

Could more care be taken with the removal of weeds around lampposts in the Cliffe Gardens area?

The planting at the Town Hall was generally good. However, more care needs to be taken with weeds at the wall bottom, which unfortunately detracted from the overall view.

The Sensory garden at Crowgill Park will further enhance the good work already being done there.

The approach to the Hive project was rather fraught with several loose steps. Could Shipley in Bloom help the Hive project to make the approach to the site any easier?

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The Hive project is a superb example of using horticulture to teach people new skills and help to integrate them back into society in a positive way.

The excellent Railway Station meadow is a vital resource for butterflies and other insects. It is refreshing to see such a unique project at a relatively busy Railway Station. Let us hope that it continues to thrive for many years to come.

NEET are a fine example of community involvement. They have a pleasing emphasis on recycling.

The recycling station in the town centre was clean and tidy and a credit to the town.

Areas for Improvement

Some attention is needed to street furniture in parts of the town.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The NEET partnership is a fine example of community networking.

It was nice to see that seventeen of the town centre hanging baskets were paid for by the chamber of trade, thus supporting the In Bloom effort. They nicely supplemented others bought by retailers themselves.

The amount of funding sourced by Irene at the allotment site is impressive.

Areas for Improvement

The school raised beds are coming along nicely. However they would benefit from some additional soil and compost. Could this be sourced by Shipley in Bloom from the wider community to further encourage the school?

The Hive project would be suitable for entry into Yorkshire in Bloom in a special category should they wish to consider that.

Could the In Bloom team take their own photographs of judging day and submit them to the local press for publication. This would help to raise the profile of the group further.

Upper and Nether Poppleton Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The Poppleton in Bloom team are to be congratulated on the efforts they are making to develop the Villages entry into the Yorkshire in bloom competition. A good all round effort is being made by everyone including the children at the school, residents, and the Parish Council through to the allotment holders. The heritage of the area is both well documented and presented with the Tithe Barn being a real gem. Congratulations to all and we look forward to seeing the group grow and flourish.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The colourful tubs dotted around the village are appropriate to the rural setting yet add seasonal colour at focal points.

The onion laden Frenchman with his attractively laden bicycle decorated with marigolds added a touch of humour to the village green.

The WW1 tribute bed was a worthy addition to the village, the union flag was well planted and very photogenic

It was great to see the 50th anniversary of Britain in Bloom being promoted with sunflowers. The allotment site was in very good condition with well-tended plots producing a good range of flowers, fruit and vegetables. The perennial planting at the Tithe Barn garden was very appropriate and well thought out.

Areas for Improvement

Although it is great to see the brownies had been involved in planting the new flower bed in the Millennium Field, perhaps the plant density could be bulked up or alternatively consider planting a slightly smaller display which has more impact.

It was interesting to note the plans to alter the planting on the roundabout, this may prove quite difficult due to the constant traffic flow, if you are to go ahead would it be worthwhile seeking advice from York City Council to see if they could help in managing any improvements, working in partnership with yourselves.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The natural and built heritage is one of your strengths, with several gems around the village including the Tithe barn and historic garden, churches, newly refurbished war memorial and village green.

The Millennium Field is a fantastic asset as is the well managed churchyard and wildlife areas. The Village was generally free of any litter and any flyposting, graffiti and detritus. It was great to see the amount of recycling on the allotments. The work being done at the school to reinstate the wildlife area shows great promise and will enable children to be able to carry out environmental studies in safety.

Areas for Improvement

Although it is recognised great strides are taking place at the school, especially at the wildlife area, it will be good to see how this develops on future tours.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The various fundraising efforts being undertaken by the group to promote and support projects in the village, such as the Children's sports day and the Village yard sale.

It is very encouraging to see children of all ages being encouraged to join in gardening activities. The poster competition was also a good way of encouraging the children to be aware of their environment and learn to love where they live.

Areas for Improvement

Although a relatively new group all sorts of improvements are being made, perhaps a visit to another similar local Bloom group to share ideas may help formulate plans for the future. Perhaps try and maximise the publicity surrounding a judge's visit in the future and try and get some media interest to help promote the good work you are all doing.

Category 2C: Town

Elloughton cum Brough

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The group had provided a summer up date to the spring portfolio which was e mailed to the judges before our visit providing information of the activities and work undertaken since April.

The summer route was selected to showcase the many improvements made and new features added taking on board the judge's spring comments.

The enthusiastic group had prepared a timed route which allowed us to meet with many of the group's volunteers throughout the judging period.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Floral features throughout the Judging route were colourful and well maintained and the group have now started to integrate some herbaceous planting in to the beds which will make the features more sustainable in future years.

The Floral features at Stockbridge Road/Main Street looked colourful and the newly planted half-moon shaped bed in red white and blue added to the effect.

We liked the formation of the small herb bed and think that a further square could be added to increase its size and fit more in scale with the surrounding area. This new bed could possibly be planted vegetables to complement the herbs. The mosaic name tiles were a unique feature.

Our tour of the allotments off Buccaneer Way was well maintained through a self-management agreement and fully occupied with a long waiting list. The garden plots contained a wide range of vegetables and fruit.

We were pleased that the tour gave us the opportunity to view the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin Elloughton whose grounds were well maintained with a stunning row of colourful roses in full bloom down the main entrance footpath to the church entrance door.

Areas for Improvement

We feel that the group's plant choices are still not quite fully coordinated and this may be something to do with the plant supplier providing material which the group are having to make fit in to displays rather than design a bedding display and obtain the plant types and colours to meet the design.

We can see and appreciate the ongoing problems of watering the different displays throughout the entry and establishing the summer bedding displays. Is this something that British Aerospace may be able to help with providing a watering tank system and

would a local contractor transport it around the area for you to allow you to carry out watering much easier?

We were disappointed that the Elloughton United Reform Church had not joined in the entry as there was great potential to put two outside planters in front of the church which would have made such a difference to the area and complimented the planting and beds in the open space adjacent.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Spindlewood Nature Reserve and Meadow is a great natural habitat for the area and the ongoing development of a wildflower meadow and expansion of the site is a great area for the local community.

Elloughton School garden is another little gem with a wildlife garden and the recently themed Tour de France outdoor class room complete with vegetables and herbs.

The Roman steel Statue situated at the Elloughton Road/ Welton Road Crossroads looks superb in the planted area and link in to the local history of the area. It was good to get the children involved in local history of the area.

We were very pleased with the restoration of the War Memorial which was promised during our spring visit and the group and parish council have to be congratulated on a quality job which is now complimented by floral displays.

The group have carried out a number of projects to maintain public seating areas, the themed bus shelters look great with the war time designs. The group's organisation and involvement in the 1940s Party night was a great success and surly raised the profile of the in bloom groups work across the area.

Areas for Improvement

We would like to see some further interpretation signage within the nature reserve especially with the formation of a wildflower meadow. The nature reserve volunteers should establish a more close working relationship with the in Bloom group which will enable more joint working on future projects within the area.

The Historic Elloughton Church needs to be incorporated in to a future judging tour route as it provides further links in to the local history of the area.

We feel the use of wood chip as a mulch in such prominent beds as around the Roman Statue distracts from the planting. Consider using an alternative i.e. Ro-lawns Pro Mulch.

Further evidencing is needed on waste minimisation and recycling. We need to look at examples of recycling within the judging tour which would raise the marks for this category.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

We were impressed with the number of local organisations which the group is working with within the local area in particular.

- The adult services Garden is beginning to develop.
- The involvement of the lifestyle scheme in painting the bollards around the shop frontage,
- The use of British Aerospace staff to help with the removal of large conifers.

We were impressed by the fund raising ideas which the group are using to raise funds for the entry including Social events like the 1940s Party Night, Numerous Coffee mornings.

The support given by local business in the area in terms of materials and staff time to the project

The financial support in the form of a grant which the group receives from the parish Council

The large number of hours of time given by local residents and volunteers to the project.

We were impressed with the promotional material which was playing in the Library doing our visit showing the work carried out by the in Bloom Group

Areas for Improvement

Consider the sighting and development of a In Bloom dedication Board which recognises the support of all the different groups and organisations which have supported the entry. It could be incorporated in to one of the floral features or situated in a prominent place within the main shopping area.

Can the group get a web page or link from the parish council web site to enable you to get dates out to the community for your organised work days.

Think of using Twitter and Facebook to keep people informed what you are up to and it can be a good way of getting what you are doing on local radio stations.

Building on the success of the Elloughton in Bloom calendar consider getting the schools involved to design an in bloom poster which could be displayed in private houses to show their support during the week of the judging to raise the profile further.

Horsforth Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Horsforth in Bloom continue to be an active group and since the judges visited in spring more work has been done to further improve areas within the town. The group are enthusiastic and always looking for new initiatives to keep moving projects forward. It

is this hard work and determination that makes Horsforth an attractive place to live and shop.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

A good range of sustainable planting evident at the central Methodist Church with strawberries in hanging baskets and the addition of summer veg in the borders. The herbaceous borders at Horsforth Park were looking good along with the Japanese Garden, two features that certainly lifted the entry. The quality of green space was also noted in Horsforth Park as well as the grounds of Leeds Trinity University. The quality and impact of the hanging baskets and troughs outside the public houses is good to see and was noted, as was the living wall created from old wooden pallets.

The decision to leave an area within the burial ground unmown has work well and has allowed a selection of wild flowers to grow.

The newly formed beds by the Jubilee clock/Fink Hill are developing well.

Areas for Improvement

Keep persevering with sustainable planting by selecting species that will complement one another in any one situation rather than planting a mixture of plants that 'fill' an area.

The trough under the Jubilee clock could do with being a little bigger to improve impact. Consider asking Leeds council if they can include more trailing plants in the barrier baskets to improve the display

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Good work is being done with children at St Margaret's School with veg growing, composting and wildlife habitats utilising all available space within the school grounds.

The town was very clean with little evidence of litter or dog waste on the day of judging and street furniture looked clean and in good condition.

The mural designed by a local schoolchild was an excellent idea and added a bit of vibrancy to the PG area in Horsforth Park.

Areas for Improvement

It was good to see so many environmental projects ongoing at St Margaret's Primary School and the judges commend the work being done by enthusiastic teacher, Diane Chamberlain. However, due to the amount of work, we feel that some additional help may be beneficial to bring all of the projects to fruition.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Lots of ongoing projects to raise funds for the in bloom group and plenty of engagement with St Margaret's School and the Ducklings Nursery

Areas for Improvement

Try to engage with other community groups in the area to maximise labour. Engage with more businesses especially on New Rd Side to contribute to Horsforth in Bloom, a small donation from each business for instance could make a vast improvement to what can be done with the floral displays.

Start a recruitment drive to encourage more members to join the group, start up an evening working party maybe?

Ilkley Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Meeting John Stidworthy former chairman of the Friends of Ilkley Moor, gave a good introduction to the town which is of course dominated by the moor. The introduction covered the ecological and recreational issues concerned with the moor. The bloom group continues to provide a focus for town's appearance and environment. This is more important as financial cuts impact on services, but also making it more difficult for the group to maintain standards.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The range and nature of the very good house gardens contribute to the sense of Ilkley being a very green place.

The extensive park land and sporting facilities are well maintained and an asset to the town.

The barrier planters in the car park showed a good choice of planting.

Commercial support is evident in many areas, including the exceptional Box tree.

Areas for Improvement

The extensive areas of bedding may be proving to be too much, given the financial cuts. An example of this is the begonias seemed to be spaced a long way apart, reducing plant numbers but also reducing the impact of the display.

The recent re planting at the station is a good start for this area, I am sure you will monitor it to encourage further improvements to this key site.

Plans to re do the Health Centre bed should be implemented in the right season.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

High levels of re-cycling both of waste, plants and materials ensures that re-use becomes the first choice.

The Bridge Lane allotment site, close to the centre of town demonstrated conservation, food production and leisure along with high levels of re-cycling. The absence of litter across the whole area of our visit is a credit to those involved.

The Lido is a wonderful example of local heritage and community support.

Areas for Improvement

Areas of concern mainly as they are developing issues rather than being too bad at the moment. One is highway weed control, this may be made worse by car parking preventing sweeping rather than direct weed control. However if left it will visually detract from the town and eventually cause damage to surfaces. We mentioned the difficult issue of street furniture in our spring report.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Community participation in support of Ilkley is very high. As well as the Friends of Ilkley Moor, the Lido has a Friends group, Ilkley Bowling club maintains a splendid facility, and other sports clubs and many more demonstrate community support. And Of course Ilkley in Bloom has an impact across the whole town.

The Grammar school garden and the possible involvement of another school in growing is very positive.

The work that Fran Davis does in the garden at Abbeyfield

Areas for Improvement

With so many groups being dependent on volunteers it may be worth considering some form of joint event. The purpose of which would be to explain what you all do and try to gain extra support.

Newby and Scalby Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Newby and Scalby form a single parish on the outskirts of Scarborough, with part of North York Moors National Park boundary running through the area. The Parish is fortunate to encompass rural areas with farmland and woodland, and many vantage points across the surrounding area including out to sea. The challenge of this lovely setting is the comparatively large geographic area.

The judges received a warm welcome from those members of the group who were available and it was self-evident that individuals informally took on different roles which matched their skills and interests. The tour was comprehensive and took in varied parts of the built environment as well as the wider rural area.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The standard of residential gardens across the town was high. Communal areas were well kept and the group were striving to achieve a mix of perennial and annual planting within the beds they maintain. The allotments were generally well maintained and clearly well used. Local businesses support the group with local supermarket Proudfoots having a particularly attractive display of hanging baskets and window boxes.

The matter of grass verge cutting raised in the Spring Report has happily now been resolved.

Areas for Improvement

Continuing to introduce more perennial planting into beds around the area will reduce the environmental impact associated with bedding plants and may reduce the watering/maintenance required.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Within the parish can be found many areas of varied natural habitats including ponds, waterways, woodland, hedgerows and wildflower meadow (this last managed by the group but not seen).

St Laurence Parish Church was to be commended in introducing a sensitively thought out regime of mowing, allowing some areas of the cemetery to become established wildflower areas with colonisation by some comparatively rare species, but still giving ease of access to more recent graves.

Areas for Improvement

The group should look for more ways in which they can implement the three 'R's of good environmental practice ie reduce, reuse and recycle.

Improved interpretation in the various habitats mentioned above has been highlighted in the Spring report and the group intend to tackle this in the winter months.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The group has an effective and proactive programme of engagement with the local community.

A number of events are run or attended during the year which not only generate funds but raise the profile of Newby and Scalby in Bloom. The recent addition of a plant sale has been particularly successful and the group are now considering the introduction of an autumn event in their calendar.

A potato growing competition effectively engages the local primary school and the senior school assist with litter picking. A 'best kept garden' competition is run for local residents and in addition to advertising locally the group actively leaflet and encourage those they feel are suitable entrants.

Areas for Improvement

Continuing to seek new members for the group from throughout the community and broadening links with other community groups who can provide support will ensure the long term sustainability of the in Bloom initiative.

Inclusion of the hospital and perhaps one of the hotels in the tour and/or portfolio would be beneficial in demonstrating the direct commitment of local businesses.

Otley Gold Rose Award Category Winner

Introduction

A very clean and tidy, yet busy market town. Attractive display outside the Methodist Church where we met the Town Mayor and members of the In Bloom Group. A well developed portfolio and route details - giving timings, what we were to see, as well as wider information about things not covered on the route this time.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Wharfemeadows Park is in a beautiful location, and is maintained to a high standard, the nectar bed being an excellent example of careful planning by the In Bloom Group, who work closely with the Leeds Council Park Manager - there were good colour schemes to reflect the visit of Grand Depart. Tubs, barrier baskets, etc. well developed and colourful. Shops and other businesses, and churches all supporting the campaign. Most allotments well managed. In Bloom Committee had won a Bronze Award at the Harrogate Spring Flower Show, of which they were justly proud. Numerous yellow bikes on display. House gardens on Wrenbeck Drive area and on the Whartons were generally of a high standard, also Mrs Gascoigne's garden in the town centre was most colourful.

Areas for Improvement

Possibly when some beds need replacing, consider using some wild flower displays.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Very good large mural, relating to the Tour de France, painted on the end wall of a derelict pub. Interesting to hear of riverside developments, to reflect the local location. Adequate number of segregated rubbish bins. Good to see local heritage being portrayed e.g. Chippendale statue, Chevin Court redevelopment to apartments. The upgrading of the Market Square, with new paving is a great asset. Careful consideration is being given to treatment of now mature tree which is impacting on Skipton Building Society's offices.

Areas for Improvement

Investigate need and availability of bio-degradable toilet, and water collection points at allotment sites.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Results of poster competition in many shop windows - good. Cards produced to show appreciation of participation by local businesses. Press coverage and publicity was good. There is good interaction between Leeds City Council and Otley Town Council. The brochure we were given illustrated all the community outreach, including funding issues. Good to see good number of community members supporting the Otley campaign.

Areas for Improvement

This is a well-developed committee, of several years standing - we congratulate them on the work which has been developed over these years, and knowing what they regard as local needs work towards attaining these priorities.

Pocklington Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Pocklington clearly enters into the spirit of the 'In Bloom' competition with some colourful summer displays and some wonderful residential gardens. The horticultural maintenance was good as was the standard of cleanliness. The allotments are maintained and managed to a high standard. The recently introduced school planters at Burnby Hall Gardens are to be commended as is the standard of horticulture.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

A1. Some good floral displays.

A3. Some outstanding residential gardens were visited and public buildings also had their own floral contributions. It was pleasing to meet the winners of the garden competition and present awards.

A5. Overall a good standard of maintenance.

Areas for Improvement

A1. Consider choice of plants in order to achieve a more lasting effect, especially with changing climate.

A2. Identify areas where horticultural practice needs improving, i.e., pruning and re-turfing at the Memorial Gardens. Also attention to detail with the edging off of lawned areas.

A4. Stimulate more interest across the business sector to help strengthen this aspect of the criteria.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

B1. Pocklington Infant School demonstrated some good wildlife areas.

B2. Good examples of resource management at the allotment site.

B4. The area was litter free.

Areas for Improvement

B3. Identify some areas of local heritage which can be clearly evidenced.

B5. Identify an annual maintenance programme for the street furniture.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

C2. Good to see young people becoming more involved with the competition along with good press coverage.

Areas for Improvement

C3. Look to widen the community participation to sustain the overall competition.

C5. Continue to strengthen local business support.

Skipton Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Just when I thought that I knew most of the attractions of Skipton, the Bloom team spring surprises and include new areas which provide added interest which shows the dedication of the hard working Skipton in Bloom team by encouraging the different groups to involve themselves in the campaign to enhance their local environment for the benefit of residents, visitors and businesses.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Last year's winner of the Skipton in Bloom School garden competition was Skipton Parish Church Primary School and with the help of the RHS's campaign for School gardening had created a most interesting, attractive and educational resource. The Broughton Road allotments were generally neat and tidy with some interesting and unusual produce and spectacular show stopping specimens. Airedale park was well maintained. There was a wide range of attractive floral features throughout the town, Bus Station, Canal Basin, Chapel Hill/ Mill Bridge with barrier baskets, hanging baskets, 25 tubs surrounding the Town hall forecourt, and the first phase of the impressive Basket Trees. The grounds of the churches were well maintained. Businesses are playing their part, Herriots, Cock and Bottle, Fleece Inn, Coffee House, Royal Shepherd pub, Emporia Italia, Black Horse, Bizzie Lizzie's begonias, Red Lion and more plus the splendid display at Oddfellows. We have to mention David's excellent efforts at Skipton Auto Services with his fantastic displays and the 'sheep on a bike'!

Areas for Improvement

The Herbs by the Kerbs project is developing and when planted will be an attractive and useful feature. Suggest that some tree planting alongside the roads in the same area would enhance this part of the town.

The maintenance and watering regime of some of the floral features needs to be reviewed particularly in dry conditions. Some of the floral features were a little fussy and a reduction in the variety of plants could improve the overall impact. Some planted areas are in need of attention. The judges would have wished to have seen more private residential gardens to complement no.3 Toller Court. Are the displays at the station worth a visit?

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Thank you for showing us The Wilderness and informing us about the work of the Friends, its history and development and the plans for its future. There were several shop windows which had 'works of art' painted on the windows depicting elements of

the Tour De France. The efforts by the town to recover from the influx of visitors and spectators for the Tour De France, everywhere was neat and tidy. The War Memorial in the top of the High Street with its poppy shaped bed. It was good to meet Paul of Craven District Council who explained the local approach to waste management and recycling.

Areas for Improvement

The planned Narrow boat refurbishment and the ongoing work in The Wilderness will have an impact.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The interest in the Town Gardening Competition and the numerous sponsors, not only of the competition but also of the whole Bloom campaign. The successful bid for significant funding from Skipton Town Partnership will ensure the future of the campaign in the town.

The work of the Steeping Stones Nursery project in providing a learning and work experience also carrying out garden maintenance and production of plants. The Bloom initiative in Skipton is well organised and funded. The programme of events throughout the year is impressive. It was interesting to hear about a volunteering website 'Do It' where groups like SIB can advertise projects and request volunteers.

Areas for Improvement

We wish Hadyn of the Steeping Stones project every success in the restructuring of this excellent facility, which is so valuable for the town and those who work and learn there.

The timings for the tour could be reviewed, on occasions we seem to waiting for something to happen.

Todmorden Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

It was lovely to be back in Todmorden again on such a lovely sunny day. Once again we were impressed by the efforts put in by the Bloom group. The town has really taken advantage of the recent Tour de France. It was brilliant to see all the involvement and hear about all the successful celebrations. As usual everyone was in close harmony to promote the town at its best.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Now established 16 years, the Bloom partnership with all its links works exceptionally well. It always takes comments on board and remains a very happy unit in all its activities.

We were impressed by the colourful and well-tended planting in the beds around the war memorial within the park.

The planting around the war memorial next to the sensory garden had tremendous impact.

The planting in the seating area at Water Street made a lovely flowery place for people to sit.

Baskets on the pergola in the town centre really brighten the area.

The colour theme fitted in well with the Tout de Tod celebrations.

Using recycled plants from the wharf around the church is a good idea.

Areas for Improvement

It was a shame that the Children's Activities at Castle Hill has temporarily closed due to building works. They were so enthusiastic at spring judging. We were looking to seeing them again.

Perhaps it might be possible to meet people from other groups working in the town.

Encourage even more businesses to have hanging baskets.

Consider updating the planting in the Peace Garden with shrubs and perennials which will not spread and overgrow the space.

Consider adding trailing plants to the market containers to soften the effect.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The work the group have done as part of the Tour de Tod celebrations is impressive. The wicker bikes really brought a feeling of excitement and involvement to the town.

In view of the previous hectic weekend the great clean up everywhere gives credit to everyone.

Had it not been so busy and plant growth so rapid attention to minor detail would have been advantageous to higher marks been given.

Remembering the First World War improvements taking place only further enhance the town's magnificent tribute to the fallen.

To hear of silent cleaning taking place at high visibility points gives the town additional praise for its residents.

Areas for Improvement

The added proposed new town's display boards will be a great advantage.

The market containers might benefit from painting.

The area around the lock gate with the packhorse tunnel is really interesting. Consider putting information boards there.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

An exceptional section with very high ratings. Just conformation of the wonderful heights that you have all achieved together.

The response from local businesses to the window dressing competition was very impressive.

The group are doing really good work with the school. Encouraging young gardeners is so important.

Areas for Improvement

You are well respected. This is down to your commitment.

We are sure you will continue to make every effort to bring in new members to ensure that the town continues to benefit from your involvement far into the future.

Category 2D: Large Town (12-35K)

Beverley Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

A much visited tourist town, which is very aware of this aspect of their life. A real heritage town. In an interview the new local radio station were keen to explore the impact of Yorkshire in Bloom on the town and were most helpful. Members of the local heritage organisations are very knowledgeable, and it was good to hear of future plans to celebrate important dates.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Coronation Gardens and Henfield Park are both very good. The work done by Peter at the Railway station has brought about significant improvements. Racecourse - grandstand and executive areas very colourful and well presented. Open areas in the town clean with appropriate planted areas. The allotments also contribute a positive presence.

Areas for Improvement

Perhaps a few more displays in the town centre, other than ones provided by the Councils. Judges need to see a wider representation of house gardens, schools, etc.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Good explanation of recycling and control of planning issues involving the local heritage. Interesting work at the Beck, and with adjacent housing. Nesting boxes in some areas. The project From Field to Table, where disadvantaged young people are involved with caring for an allotment, and working with FIND (Families in Need and Dignity) is playing its part by improving a corner site.

Areas for Improvement

Show more related areas of Environmental control on sites.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Community well involved in interpretation of the town's history/heritage. Could meet more than Peter to demonstrate good involvement in are of the town's general landscaping.

Areas for Improvement

Need to see involvement in schools and house gardens.

Goole Silver Rose Award

Introduction

Despite Goole being the country's largest inland port, there are many local visitor attractions including wildlife areas, excellent public parks and traffic-free shopping areas which include an established indoor Market Hall.

The 'In Bloom' team consists of representatives from many of the Town's organisations together with volunteers who meet regularly.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Delightful summer bedding displays at Goole Parish Church, St. John the Evangelist, consisting of red and white geraniums and blue salvias (spoiled only by a small area which the Church has responsibility for). The hanging baskets adorning each lamppost on the Town Centre pedestrianized area were seasonally planted and well-maintained. Prices Trust volunteers have worked hard to improve the visual aspect of the borders adjacent to the Railway Station, whilst the Sobriety Allotment project produced their own hanging baskets to display at the entrance. The permanent planting at the Leisure Centre provided by East Riding of Yorkshire Council is attractive and enhances the frontage. The Sobriety Project Allotment with its extensive variety of vegetables and flowers which is used for training and development for disadvantaged people.

Areas for Improvement

Perhaps you could establish horticultural links with volunteer organisations to provide year-round sustainable planting. The planting in the barrier baskets in the Town Centre should be planted to give more impact.

The judges were disappointed that Goole High School, visited in the Spring, was not included in the tour as they had some interesting projects in hand.

Greater attention needs to be given to floral displays and roadside plantings at the entrances to the Town.

It was disappointing that no acknowledgement, by way of floral displays, had been given to the 50th Anniversary of the Royal Horticultural Society in their theme 'Growing for Gold', or to the Centenary of World War 1.

Disappointing too that the judges were not shown many private gardens.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The judges met with the ERYC Recycling Officer, Chris Black, who revealed that there are 30,000 properties in Goole with many ethnic minorities so all the information supplied to the residents is multi-lingual. Since the introduction of blue and brown bins and brown caddy's for food waste the amount of non-recyclable waste in green bins has fallen by an impressive 25%. The Oakhill Nature Reserve is a very interesting project and has 45 'friend' volunteers. Roger Dickerson was on hand at The Courtyard with information and visual displays.

There were many reminders of the heritage of the town with the 'Set in Stone' maritime floor sculptures and large metal panels 'Art on the Gates', and the Waterways Museum.

Areas for Improvement

Perhaps the Oakhill Nature Reserve project will consider entering Yorkshire In Bloom in 2015 because otherwise judges will be unable to visit due to time constraints.

Discarded cigarette ends continue to make some areas unattractive - perhaps an awareness campaign?

There is no need to produce a full blown portfolio for the Summer. You could provide only extra information not supplied in the Spring - this reduces the amount of paper and time to compile and read.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Local businesses have given their support to the 'In Bloom' campaign by funding planting in containers and baskets.

The Green Team continue to work hard in the community by carrying out many gardening tasks.

The CREATE studio school team are actively involved in the running of the new café at West Park which has proved to be very popular. The Park, funded by Heritage Lottery Money, is very well used by the community and there are many well-supported events planned both in the long and short term.

Areas for Improvement

There is no point in visiting the allotments twice as this wastes valuable time which could be used to visit other interesting features.

The timings for the judge's tour need to be reviewed.

The CREATE studio school team are responsible for the administration of the 'In Bloom' entry and it is obvious that they need much more guidance.

Introduction

Knaresborough is an historic market town mentioned in the Domesday Book as Chenesburgh and the castle dates from around 1100. It became known as Knaresborough around 1115. It has a population of just under 15000 and comes under the district of Harrogate. A market town with much history and the pride in this and the town is very apparent.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Due to the Tour de France main areas predominantly yellow but many very innovative special features including around 70 yellow bicycles etc. Presentation of the town was very good. Particularly good bedding around the war memorial and interesting cottage border alongside the Bowling Green. Plant quality excellent throughout the town and new garden at Worlds End added interest to this area. The Mediterranean garden at Park Row by Knaresborough in Bloom maturing nicely and has greatly improved an unsightly area. Attractive planting of the trolleys at the railway station and good hanging baskets here. All public areas clean and well maintained. Best garden competition is involving community and raising profile of in bloom group. Good allotments at Stockwell and recycling efforts here to be commended, self-managed with fund raising being carried out. Local school has plot here. Good new beer garden at Weatherspoon's. In Bloom group responsible for 40 planters in town. Residential gardens seen were tidy and of good quality.

Areas for Improvement

The judges look forward to hearing of further long term projects of the in bloom to build on an already excellent foundation.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Project at Aspin pond is to be applauded with the area now recognised as an outstanding breeding area for Great Crested and Smooth newts. The planting of wild flower seeds here by Aspin Brownies and the placing of insect houses, bird and bat boxes will further increase the interest in this area. Old historic posters and ticket window decoration at the railway station are added interest as well informing people of the history as do the excellent town windows. Good information boards and plaques throughout the town. Complete lack of graffiti, litter, fly posting, dog fouling etc. shows the obvious pride of place in the town and illustrates the environmental quality in Knaresborough.

Areas for Improvement

The development of Aspin pond area with additional paths, information boards and future school involvement should be a great asset. A friend for Blind Jack in the Market Place will further make the visitors aware of the past in Knaresborough.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The proposed development at Aspin pond is of great interest. Communication is good newsletter, posters in the town, best garden competition, local press and web site. Schools have produced around 2000 T shirts decorating the town and good work with Aspin Park primary school gardening club. Community participation is outstanding witness the award of best decorated town for the Tour de France. Women's Institute also involved in projects at cricket club and Aspin pond. Children at Aspin Park school were enthusiastic, fruit trees good and raised beds for individual years and sow and grow diary good idea and bug area and bird feeders of interest to children. Composting and water collection here good. Garden design competition for schools to design flower bed at Bowling Green involved children in town. The garden at Harrogate Spring Flower Show manned by in bloom team further raised the in bloom profile. Planters and baskets sponsored by local businesses. Plans for future include schools involvement at Aspin ponds. Main income is grant from Town Council but Knaresborough in Bloom also organise fund raising events.

Areas for Improvement

Would something like a system of being a friend of Knaresborough in Bloom be an idea for fund raising i.e. for say a donation of £10 pa you would get a quarterly newsletter detailing future projects and recent achievements - people may not have the time to be involved but may be willing to contribute to improving the environment in which they live.

Pontefract Silver Rose Award

Introduction

The town was a lively place on a market day with many places of interest including Pontefract Castle, Pontefract Park and Racecourse the Bus Station and its Cafeteria the town also displayed many new hanging baskets and planters .It will be interesting for future judges to see the seating and landscaped area of development facing the Town Hall and Registrar's office.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The new planting at the side of the bus station cafeteria were looking good due in no small part to the efforts of the cafeteria and bus station staff.

The lavender and herb garden within the castle grounds also looked very attractive.

It was a pleasure to meet such enthusiastic children for gardening at Larks Hill School.

Areas for Improvement

It could be that the new hanging baskets in the town centre are so high on the building that they may not achieve their full impact with the public. If further floral planting could be achieved within the town centre this possibly could make the town centre significantly more attractive.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The wildlife and habitat development within Pontefract Park is to be commended as is the wild flower area adjacent to Asda car park. It was also notable that the town centre was litter and graffiti free which was a credit to all the residents of the town.

Areas for Improvement

The judges were shown little evidence of water harvesting, composting and recycling and other than in Pontefract Park no evidence was given of wild life areas and natural habitat.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

It is clear that there are a number of committed community groups involved in Bloom initiative from the children at Larks Hill School, The Lionesses, the Bus Station Staff and the Friends of Pontefract Castle all of whom are doing excellent work.

Areas for Improvement

Greater publicity and awareness of the in bloom campaign in the town is needed through posters notices or banners, this could potentially generate more support and an active involvement in the campaign from the local community. The formation of an in Bloom group either as a separate organisation or as a separate part of the Business Forum is needed to give a clear focus, energy and more resources to continuing the excellent work so far carried out.

Pudsey Silver Rose Award

Introduction

The judges were given another warm welcome by the enthusiastic Pudsey in Bloom group. The centre of the town around the bus station looked particularly cheerful, with the lovely barrier baskets adding plenty of summer colour to this busy area, which, along with the hanging baskets on the Town Hall make a significant impact in the town centre. The group is making its mark on the town and is well on its way to achieving its aims of identifying opportunities for improvement, encouraging pride in the environment and making Pudsey a more attractive place for residents and visitors.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Pudsey Lowtown School is a real delight! There is a good variety of planting, from the prairie style entrance beds, through the vegetable garden and mini orchard to the woodland area, which is all very well maintained and very well used. The pupils are engaged and well informed, and the school has developed good links with other community groups.

Crimbles allotments are excellent. All the plots are well maintained and look very productive. The whole site is very well managed. The Gerry Thompson memorial garden is a lovely, and fitting, addition.

The In Bloom group have recently taken on the maintenance and development of the large central bed in Sparrow Park. Currently planted with perennials, the group have plans to develop the bed with a greater variety of plants, including more spring bulbs.

The Lowtown garden makes good use of nectar rich perennial plants. Plans for additional planting will enhance this garden further.

The celebration of the Tour de France and the RHS Britain in Bloom in the library bed is cheerful and fun! A good use of the area before the proposed new scheme is implemented.

Areas for Improvement

The group has some very good ideas for the continued improvement and development of the leisure centre beds and the library beds, but should make sure they are not over stretched.

The judges were disappointed not to be taken into the park. It is a large and important space in the community, and including it in the judging route would benefit the entry in future.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The judges were pleased to see that some of the plants from the spring schemes had been planted in the beds at the Lowtown garden and at Sparrow Park.

The six wooden planters have been greatly improved by repainting.

The whole entry was clean and tidy, a great effort by the group and the community.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to look for ways to improve wildlife habitats, particularly if the development of the existing wildlife area in the park is not going to be undertaken by the group.

The judges do understand the financial pressures on the local council, but the street furniture is looking quite tired, in particular some of bins need replacing. Could the In Bloom group use their connections with the council to try and get these replaced?

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The In Bloom group have developed a very good relationship with Pudsey Lowtown School.

The group are very successful in gaining funding and support from the local businesses, with the ongoing sponsorship of the barrier baskets.

Participation in the Pudsey Carnival has helped raise funds through a plant sale.

The display at the Pudsey Allotments Society Spring show, and with the plans to attend the Autumn show, can only help publicise the work of the group and lead to more people joining in!

The group are continuing to develop ways of publicising their activities with a new Facebook presence alongside the blog and regular articles in The Squeaker.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to try and encourage more active members. The success of all the projects, current and future, will depend on maintaining and increasing the number of people in the group.

Category 3: Large Town (35-100K)

Halifax Silver Gilt Rose Award Category Winner

Introduction

Situated in the south Pennines Halifax was well known as a centre of England's woollen manufacture. The local economy has moved on but it is good to hear about the Lottery bid renovating the Piece Hall and the other developments which will reinvigorate Halifax. The town has many well maintained parks and open spaces tended by committed members of staff for the residents and visitors to enjoy. Halifax in bloom are committed to supporting many community groups and businesses in creating a better environment for everyone.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The residential gardens at the Old Infirmary site were of good quality, tidy and tastefully landscaped.

The variety of good quality produce grown at Godfrey Road Allotments and the site could be considered as an It's Your Neighbourhood.

The enthusiasm of the Rotary Team to create the Shay garden, along with the local college and Payback teams.

The self-watering baskets at the Woolshops are very colourful and better for the environment.

The gardens created in the Walled Garden at Manor Heath are excellent and generate lots of ideas for the public. Once the raised beds are completed this will enhance the area even further.

Albert Park the large bed gave a good impact and an opportunity for sponsorship.

Areas for Improvement

Consider renovating the planting at the Yorkshire Bank area

The perennial plantings around the Woolshops could be considered for some remedial work, enhancing what looks good but removing some of the more mature planting.

Consider some form of interpretation or labelling of the dahlias at Manor Heath Park

Consider adding some height or dot plants into the Sunken Garden at Manor Heath Park

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The work of the Woolshops towards ISO14001 to help recycle and reduce waste including the planned recycling bins for public use in the precinct.

The stunning area of wildflowers at Manor Heath Park

Areas for Improvement

Consider a programme to assess the street furniture maintenance

The Woolshops could consider having a publicity day to promote the wildlife that maybe attracted by the planting around the centre. Maybe link up with the Butterfly conservation count in August.

There is enormous amount of history within the town and with the redevelopment of the Piece Hall could a heritage trail be created to enhance the visitor experience.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The range of horticulture at Ravenscliffe High School used in the curriculum in a variety of ways and the plans for the new development extending the opportunities for the students and to raise funds.

The plans for the plot for the disabled at Godfrey Road Allotments, the apple and pear tree planting and the links to the Ebenezer Food bank.

Involving Holy Trinity School for planting the barrier planters.

Supporting Community groups and education projects such as Outback, Boothtown partnership charity shop, new Cemetery lane allotments and Cutting Edge in learning new skills.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to encourage businesses to get involved in the campaign

Consider looking at Awards for All for funding of the security fencing at Godfrey Road Allotments <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/funding/awards-for-all>

Consider at Ravenscliffe School having permanent Insect information board/s for the Wildlife pond area, possibly involving the students in designing the boards.

Consider promoting further the 'give away' compost scheme.

Introduction

Keighley is a large sprawling town with some grand old buildings, a modern shopping centre and some excellent schools and resource centres and yet still feels to be in the countryside. The Tour de France had recently passed through and the bunting, flags and bicycles gave evidence of a warm welcome given to the many hundreds of visitors.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The floral colours were mainly yellow to reflect the Tour de France but a stunning union jack and French flag at the flowerbed near the Cenotaph was a real eye catcher

The new sustainable beds near the cenotaph were especially good and maybe this is the way forward. The maintenance was in parts excellent and poorer in others especially attention is needed on the large tubs. The garden competition attracts over 40 entrants and the ones we were shown were outstanding. Mr and Mrs Parker needs a very big Gold! The allotments shown were very good all the shopping areas were brightened with hanging baskets. The grounds of the Cooperative Funeral Care were simply amazing and all down to one man, Mark. East Riddlesden Hall is lovely; very old but lovely gardens. A special mention of The Oaks, the Healthy Living Centre, the Sangat Centre and St Anne's school for bringing horticulture to a wide part of the community

Areas for Improvement

Please continue to support with advice and other help at St Peter's flats who have started a gardening group to brighten the block of flats and to make the area friendlier. More grassroots groups like this should be encouraged everywhere.

The roundabouts were all suffering from the dry conditions - maybe a different or mixed choice of flower varieties would help. With the very large heritage grant, Cliffe Castle could well be transformed; an exciting new project

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Many conservation areas with care for environment and the bees and butterflies. The Coop bee garden, school pond, East Riddlesden Hall wild gardens all were very good. Keighley has well embraced composting issues - very obvious at St Anne's School, the Hall and exceptionally good at Cliffe Castle. And all those composting toilets at East Riddlesden Hall!

The new hard landscaping of the central cenotaph area was very good

Litter was well controlled but some areas needed a spruce up

Areas for Improvement

Local Heritage was low -maybe just needs more signage and pointing out to judges who do not know the history

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Good to see so many schools and groups involved with children and older adults working together.

The In Bloom appears to be financially healthy with a strong group of mixed ages and therefore sustainable.

Publicity for In Bloom in the Airedale Centre was to be commended.

Areas for Improvement

This year was difficult with the extra pressure of the Tour but maybe a bigger photographic presentation could be shown in future years with more publicity in a wider area.

Category 4: City

Kingston-upon-Hull

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Category Winner

Introduction

The City of Hull displays its proud history within the central museums. Whilst in respect of current environmental issues it has developed an extensive network of community organisations that contribute to the quality of life for residents and visitors. This includes Friends of East Park, Friends of Pickering Park the Rainbow project and the C.A.S.E allotment project. The importance of well-maintained green space is illustrated by East Park having 1.2 million visits per year. This both demonstrates the value of green space and how well managed space offers value for money.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

There are many achievements in the city, some of the notable ones are: East park and the range of activities, educational projects and recreational facilities. Queens gardens and the re planting areas around the fountain. The gardens around the museum both the design and maintenance. The project to improve eating habits by demonstrating vegetable growing in a City centre bed.

The C.A.S.E allotment project and E.M.S gardening and environmental projects.

Areas for Improvement

The reduction in budgets for the maintenance of highway verges and shrub beds does show. This is a difficult issue but the impact and value of some of the ageing rose beds will need to be evaluated. The entrance roads to such an important city really need to demonstrate high levels of horticultural practice and provide a memorable wow factor.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The Bransholme nature reserve, whilst only created in the mid-1990s is well established and home to 70 different species. The site is well used with children from 42 schools visiting for environmental education. Staff and volunteers promote the site, monitor and record and work hard to ensure it is protected for the future.

The C.A.S.E, Rainbow Project and E.M.S projects re use and re cycle considerable quantities of material. The City Centre was free of litter.

The sponsorship for the signs in the farm/zoo at East Park.

Areas for Improvement

In general litter was well controlled over a very large area, however the vast number of visitors to East Park had left their mark in the form of litter in some areas.

Whilst the condition of furniture and so on is good at the moment it is going to be a challenge to maintain them in the future with reduced budgets, this issue needs to be addressed before too much decay sets in.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Overall the co-operation of many groups to improve the environment of Hull demonstrates high levels of community support.

Individual groups such as Friends of Pickering Park who have raised £200,000 for the park and are still fund raising.

Hull in Bloom which has high levels of support and provides recognition for individuals and groups that work to improve the city.

The work of C.A.S.E, Rainbow and E.M.S

Schools such as Newington Academy, demonstrate not just gardens within school but carry out projects within the community.

Areas for Improvement

The main work in this area is to try to continue to support and encourage such a wide range of groups. These parts of the community are invaluable to the success of a good place to live, visit and work.

Category 4A: City Centres - 500 yard radius of town/city centre

Barnsley

Introduction

The tour started with an impressive bird's eye view of Barnsley Town Centre seen from the top floor of the new Westgate Plaza building. The refurbishment of the War Memorial, the development of the superb Barnsley Pals Centenary Square and Gardens, the soon to be started multi-million pound Indoor and outdoor market regeneration scheme, all making a firm statement of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Councils commitment to its inward investment policies, improving Barnsley for its community whilst still preserving its heritage. The green spaces, small parks, floral displays around the town centre provided much colour, offered a variety of interest and activity areas, were very well maintained by all the partners involved and promote a feeling of progressive optimism. Congratulations to all engaged in the presentation of a superb entry.

Section A: Community - *Demonstrate partnership working. Business and residential community involvement and support. Including fund raising, sponsorship events programme and future development plans. Development and sustainability of local in Bloom initiative.*

Areas of Achievement

The Friends group and their successes at the Churchfields Peace Gardens; The teamwork demonstrated by the Queens Road Academy Primary School, Alhambra Shopping Centre, and services from the borough council, together with the Community Payback Team all engaged in the refurbishment of a very well used but blighted underpass area; The sustained commitment over many years of the very successful Barnsley in Bloom initiative, it's profile within the town and continued support from its wide range of sponsors and partners;

Areas for Improvement

The judges felt it would be appropriate to establish a friends group for Sparrow Park, with emphasis given as a wild life haven to optimise the present features and infrastructure.

Section B: Maintenance/Development –*Horticulture and arboriculture quality, sustainability and open space provision as appropriate to the entry and its purpose.*

Areas of Achievement

The establishment of the excellent Barnsley Pals Centenary Square and gardens at the centre of the town deserves the accolades it receives, for its striking water displays and mixed perennial and seasonal display plantings.

The Centenary gardens are the principal display garden in Barnsley and boast two carpet bedding schemes, and a splendid display of bright and colourful seasonal bedding, all of high quality and maintained to a high standard.

The sponsored hanging baskets can be seen throughout the town centre adorning many businesses, including the Barnsley Chronicle building, and hanging from street furniture. The themed displays give a degree of colourful continuity, all are maintained to a high standard and support the profile of the Barnsley in Bloom initiatives.

Areas for Improvement

Following the review of horticultural features at the Townend Roundabout, consideration could be given to establishing a wild flower feature which would also support the reduction and frequency of maintenance required.

Section C Environment – *Litter, graffiti, fly posting, dog fouling, condition of structures/buildings, street scene, management of vacant buildings, throughout the entry. Recycling, conservation and promotion of local heritage as appropriate to the entry.*

Areas of Achievement

The town centre was comparatively busy yet was still litter free, as were the parks and open space areas visited. The absence of graffiti, even in secluded areas, an achievement only brought about by persistent effort and commitment. Many heritage buildings and features in the town centre have been retained and mix easily with the modern aspects of the developments taking place now and programmed for the future. The James Hudson Trail features a number of these to recognise parts of the history of Barnsley, seen every day but not recognised.

Areas for Improvement

It was disappointing to see that the dilapidated mesh fencing is still present next to the refurbished War Memorial, despite the site being a very high profile location and immediately outside the Town Hall.

There were a number of vacant business premises seen during the tour, the former Walmsley furniture shop being an example. These detract heavily from the very positive work being carried out elsewhere in the town centre and the judges felt a more proactive response could be made to counter their neglected appearance.

Category 5A: Coastal Resort A

Hornsea Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

This seaside town has many examples of community groups acting to enhance the quality of life in Hornsea. In Bloom, Allotment holders, friends of the hospital, have people who work in environmental areas. The Floral Hall, is a major project for the community and the sea wall art project is starting to become a reality. The maintenance and planting at Hornsea Freeport were of a high standard.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The areas of open space being adjacent to the town centre were well maintained, and the play areas well used. The challenge of maintaining a site that is below sea level is not one most communities face, but part of Hall Garth Park is.

The hanging baskets were a positive addition to the town with the advantage of being sponsored by a wide range of organisations.

The planting of new trees ensures that a spread of age is achieved in the tree stock.

Areas for Improvement

The delight of the sea is also a challenge in respect of growing plants. This results in a mix in terms of development and quality. It is difficult to resolve this but thought could be given to limiting the quantity of planting in difficult sites, being selective with plant types and concentrating on developing a more consistent standard across the area.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The Atwick Road allotment site community composting project, deals not only with the green waste onsite but has a garden collection service. The quantity is such that a farm tractor is used to turn the compost.

The Floral Hall, Memorial Garden and the use of boats as planters all develop local heritage in different ways.

In general the whole area was very free of litter.

Areas for Improvement

More information at the Mere in respect of wildlife and aspects of conservation would be helpful.

A difficult matter will be trying to keep up with maintenance of seats and street furniture. Some seats are in a maintenance program, however as and when possible maintenance should be carried out to signs, posts and so on. This is not urgent but needs to be considered.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

From a small community a wide range of people and organisations are involved in supporting Hornsea in Bloom.

The garden and commercial premises competition must be a good influence as the standards of both were very high.

The coordination of a number of service providers is well managed to the benefit of the environment of Hornsea

Areas for Improvement

The community participation element is very strong and it is a matter of keeping up the very good work. Thought could be given to seeing if it would be worth including representatives of the bowlers who maintain facilities as volunteers.

Consideration could be given to demonstrate more clearly the involvement of young people in the project.

Whitby Silver Gilt Rose Award Category Winner

Introduction

Whitby, a seaside Port steeped in history, was a pleasure to judge on a summer's day. Around every corner there was yet another floral display for the judges to see. Couple this up with the displays of public art that were surrounded by some very good displays of sustainable planting make Whitby a good all-rounder in the Yorkshire in Bloom competition.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Credit has to be given for the school design a flower bed scheme in Westcliffe gardens which was planted by the winning classes along with the group and Parks staff.

The sustainable Planting in Pannett Park was very innovative / full of colour and designed to improve biodiversity of the Park.

The many barrel planter and hanging baskets situated around the town were full of summer colour.

The enthusiasm shown by the children from the gardening club at East Whitby School

The many excellent floral displays outside public houses such as the Duke of York was good to see.

Areas for Improvement

Try and engage with the bus company to improve the visual appearance of the bus station and the floral features shown to the judges on the route.

Engage local shops to display In Bloom posters/banners to advertise the local in bloom initiative.

For next year look at shortening the route so you maximise the time with the judges.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The absence of litter on the route was a credit to all involved given the amount of people in Whitby on the day of judging.

The many public pieces of art around the town that linked to the heritage of Whitby were inventive and of a really good quality and very well maintained.

The recycling station within the leisure centre and the door step collection were clearly encouraging residents and visitors to recycle.

The sponsorship of litter bins coupled with a robust replacement programme has to be commended as it is one area which visitors will remember Whitby for the wrong reasons if not kept up to.

Areas for Improvement

Carry on with the litter bin replacement programme around the town.

Continue to engage school children with regards dog fouling and littering awareness posters for display around the town.

The empty notice board in the bus station could be used by the in bloom group and as one of the main gateways into the town could be a valuable asset to promote the campaign in the future.

Consider to help with the Whitehall landing project as part of in bloom as this could be a valuable project in the future.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Having charity status that enables the group to manage some of the sponsorship for the council will help generate funds for Whitby in Bloom and sustain the campaign for the short term.

The diversity of groups on the judging route that entered in this year's competition in their own right shows the commitment to the in bloom campaign.

The evidence of projects the in bloom group are engaged in as shown on the judging day and portfolio has to be commended.

The links with local schools are strong and should harbour more future in bloomers.

Areas for Improvement

Work with the local council/ retail premises and other partners to develop funding streams to enable Whitby in Bloom to thrive in the future.

Look into having charity collection points around the town or build a wishing well (or similar that would reflect Whitby's heritage to raise funds).