

Category 1A: Small Village

Judges Comments

Bradfield in Bloom Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Gilt Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

Whilst not raining on the day of our visit in summer, it was colder than when we made our visit in spring. The impact of poor weather is of course something that we have all face, this year. The orchard and wildflower areas are developing well although the resident bees have to be fed.

It is encouraging that progress has been made in attracting additional support and help for the bloom effort. This ranges from direct help to, for example, the cricket club putting baskets up. Small matters but it demonstrates the bloom effort as more areas do their bit to support the village.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The difficult banking at the rear of the hall is now showing a good establishment of plants following the installation of soil retention mesh. This is really a success story after all the difficulty.

Support from the Post Office, Pub and Garage make a difference as they are mostly sited in the centre of the village.

The replanting of the bed at the Old Hornes with the shrub roses will provide an effective solution to this area in spite of not being able to position the plants according to plan due to concrete.

Areas for Improvement

Consider the plan you have to introduce a watering system for the planters can be implemented as in normal years this would save considerable effort.

Review your seasonal display areas to ensure that they provide you with maximum effect for the effort they take to plant and maintain. This is not advice to do away with anything but we think an occasional walk round is useful when planning for the following year.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The walkers are welcome programme, maps and the splendid information boards are an aid to visitors and a source of information for residents.

Ensuring that projects and planting is appropriate to this wonderful area.

Areas for Improvement

Consider the impact of the changes being introduced to the council recycling programme for green waste and the impact this may have on in bloom. It would be good if the in bloom green waste could be composted in the village.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The farmers market continues to be a success and provides a major source of funding for in bloom, as well as promoting local produce.

The vitality of the village ensures that bloom events such as apple day are well supported, and this helps to spread the message to residents as to who provides so much for the village environment.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to build on your success, keep projects to a management size and also when making presentations ensure that the support to give to young people and the less able is noted.

Category 1A: Small Village

Judges Comments

Clayton with Frickley Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

The village still managed to look stunning in the WET summer weather! Once again the judges were impressed with the knowledge and commitment of the In Bloom group. The village has a mix of private houses and farms all of which seem to have taken the In Bloom message on board.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The many high standard private and residential gardens throughout the village. The floral display at Chapel Hill Farm. The high standard of planting, and maintenance at the village green. The excellent garden at the entrance to the village club.

Public spaces such as the Millennium Green, Blacksmiths "Hooping ring", QV trough, village pond and war memorial are highlights throughout the village

Areas for Improvement

Consider a planting area to brighten the area at the back of the village hall.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The wildlife and wildflower area at the millennium green. The church grounds and burial ground providing a haven for wildlife. The use of the hooping ring as a feature is to be commended. The village was immaculate and free of litter and weeds.

The donation of the stone trough at the war memorial adding to the local heritage. The boundary stones and Chapel Hill wildflower meadow add interest around the village. The judges were interested to see Frickley Hall and estate, home of the Squire, with

its impressive front aspect to the manor house, linking the history of the village and the local church.

The avenue of 70 oak trees planted to celebrate Squires fathers 70th birthday, providing a lasting legacy for future generations.

Areas for Improvement

Consider the installation of an interpretation board on the millennium green, maybe also highlighting the main points of interest around the village, and its history.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The participation throughout the village was plain to see. The planting of the purple beech at the millennium green and the installation of the bench and the improvements planned around it, in celebration of the Queens Diamond Jubilee funded by subscription from the village.

The pride and quiet satisfaction from all those involved in maintaining this picturesque village.

Areas for Improvement

Try to involve the local press to publicise the In Bloom campaign. Continue to support and encourage local businesses such as the farms, to do their little bit, Chapel Hill Farm being an example.

Category 1A: Small Village

Judges Comments

Ecclesfield in Bloom Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

The dedicated group of Ecclesfield in Bloom have made significant progress on a number of projects this year. The largest project has been the replanting of the beds in the square. As these develop it will provide a colourful effect in the centre of the village.

Success must also be noted with companies providing hanging baskets; this has resulted in more baskets being visible around the village, and importantly provides the group with evidence of their influence to improve the area.

The interaction with a number of groups such as the brownies, scouts, historical society ensures that a cross section of the community is involved, along with bringing in a wider range of experience.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The quality of plants in the planters was very good along with the plant selection providing effective seasonal planting. The addition of perennial plants helps with the display and reduces some of the workload on the team. The residential gardens were maintained to a high standard, along with evidence that the bloom effect was encouraging improvements to domestic gardens.

Areas for Improvement

To encourage the businesses to put up some spring baskets, this would support the community and have a visual impact in the centre of the village. Consider how to eliminate the perennial weed in the High Street flats beds and try to increase plant numbers. Ultimately this would reduce the workload. Monitor the development of the new planting in the square and weed as necessary to ensure the successful establishment of the new planting.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Recycling is well established for example a shredder is used for the churchyard material and the resultant chip is reused in the churchyard. The success of the litter clearing and graffiti removal showed very good results with an absence of both throughout the community. The use of perennial planting has been used to good effect in planters in the churchyard.

Areas for Improvement

The wildflower meadow will need to be monitored as there is evidence of dominate species starting to invade the more traditional wildflower plantings. It may be that some form of community orchard could be introduced. If so, leave the grass long to offer some protection as the trees establish. The aim would be to establish some large trees that would again reduce maintenance. The area of the churchyard allocated to the Brownies has some limitations. The change of style to encourage wildlife could allow the planting of some shrubs such as Buddleia. This should allow a faster development of the area and bring interest in terms of wildlife.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The dedication and ingenuity of the group from fundraising by card selling to involvement of a wide range of community groups ensures that it makes a real impact. This is also seen by the support given in terms of poster displays in house windows. The developing business support is very welcome and also has a very good impact in the area.

Areas for Improvement

When holding or taking part in events ensure, as we are sure you do, that opportunities are taken to recruit new active supporters. Make full use of both the banner and the skill that goes into making these items to ensure the whole community appreciate them.

Category 1A: Small Village

Judges Comments

Esholt Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Gilt Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

A small village of mainly old stone built houses, well known for its links to Emmerdale TV programme. It is very attractive and well loved by its community, so much so that it is now almost reaching the top band!

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The roses at Greenwood's Haulage yard provide an excellent backcloth. The house gardens are outstanding, although several are very tiny.

Areas for Improvement

Allotments are generally very good, but one or two uncultivated plots just spoil it. Look forward to more participation by the Woolpack, as the pub is now under new management.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

All the heritage type housing is maintained to a high standard. Once again Greenwood's Haulage are excelling with having a well cleaned yard and also giving good community support by brushing clean adjacent highways.

Areas for Improvement

Very high standards are already being achieved, but possibly could look at increasing biodiversity in the adjacent woodland above the allotments.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Although there is no school in the village now, the small number of children through the Sunday school, do colour posters which are displayed throughout the village. Every one we met seemed aware of the competition and seemed very supportive. Well done Esholt!

Areas for Improvement

It would be good to see St Leonard's Farm once again becoming involved in the entry.

Category 1A: Small Village

Judges Comments

Ledston Silver Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver

Introduction

Despite the absolutely dreadful weather which greeted the judges on arrival, the efforts of the 'bloomers' and residents of Ledston made for a very picturesque and charming setting. It was pleasing to hear and see that the group had acted on the judges' advice from the spring. The village contained a number of floral containers at every street corner adding summer colour throughout

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

It was good to see that the efforts of the very small core of 'bloomers' have made with the roadside beds and planters have really inspired the residents to follow suite with their gardens, the majority of which were all very well maintained. The grass verges were impressively well maintained considering the very difficult conditions we have been experiencing recently. A particular triumph is the Old Village Hall, with its nicely co-ordinated baskets and ivy-shrouded stone work.

Areas for Improvement

If possible, a bit more weeding of the beds by the White Horse pub would increase an already good standard of maintenance. Some floral planters at the entrance to the school would help establish better links with the school

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The village was extremely tidy and litter free, which is always pleasing to see. The grounds to the hall were well maintained and contained many wildlife habitats. The signage and street furniture were well coordinated and added to the quality effect of the village

Areas for Improvement

If feasible, removing the weeds in the wall bottoms of the White Horse car park would, particularly the entrance off Main Street, would improve the environmental quality.

The seating made from a tree trunk at the village entrance was well made and set the tone of our visit where the in Bloom group had made features using surplus materials and grown their own flowers

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

It was pleasing to hear of the group following the judges' advice and involving the local school. There were plenty of posters on show along Main Street which showed excellent support for the entry. As part of the school's involvement we look forward to seeing the completion of the wildlife area in the near future. Also, it was good to see that residents were taking responsibility for planters along Main Street.

Areas for Improvement

If possible, try to involve the local wine shop/general dealer to become involved in the entry. Although the judges understand some local businesses are not interested in supporting entries we feel there is so much potential here. The judges felt the shop is

Category 1A: Small Village

Judges Comments

Mill Bank Gold Rose Award Category Winner

Spring Medal Position - Silver Gilt Summer Medal Position - Gold

Introduction

We enjoyed the warm welcome the group gave us to Mill Bank. The tremendous pride the group take in the village is clear to see and it is lovely to see the amount of support which village residents give to the group. Obviously the group have clear visions and plans for the future and we are sure they will go onto achieve even more for Mill Bank in years to come.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

This is a challenging site but the people of Mill Bank have filled every available corner with bloom. We were impressed by the range of healthy plants which are being container grown and by the creativity shown in choice of containers. We saw very impressive and well maintained larger gardens also. Even though this is a difficult site much of the planting was very sustainable.

We were pleased to hear of the relationship with the school and to meet some of the knowledgeable pupils there. The shared picnic area at the bottom of the village is a valuable resource.

Areas for Improvement

Keep working to extend the Bloom effort with the residents of Mill Bank Close. Continue to build on the relationship with the school. Continue with the efforts to develop the vacant parking lot. Consider replacing the climbers in the graveyard with espalier fruit trees on that warm, sunny wall.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The pride residents take in the heritage of their village is obvious. We were impressed to see the efforts made to protect and enhance this. Mill Bank is a pristine village and it is clear that anything detrimental to this would immediately be spotted and sorted out. We were pleased to hear of the possibility of a sister group being established to protect the local woodland.

Areas for Improvement

Continue with efforts to develop a group to work for Fiddler Wood.
Consider the development of a nature garden with the school.
Consider helping with insect friendly planting at the communal picnic area by the stream, perhaps some buddleias.
Continue to build up insect friendly planting in the graveyard area.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The ongoing plans the group are working to are impressive, as is their year round involvement. Clearly the group are working hard to get all the residents of Mill Bank on board and making sure that young people become involved. The success of the group in fundraising and in getting their efforts recognised by a wider audience remains impressive.

Areas for Improvement

Continue with efforts to develop and support the new woodland group and to get more of the people of Mill Bank Close to support the group's efforts.
Obviously the group are working hard to tackle the problems of maintaining the hard landscape of the village. We are sure they will find a way to do that and wish them all the best in their efforts.
Perhaps there might be one or two occasions where the group could meet with children from the school and give them an opportunity to put forward their own ideas for the village. Hopefully there might be something the group could take up and move forward with.

Category 1B: Village

Judges Comments

Category 1B: Village

East Morton Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Gilt Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

Another warm welcome from the Mortonians both young and old turned out to make the judges feel at home. The judging route was very well presented with a good blend of annual and sustainable planting all in full flower all this and the tireless enthusiasm of the group make this a very good all round entry in Yorkshire In Bloom.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The village green had a very good mix of annuals and perennials all maintained to a high standard by the group and the village gardener. The summer colour in the Long border at the village gateway was a credit to the group and it was good to hear of plans to add more bulbs for spring. The summer displays at the Busfield Arms were of a good standard as were the many troughs around the village. Again as in spring the group's efforts around the bus stop and toilets area has to be commended as the transformation to this bland toilet block is quite remarkable. East Morton Primary schools gardening club was impressive as was the enthusiasm of the pupils and staff. John's floral house frontage was good and full of colour with much more to come.

Areas for Improvement

Look into entering the school and Busfield arms into Yorkshire in bloom. This may give you more scope on the judging route for next year. Carry on with the plans for wild flowers along the Butts and around the community allotment. The Flower bed at Wrights allotments within the car park was a good idea and could be extended.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The local councils recycling were a credit which included green waste every two weeks and the allotment recycling was very good. East Morton Primary school was

superb the pupils and staff are to be commended for their efforts. A facility that will inspire a new generation of in bloomers to flourish. The water harvesting from the toilet roof was a credit to the group as were the many insect/bird boxes around the village. The water wheel that was donated by the landlord of the Busfield Arms made a good historical centre piece for the bedding display on the village green.

Areas for Improvement

Carry on with the plans for an East Morton trail and notice board. Consider replanting areas within the existing shrub beds to attract butterflies and bee's to increase the village biodiversity.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The group have some good evidence of year round projects and it is good to see that all projects undertaken are on the basis of sustainability. The support shown by the many groups within the village (such as the orchid group). The entries into the Morton in Bloom sponsored garden in a tray competition were very colourful and inventive in their design.

Areas for Improvement

Carry on with the plans for a historical trail that could be advertised within the village to draw the many walkers into the heritage of the village. Consider including the Yorkshire in bloom logo on any future publications/advertising to raise the awareness of Yorkshire in Bloom.

Category 1B: Village

Judges Comments

FLIXTON AND FOLKTON Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

A neat and well maintained entry which provides a focus for the community. The new leaflet for the Crook Lane project featuring work by a local artist will provide interest to young and old and the Quarry site will be a useful addition showing different habitats and species. The pride for the villages is noticeable and increasing and can only help to make it a better place for the whole community.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Colourful displays by the new owners at the Foxhound Inn following the recent acquisition creates a focal point for the village with its bright troughs. It might be worth considering some more trailing varieties for future years. The beds at the entrances have matured and created a variety of colour and interest. Excellent quality and variety of fruit and vegetables at Derek's allotment in a particularly trying year. Neat and well maintained beds and tubs outside the cemetery and War Memorial.

Areas for Improvement

Consider some form of Flixton and Folkton garden competition or certificate of merit to encourage residential gardeners and businesses and applaud the ones already creating an impact.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The new nature leaflet about Crook Lane is very informative about the local area and the species to be seen. The techniques used at Humble Bee Farm to balance agriculture and the local wildlife are excellent including the 25 wildlife farm walks for the visitors.

Areas for Improvement

The opportunity to develop the Quarry area sensitively to create an educational area for residents and visitors

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

A good range of local sponsors supporting the Bloom group and clear signage. All beds now are sponsored and you are moving onto the tubs. Excellent range of photos on the display boards highlighting the work throughout the year and the events organised by the Bloom group are interesting and innovative. Good links with other Bloom groups and other Youth groups such as the Hunmanby Brownies – maybe this is an area which could be encouraged and offered to other groups. The poster in the residential properties creates good publicity and shows support across the village

Areas for Improvement

Maybe consider a Bloom newsletter or web page to increase awareness and publicity and an option to offer to the sponsors. Possible opportunities for the Bloom group to apply for funding for interpretation boards or leaflet for the SINC site through Awards for all

Category 1B: Village

Judges Comments

Grassington Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Gilt Summer Medal Position - Gold

Introduction

We were very impressed by the overall Jubilee theme, making a welcome and well maintained first impression. Again we found the use of ever available space and the planting of the tubs very attractive. It was evident that a lot of hard work had been done to make Grassington a very attractive village.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

- * Colourful hanging baskets and tubs, in red, white and blue.
- * Ginnel Woggins
- * Colourful mix of annuals and perennials
- * Well used allotments

Areas for Improvement

Continue to increase the sustainable planting, and to develop and maintain land outside the sorting office.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

- * Good to see an insect box.
- * Very impressed with the use of local heritage and overall environmental quality.
- * The whole village was clean, tidy and litter free.

Areas for Improvement

Continue the good work!

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Very impressive community involvement throughout the village, e.g. to arrange for everyone to use red, white and blue planting scheme. Using different individuals to do local jobs e.g. strimming; the lady in the flats and the blacksmith.

Areas for Improvement

It would have been good for the judges to have seen the posters and press coverage, and to have visited the local school.

Category 1B: Village

Judges Comments

Kirkby Malzeard

Silver Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

A charming 'off the beaten track' North Yorkshire mainly linear agricultural and commuter village with some holiday accommodation. The judges were once again greeted by an enthusiastic 'in bloom' group at the well presented 'Mechanics Institute'.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

It was evident that virtually every property had made some effort to contribute to the entry with baskets, pots, tubs and other containers making up for the restricted frontages. Very well maintained churchyard and adjacent wildlife area. The very well maintained and extensive sports facilities.

Areas for Improvement

Plans are in place for a substantial renovation of the Coronation garden in to a Jubilee garden in the autumn. More focal points such as village entry displays at either end of the main street. A rationalisation of low impact planting at the Ringbeck junction triangle. An additional barrel would add height and impact to the display.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Overall there had been clear efforts to manage vacant premises insofar as this could be achieved by the group. Litter was minimal overall.

Areas for Improvement

More attention to detail in terms of preparation for judging - such as weeding, trimming and edging - and encouraging businesses to tidy their environs.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

An obviously enthusiastic group committed to engaging with the community and horticultural society with various events held over the course of the year.

Areas for Improvement

More strategic planning for long term development.

Category 1B: Village

Judges Comments

Luddenden Gold Rose Award Category Winner

Spring Medal Position - Gold Summer Medal Position - Gold

Introduction

Luddenden is a delightful village nestled in a valley bottom but is full of surprises-every corner has been looked at and dealt with. Some lovely small planters ingeniously shaped and well planted .The village certainly sparkles this summer with a colour scheme of predominately white flowers for the Diamond Jubilee.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The choice of plants for the colour scheme was delightful and all well cared for; it is this attention to detail that lifts this entry into the top awards in the YIB competition. The whole village 'matched' with the private houses being encouraged to use Red White and Blue. Permanent planting at car park is being gradually replaced as necessary thus keeping the whole area looking good. Of particular note was the triangular planter on the main road with excellent permanent planting yet still colourful. Only one business in the village: the Lord Nelson pub gives great support to the In Bloom

Areas for Improvement

The plans for replacing the cenotaph with sustainable plants will be a big development for future and all year round coloured foliage plants should be considered. Church wildlife area needs to have a development program to prevent the nettles and teasels taking over completely-but still a lovely area

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Well done Brownies for your wildflower seeded area! Good to see Guides enjoying tree ID and bark rubbing in cemetery area -wildlife areas are for learning and for conservation. The change from plastic composters to square palletted areas seems to be a success-amazing amount of composting going on at the small allotment site!

Local heritage is well shown and the work in preserving history in cemetery is commendable.

Areas for Improvement

As wildlife area at the church expands it may need more Interpretation and explanation-especially about the caterpillars!

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Good to see new members -in such a small village that is very impressive
The cemetery/gardening group are to be praised for that huge undertaking
The old shop window now used as a display and information is very good as is the
plant sale table in village; all raising awareness of Luddenden in Bloom.
Good and informative display of current work shown on display boards.

Areas for Improvement

Maybe could have a Before and After photo display to illustrate how much has been achieved in last decade. It may be of benefit to programme the work within the cemetery to better illustrate progress made during the years to come. This will be of benefit when seeking grant funding and sponsorship. Well done -keep up the good work!

Category 1B: Village

Judges Comments

Upper Hopton Gold Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Gold Summer Medal Position - Gold

Introduction

The Upper Hopton In Bloom Group have been working hard for a number of years to enhance their environment and to help improve the life of their residents and they should feel proud that they have finally achieved this high level of recognition. Like many other entries this year they have battled with extreme weather conditions but it is clear that their enthusiasm has not been dampened. Credit to all those directly and indirectly involved. There are not many villages that can boast such a high level of consistency and continued level of commitment.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Whilst the weather conditions leading up to judging had been poor the impact of the seasonal displays, the permanent sustainable planting and residential gardens throughout the village were excellent. The Olympic theme continued with colour selection in the many containers dotted around the village. Some of these also containing vegetables for resident to help themselves!

The herbaceous plantings were very vigorous and provided good form to borders, particularly on the recreation ground. Whilst Upper Hopton boasts few businesses the 'Turning Hedz' hairdressers shows what can be achieved. Maintenance levels were again excellent in the many public spaces and residential gardens.

Areas for Improvement

Judges recommend targeting the very few residents who could improve on their own standards of maintenance.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Environmental responsibility comes as second nature to the village. The group recognise their responsibilities to the environment through careful selection of planting

to attract wildlife and actively commit to conserve resources through the use of recycled materials. The village also contributes to the annual National Wildflower Count helping with the national wildflower database. The village can also be commended for the general cleanliness throughout with the absence of graffiti and litter.

Areas for Improvement

Judges recommend that the group persevere with British Telecom with regard to the standard of their telephone box at Hopton Brow. The group could also liaise more closely with the local authority to try and achieve more consistent signing throughout the village.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

There is no doubt that community participation is the success to Upper Hopton in Bloom. The number of people who regularly contribute on a year round basis is excellent and it is clear to judges that the group enjoy their labours. Their projects continue with many tasks undertaken. Even newer members who have not yet had chance to get their 'fingers green' have made a difference with projects such as the flagpole, the tool store and the recycled area. The playgroup can also be commended for their contribution through the sweet pea competition and their first prize.

Areas for Improvement

Marks in this section of judging were extremely high therefore it is difficult to make any firm suggestions for improvement other than keep up the positive work achieved to date!

Category 1B: Village

Judges Comments

Wawne Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Gilt Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

In a year in which the weather has definitely not been co-operative Wawne in Bloom has certainly risen to the challenge and taken on board the judges comments following the spring judging. The judging route on foot around the Main Street and residential areas showed off the work of the group coupled with the participation of much of the local community which is a credit to all involved.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Thanks to the entreaties of members of Wawne in Bloom to the East Riding council, the grass verges now look much neater and additional summer planting in tubs and flower beds, combined with existing perennials and shrubs gave a charming and colourful display throughout the village and in the further extended flower bed in the very well maintained churchyard. The floral bicycle outside the village shop added a nostalgic touch and completed the picture of a delightful friendly village

Areas for Improvement

The weather has been very unkind this year, however trimming the edges and hoeing of flower beds would give them even more impact. Due to this years excessive growth some selective pruning of shrubs in autumn would be beneficial for next year.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Wawne is very litter and graffiti free and East Riding Council obviously take their environmental responsibilities seriously with regular recycling collections. The in Bloom groups planting scheme of Lavender and other insect attracting plants, together with the use of locally sourced compost and manure exhibit clearly exhibits a determination to make a real difference, well done.

Areas for Improvement

Persevere with the proposed development of the proposed Jubilee wild flower garden at the old playing fields, possibly consulting the R H S on suitable flowers to provide a staggered flowering period.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The judge's visit to the local primary school was a real pleasure. The enthusiasm of the teachers and pupils encouraged by Wawne in Bloom members was very obvious and would provide an excellent start for the children in growing plants and caring for their environment. It was also good to see the use of solar panels with a display of the savings made by its use, congratulations. The walk around Wawne demonstrated community involvement by local businesses, community groups and residents, a great place to live in!

Areas for Improvement

Links with other schools could provide a valuable exchange of ideas. It may be prudent on future tours to give a bit more background to how the Bloom group came about and your current and future plans.

Category 1C: Large Village

Judges Comments

Barwick Gold Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Gold Summer Medal Position - Gold

Introduction

In contrast to the spring judging, when heavy rain made for a slightly less than enjoyable experience, today we were only hampered with the odd light shower! In much friendlier weather it was a real pleasure to judge this Large Category Village. The better conditions were the least the Barwick group deserved, by which to show the judges their outstanding efforts this summer, and it is clear that a huge collective effort had been put in by the village as a whole.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

There was a certain 'wow' factor as you enter the village, which has been achieved by an extremely well co-ordinated planting scheme. The hanging baskets are of a very high standard and the purple and pink combination is consistent throughout the village. The summer bedding is also very eye-catching; a particular triumph is the striking beds of begonias at the village centre. The summer bedding was also very well maintained.

A further highlight is the superb residential and community gardening. The millennium bed is a near-perfect example attractive and sustainable planting. Also well worth mentioning is the additional planting in the Carrfield estate, plus that in Pear Tree Gardens - all done to a very high standard.

All green spaces have also been kept to a very high standard. Much credit must go to the bloomers, whose efforts really add extra value and 'shine' to the basic maintenance carried out by Leeds City Council.

Areas for Improvement

Consider more sustainable planting solutions along the border on Main Street. This will have to be salt tolerant as the area will get a great deal of winter gritting. The millennium bed will provide a great deal of plant stock for other areas of the village. Consider designs for future bed replacement.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

It was good to see the group demonstrating so much consideration for wildlife and biodiversity. Several locations hosted nest boxes, whilst the 'insect houses' bat boxes and

'mini-beast hotels' in the Jubilee Gardens was a real bonus. Much consideration is given to recycling too, with compost heaps handily placed in the Jubilee Gardens, All Saints Church and The Boyle. Local environmental quality was of an extremely high standard - the judges struggled to find the merest hint of litter! Street furniture, particularly the street lighting, was consistently well cared for, and the main focal point in the village centre - the May Pole - looked like new!

Areas for Improvement

The cleaning and staining up of benches along Main Street and outside the Methodist Church would improve an already very high standard of street furniture. Further work is required on the wild flower area to encourage greater flowering and colour. The very occasional bit of dog fouling detracts from what would be a near-perfect picture of cleanliness. Signs are already in place so perhaps the group could put up a 'special request' a few days before to what is undoubtedly a very small minority of irresponsible dog owners!

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

It is quite evident that as the core bloomers lead, others follow as the standard of private and open plan gardens is exceptionally high. There is a real sense of togetherness on display, and it is obvious that community support for what the group is striving for is very strong.

The Open Garden event was a real success, with all proceeds going back into the 'bloom pot' to fund the local initiative and on-going projects.

For the relatively small size, the village is remarkably well supported by sponsors. This is evident with local businesses' names on the many planted areas.

Areas for Improvement

To improve communication, awareness and education, consider asking the local school to assist in some of the summer planting schemes perhaps a couple of floral containers at the school entrance.

Involve the school in ecology visits to the Jubilee Gardens, would increase young people's involvement in the competition.

Build on the recent poster competition and organise a new design for next year.

Consider greater involvement of the sports clubs in the village. What about a sports design for one of the floral features?

Category 1C: Large Village

Judges Comments

Bramham Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Gilt Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

We were impressed again by the floral bedding displays at the entrance to the village the colour combinations and shades of the begonias were of the highest quality. The enthusiastic in bloom group had rallied the villages with posters in every house and signs of the Yorkshire in Bloom judging date. Care had been taken to ensure specific floral features were maintained by people living nearby. It was good to see so many of the in bloom group who had gathered around the village war memorial. The recent village consultation had recognised the valuable work which the group have achieved.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

We were impressed with the quality of the floral features and colour combinations throughout the village. The tour included some good private gardens which complimented the village planting. The group have started to introduce more perennial planting to improve the sustainability of some of the planted area. The signage which accompanied the floral features were of the highest quality

Areas for Improvement

As the planting in the Jubilee gardens develops the group should consider introducing some additional colour to add interest to these modern designs. Use the garden around the OAP shelter for more perennial plants. This could then become stock planting which can then be divided in future years and used in other areas of the village. This will help to reduce long term costs and provide some variety continuity through the village. We would like the group to provide additional help and advice to the school and consider providing two floral containers at the entrance to the school and jointly design and plant with the children. This would widen the children's involvement in Bramham in Bloom and the school would get a more colourful and welcoming entrance.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The work carried out to develop a wild life area at the side of the beck which is accessed through the garden by the OAP shelter. The work carried out to date has developed habitats for birds and wildlife and provided an added dimension to the group's entry. We were impressed at the lack of litter and dog fouling throughout the tour and the quality of the grass cutting in this difficult and wet maintenance season. We were impressed by the groups determination to work with the local Authority to ensure that road and street signs were been replaced

Areas for Improvement

We would have liked to see the recreation field and play area and allotments as part of a future tour to ensure that all areas of the village are involved. The school pond area needs further development and together with the vegetable beds could develop in to a successful project for the group. The quality of some of the private gardens may lead to an open garden event as a future fund raising idea for the in bloom group.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The poster competition was a great success and the winning poster was on display at numerous locations within the village. It was good to see some of the groups press coverage and entries in the parish magazine.

Areas for Improvement

The proposed new housing development should be used by the group to obtain sponsorship for future projects and help in kind as the developer will be keen to maximise publicity for his development. The poster competition should be run every year both with the local school and brownies and guides. The in Bloom group should set out a yearly action plan of projects to support future Yorkshire in Bloom entries. A village map showing the planting and features which the group have achieved would help to sell the benefits to new members

Category 1C: Large Village

Judges Comments

Burncross in Bloom Gold Rose Award Joint Category Winner

Spring Medal Position - Silver Gilt Summer Medal Position - Gold

Introduction

It has to be noted that at our spring visit we raised the issue of the dried out wet land that had been planted to take account of the wet area. We can now confirm that the wet land is now very wet and holds a small lake that is 400mm deep! The group continues to carry out new projects, and ensure that existing developments are maintained to a high standard. They also take account of the location of planting to ensure that appropriate plant type and design is used. With a clear set of objectives the group has a considerable and positive impact on the area. They also ensure that a wide range of groups and age ranges are involved to ensure representation and gain maximum benefit for the community of Burncross. In spite of the current financial climate they have retained and increased sponsors, and increased core supports as well as seeing an increase in supporters taking part in work such as litter collection.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The new history trail is a pride of place item but the installation of these boards has resulted in the alteration to existing planting and bed shapes. The new or replacement bed will have a greater impact on the area. Both gateway planting and grassed areas are maintained to a very high standard, with regular maintenance.

Areas for Improvement

The use of recycled plants does result in a mix that requires attention to ensure more dominant species do not take over the whole bed. Depending on other uses of the area it may be possible to have the grass maintenance of the recreation area changed. This would be to possibly have some longer areas with path ways to add further interest to the area. It would need to be thought through and maintenance such as litter collection and grass heights agreed.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The group has ensured that seats and signs have been replaced, painted or refurbished to good effect. The group has restored the mile post. The repainting or staining of the planters has improved them and the impact they have. Work the of the ranger and using the adjacent woodland for activities, and the installations of bird boxes and so on extends the diversity of the area.

Areas for Improvement

The proposals to take on the painting of the no dog fouling signs is developing, this will ensure these footpath signs are restored. The range of activity undertaken by the group is very wide and it is helpful to ensure that YiB judges are aware of this so that the appropriate credit can be given.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Burncross action team sets an excellent example of a community developing to improve its community and reduce problems by having a wide range of people involved. An example of this is the history trail which offers alternative ways for people to be involved, demonstrated by 50 plus coming to the opening event. The calendar of events for the yea and engaging particularly the support of the Wharnclyff Arms but also the other pubs and restaurants has brought good commercial support to the area.

Areas for Improvement

As we are sure you will continue to use your events to gain new active supports, continue to use the links already developed with the likes of McDonalds. Continue to develop the web site and publicity programme to ensure the wider community understand the effort you are all making.

Category 1C: Large Village

Judges Comments

Great & Little Preston Silver Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver

Introduction

The In Bloom group continues to work hard to improve this entry. The judges were impressed by the ongoing partnership between the group and the housing developers and once again the village was reasonably clean and tidy.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The border at Glencoe Gardens was very colourful with a good mix of sustainable and annual planting.

The permanent planting at Berry Lane cricket field border.

The residents gardens at Little Preston Hall.

The newly positioned large tubs at Goody Cross.

Some hedges had undergone interesting topiary.

The displays at Bowers Row Mission.

Areas for Improvement

The removal of weeds from the flower bed at the side of the village hall and car park would greatly improve this area.

Other gardens at Glencoe Gardens need some attention.

More prominent planting at local businesses e.g. Post Office area would be helpful.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The area at the Village Hall to encourage wildlife and the sowing of the wild flower seed.

The planting of the Oak tree to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Recycling of plants that have self seeded at Bowers Row Mission

Areas for Improvement

The Parish notice boards throughout the village are in need of renovation and consider changing the base of the fixing on which the commemorative plaque sits to something more suitable.

An information board to explain the history of the Bowers Row Mission Church would add to the heritage interest.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The negotiation with Taylor-Wimpy to keep local street names on the new housing development.

The residents taking ownership for tubs and beds near to their homes is to be commended. A number have extended care of their own gardens to borders beyond their boundary.

The website which promotes the In Bloom group.

The plans for future involvement of young people in developments for wildlife and planting at the school.

The diary showing the number and organisation of locals involved.

Areas for Improvement

Explore the possibility of engaging with local school children in the design of a poster for the In-Bloom group.

Explore the use of high visibility clothing with the In Bloom logo, when working on projects in the village. This will raise the profile of the In Bloom group.

Category 1C: Large Village

Judges Comments

Grenoside Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

It must be noted that in view of the wet weather, the grass cutting and garden maintenance in Grenoside was of a very high standard. Developments in the village include the completion of architect's plans for the lottery funded project at the Reading Room.

The development of an Industrial Heritage summer school will provide more detailed information and opportunities for people to understand the historical development of Grenoside.

Making a photographic record of historical roadside features linked to GPS provides a good record and will assist in the management of them in future.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The landscaping and maintenance of the crematorium grounds is carried out to a very high standard over a very large area.

Working with the NHS in their well maintained grounds to enhance an old orchard by planting new apple trees with a group of children.

The support from the public houses, restaurants and butchers have supported the development of the in bloom campaign.

Areas for Improvement

It would be helpful if at the school the member of the garden club could be available to explain what has been done and how, it was of course too wet this year for that to take place.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The street maintenance was of a very high standard being litter free through the village. The heritage register will provide a lasting record of village features that could be lost when road works take place. Involvement in the management of the adjacent large areas of woodland, and water collection and composting all mean that environmental issues are well to the fore in the village.

Areas for Improvement

Plan when weather allows carrying out maintenance work on planting at the green. It would be beneficial to highlight the number of groups that are involved in environmental and bloom work in the village as there are several and the village benefits from this activity

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The voluntary maintenance of the wall memorial. The large range of activity and involvement across a range of things such as the history group and the Reading Room that contribute to in bloom. The high standards of maintenance seen throughout the village. The use of community skill to support eh entry such as the excellent wildlife photography and bird watching records.

Areas for Improvement

Be clear about the amount of effort that is made by the community to achieve the overall effect and in bloom entry.

Category 1C: Large Village

Judges Comments

HAXBY Silver Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver

Introduction

Unfortunately Haxby suffered heavy rain and winds shortly after placing the hanging and barrier baskets out and planting up the tubs. These were taken back in and in Bloom member Allan Leake is currently nursing these back to health in his own garden and when recovered these will be returned to the intended sites in Haxby. The judges saw these at Allan's home and commiserate with him and admire his dedication in trying to retrieve the situation. As a consequence section A is difficult but allowance has been made based upon that seen insitu and at Allan's home.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Letters were shown to the judges from Haxby Memorial Hall Trust and Fund Raising Committee and St Mary's Church expressing appreciation of the floral decorations present prior to the weather problems. New lavender garden and perennial geranium bed. Salvias at church outstanding. Schools in village, one now leans towards livestock rather than horticulture and the other has succumbed to the weather this year. Haxby Town Council Allotments have 42 plots under cultivation, there is a problem with Mares Tail but the occupants are tackling this. Hay racks at Bramble Cottage using hebes, verbena etc. caught the eye as did the planters at Spring House Tea Room and tubs at the dentists. The new Diamond Jubilee garden will develop and the church grounds were well tended.

Areas for Improvement

The judges feel it would be unfair to raise items here since these may well have been covered had the weather not intervened.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Complete absence of graffiti, dog fouling and litter shows pride in the village. Wild flowers planting not yet in evidence but areas sown have been left uncut and will

hopefully flower later in the season. York City does recycling. Pond is haven for wild life.

Areas for Improvement

Information boards would be useful at wild flower sowings to indicate reason for this and educate the community on the history of Haxby

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The new Diamond Jubilee Garden, lavender and geranium beds are new projects in 2012. Unfortunately school involvement this year has not occurred due to the poor weather.

Areas for Improvement

Develop greater interaction with schools. Leaflet drop around the village would raise awareness and hopefully produce additional members thereby easing the load on Allan and getting greater community involvement. Evidence of initiatives to secure ongoing continuity of the In Bloom group and planned events for the future.

Category 1C: Large Village

Judges Comments

Micklefield Silver Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

On entering the village it is apparent of Micklefield in Blooms efforts with numerous floral features throughout the village. Most of the properties had in Bloom posters in the windows and banners were positioned at all entrances informing every one that judging in Yorkshire in Bloom was taking place. We were met by an enthusiastic group at the village school who had planned a tour of the village on the wettest day of the year.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Floral displays at all the key locations around the village each display marked with the Micklefield in Bloom logo. A number of floral features around the school frontage contain herbaceous plants which in years to come will provide a stock of plants for other location around the village. The old town well floral feature which will be further enhanced by a new interpretation board.

Areas for Improvement

There is still some scope to thicken up the planting near Churchville House using divided herbaceous plants in the autumn. Review the plant species in some of the beds to coordinate the floral colour and improve the standard of the displays. The use of mulches in shrub beds would save the group time in weeding if you can get this done. This will free up sometime within the group to take on additional projects

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Composting of grass cuttings and leaves in the church yard to produce composting for use on beds and borders within the village. The trade road feature planting and village well. The conservation area of the Church yard

Areas for Improvement

Bird boxes could be erected in the church yard to help with wildlife. The fence around the recreation ground could be re painted. The recreation ground would benefit from a better sign at the main road Look at ways to sustain the youth shelter and removal of graffiti

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The success of the poster competition with the school. The banners "Yorkshire in Bloom Judging" at each entrance to the village. Stronger links with the village school and improvements to the school grounds

Areas for Improvement

Consider running the poster competition next year and using the winning design on promotion of Micklefield in Bloom. Establish links with the welfare trustees to encourage them to become involved in supporting Micklefield in Blooms village efforts There is scope for some additional tree planting on the recreation ground perimeters We noted that a number of the in Bloom groups sponsors were from businesses situated at Enterprise Court off Pit Lane. The group should consider including this area as part of the judging tour. This would enhance the business support mark

Category 1C: Large Village

Judges Comments

NAFFERTON Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

On our return to Nafferton for the summer judging visit did not disappoint. Driving into Nafferton we were impressed by the overall look of the village and with the work that obviously has been going on since the spring by the Nafferton in Bloom community. We were pleased that you had taken account of our feedback and suggestions from our spring visit. Through your portfolio summer update you had given us information and taste of what to expect on the day which you went on to demonstrate to us very effectively. The spirit and enthusiasm of all those we met on the day clearly demonstrates the pride you have in your village. Please pass our thanks to all those involved in this splendid effort, young, older and all those in between. It is clear that you respond to the challenge of In Bloom and use it to drive improvements in Nafferton. You know where you are going and have plans to get there. Displaying the splendid Nafferton under 5s poster to welcome us was very much appreciated and it was a delight to be greeted this way. Thank you John and Barbara for your organisation and to all those in the different teams for meeting and showing us the results of your hard work.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The floral displays to be found throughout the village were very colourful and visually impressive with planters and baskets being complemented by the variety of planting in residential gardens and open spaces, including Temple Lodge, Parsons Close and Beech Grove. The themed colour planting throughout the village worked very well in your variety of planters, tubs and baskets. It was both appropriate and attractive. Of particular note, floral displays at the bus shelter, the floral displays proudly exhibited by Nafferton businesses, planters at the WI, the new planters in Lowthorpe Lane, the enhanced planters at the station, the displays in front of Nafferton school, the Michael Merrett and the David Cooper beds, Norman's planter, Jubilee Gardens, the beautiful Glenfiddich Roses and the Under 5s troughs in the junior playground. The way in which Nafferton in Bloom organise the work between the different teams clearly is delivering results.

Areas for Improvement

You have already identified the need for more sustainable planting, self watering containers to overcome being overwhelmed by the logistics of watering. We would encourage you in this work. You could consider including the recreational area into future

itineraries to enable the judges to see how your plans for developing this area are to progress.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The quality of the local environment in Nafferton is very high and you are to be congratulated on this. It demonstrates the persuasive power of the In Bloom group, your very effective partnership working and the hard work of local residents to achieve this. Your planned Heritage Trail leaflet will complement In Bloom and provide added focus for the benefit of the local community and visitors alike. We look forward to seeing this in the future and the involvement of community in providing additional local context to the history of Nafferton. It is evident from the many bird boxes and tables in residential gardens and the bird and bee boxes in the junior playground that wildlife is encouraged.

Areas for Improvement

We were interested to hear that the school has a wildlife garden, allotment and environment group. Your entry would be further enhanced by including further information about these activities or a visit to the work being undertaken. There is potential for further planting to attract wildlife in the village. Some of the street furniture we saw was beginning to look a little tired. We would be interested to hear how this aspect is likely to be addressed.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

With 42 active volunteers Nafferton In Bloom knows how to involve the community whether it is Molly & Barbara looking after the planters at the Dog Wood area, or Joan, Mary, David, Gary, Norman, Colin, Sue and Jane to name but a few looking after their respective areas. We would echo our comments from the spring – you are at the top of the game in this area and rise to a challenge. We asked you for more information about your work with younger members of the community and you provided it and showed it to us. The funding made available from the Mustard Seed Coffee Shop for the village is invaluable to support projects and also an opportunity to socialise within the village. You are to be congratulated for bringing Guy at the King's Head to the competition. Well Done.

Areas for Improvement

Our only suggestion here would be to consider and encourage additional individual entries into Yorkshire in Bloom.

Category 1C: Large Village

Judges Comments

Ripponden Silver Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver

Introduction

We were given a warm welcome to Ripponden and were pleased to meet such a lot of committed people there. There is obviously a lot of pride in Ripponden taken by the various groups working for its development. Ripponden is fortunate to have retained some lovely historic features. It was good to see various groups working together for the good of the town. We are sure this will continue and develop into the future.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The War memorial and its garden provide a colourful and sustainable area of planting in the middle of the busy town. The Jubilee Garden area is full of varied and sustainable planting and continues to develop well. The use of ornamental grasses in sites around the town provides movement and texture. The installation of the memorial stone is a historic point in its development and we are sure the new archway will further enhance the area. The area around the gas substation is also impressive. We were pleased to meet a representative from Pennine Housing and impressed by his plans to work with the various groups of Ripponden to develop planting in the area. The idea of introducing herbs and edible planting is exciting.

Areas for Improvement

We were pleased to see the local businesses which are supporting the group. Obvious the economic climate is not good but perhaps even more businesses could be persuaded to become involved. Perhaps they might feel able to take on hanging baskets. Perhaps the group could work with the businesses around the church and historic bridge to develop planting in this beautiful area. There are spaces and walls in the pub car park area that perhaps could be developed with wall baskets and/or climbers.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

We were pleased to hear of the way the groups are working to develop and extend wildlife planting in the town and local woodlands. The provision of bird boxes and the

feeder in the churchyard are good ideas. The town was impressively free of any kind of litter and graffiti. It is clear that anything like that would soon be sorted out. Obviously the heritage of the town is valued and cared for.

Areas for Improvement

The lovely and historic area around the bridge might benefit from information boards to make visitors more aware of the town's heritage. Jubilee Gardens are a flowery oasis in the middle of the town. Although the site is steep, perhaps it might be possible to provide a seat at the top; from there people would get a delightful view over the town. Perhaps some kind of art installation might be considered for the top of the site, near the tree, as a focal point for people viewing the gardens from below. Some of the railings and seats, especially at the Bowling Club would benefit from painting. Continue with wildlife planting in the wooded areas. Perhaps consider information boards on wildlife in the woodland by the bridge.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

It is good that various groups in the town are working together to get projects achieved. It is clear that they are making a real effort all year round to benefit Ripponden. Obviously there are plenty of new projects in the pipeline and the groups are really making efforts to continue and extend existing work. We were pleased to see the local businesses which are supporting the groups. Clearly great efforts are being made to find funding to help.

Areas for Improvement

Continue with efforts to get more of the small businesses in the town to support the group with hanging baskets and perhaps sponsorship of floral features. Continue to develop meeting for the public to participate, with log piles or bug hotels etc., and encourage them to forward ideas and suggestions for possible projects. Continue working with the school, perhaps with the development of a wildlife area there, with log piles, bug hotels etc. Perhaps there might be one or two occasions when the groups could actually meet with children from the school to give them an opportunity to put forward ideas themselves for the town.

Category 1C: Large Village

Judges Comments

Scholes Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Gilt Summer Medal Position - Gold

Introduction

The village looked colourful, patriotic and clean and there was much evidence of the enthusiastic efforts of everyone involved. The variety of scarecrows and the Olympic swimmer at the W.I. bed were quirky and interesting features.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The Sports Club car park and bowling green areas continue to thrive and improvements have been made to the post box area, which is now surrounded by a low wall, and the Buffers. The Cenotaph bed is well tended and colourful, the Japanese garden at the Manor House is progressing well and some new beds have been established.

Areas for Improvement

Continue with plans to use more sustainable planting in beds.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

At the Manor House, the wildlife area is developing well and the notice boards are improved. There are plans in hand for further wildlife patches. An allotment patch has been rented to house the plants that are not needed for the summer season. The Scout Hut had its own allotment and wildlife area which are both used in their activities.

Areas for Improvement

Attention to some of the street furniture and additional notice and information boards would improve the overall standard.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The In Bloom group have support from various groups from the Scouts to the W.I. and many residents had displayed hand made posters for the scheme. A jubilee competition for schoolchildren resulted in a well designed flower bed by pupil Jack Hobbah. Scholes has many generous donors and coffee mornings and house to house collections have proved to be successful fundraisers.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to develop the fundraising schemes to ensure continued development of the work of the In Bloom group.

Category 1C: Large Village

Judges Comments

Shadwell Gold Rose Award Joint Category Winner

Spring Medal Position - Gold Summer Medal Position - Gold

Introduction

Shadwell has embraced all opportunities to create good visual displays using planting and features sympathetic to the area. The village was very colourful, clean and well maintained and the in Bloom team are to be commended.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The bed by the road next to the village hall works well with the shrubs and grasses. The Jubilee crown at the bus stop has good visual impact. New beds have been developed, additional barrels had been sited, there was evidence of more sustainable planting at Bay Horse Lane and interesting choices such as kale and parsley enhance the bed near the school. The contribution made by the local shops and the Red Lion to the summer display enhances the work done by the in bloom group. The Church grounds have been improved by planting at the front and by clearing up a rough area near the garage. The graveyard was well maintained and the Garden of Remembrance is charming.

Areas for Improvement

Consider more ways of using sustainable planting.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The wildlife area next to the school is well established and the Garden of remembrance has a bird and bees bed and nest boxes. The village is very clean.

Areas for Improvement

As mentioned in the spring judge's report, look at ways of conserving water by installing water butts and using mulches where appropriate.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The In Bloom obviously has a great deal of support from residents and businesses.

Areas for Improvement

More evidence that schoolchildren and scouts involved. Although posters for in Bloom were displayed in many windows, a logo or new design would be an improvement. This could be achieved by organising a competition at the school or through a local art club.

Category 1C: Large Village

Judges Comments

Thornton in Bloom Silver Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver

Introduction

A warm welcome from the Thornton group and a different route around this historic village. The weather wasn't in our favour but it did not damp the enthusiasm. We were shown the allotments and some stunning private gardens in addition to seeing all the hanging baskets and flowers in their summer glory.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The number of hanging baskets was impressive and very colourful showing commitment of many small shops. Railway Heritage project showed the merits of sustainable planting. Bell Chapel volunteers have worked so hard, clearing the majority of overgrown graves in the borders have achieved colour despite the summer weather. The allotments were so different, each with their own privet hedge perimeters and on a difficult slope Most were well maintained and well loved The private gardens were very varied and hidden treasures! Irene's was not just a garden she appears to be 'gardening' two footpaths and half a bank side making delightful little shortcuts through the village. The maintenance of Kipping gardens was excellent

Areas for Improvement

It was good to see before and after photos of all projects undertaken by Bloom group- maybe they could form a more permanent display to encourage more helpers when they see what a difference the Thornton in Bloom have made. Continue to plant more sustainable and permanent planting to lighten the work load especially when we have a summer like this with the wet and the cold

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The plans at Bell Chapel were exciting Good luck with the wild flowers and hope the hedgehogs do arrive to help with influx of slugs and snails Liked the idea of the

sedums between stones. Good to see composting at all allotments and Alan Court Very little litter for an urban area -keep up with the weekly litter picks they obviously work

Areas for Improvement

Fingers crossed that the extension to the Railway Heritage scheme does get the go ahead –it will help the whole village. Funding for new street furniture etc is going to become an issue in this present economic climate-just keep on looking for new grant sources

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Good sustained links with other groups. The youth group is a real asset and hope they will join in with your new project. Bell Chapel volunteers are amazing –well done to you all! Hope the painting day goes well. Even though your committee is small you have very dedicated workers who are to be commended

Areas for Improvement

Could the school be used as an area to visit and to show displays? Their sedum roof looked good. The portfolio was good but it would possibly be more help to receive it earlier to study . Do you use the photos that were being taken on route at your other events?

Category 1C: Large Village

Judges Comments

Wilberfoss Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

This group have achieved a lot since it was set up five years ago and have obviously made a real difference to the village. The delightful In Bloom group all work very hard and have built up an extremely good network and support mechanism. There are a lot of very interesting plans for the future, many of which depend on gaining funding, so good luck with them all. The village looked clean and tidy and the benefits of "In Bloom" were obvious. Keep progressing and the way is clearly upward and onward.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The Residential Gardens at Moorfield Way were a credit to all concerned with some interesting features. The tubs and planters on display throughout the village had a variety of plants many of which had been produced by group members. There were several different beds with a good variety of permanent planting and new tree planting. It was good to see attractive planters outside the pub demonstrating a newly formed working relationship. The scheme to improve the churchyard and involvement of the congregation was encouraging and the old font made a lovely feature.

Areas for Improvement

Some colour at the seat opposite the milestone would greatly benefit the area. The grass cutting in some areas could have been better in spite of the weather; clearing mown grass is better management. A different choice of bedding for the shady triangular bed at Storking Lane would create more impact.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

There were many areas suitable for wild life, bird and bat boxes and the bog garden and a variety of these were in place. The potato grading machine, the stones from the nunnery on the bridge and the mile stone. The area beside the bus stop with its seat,

good sustainable planting and stones from the blacksmith. The clearance of the area at Windmill Meadows is a good start to this project.

Areas for Improvement

Continue work at Windmill Meadows in the two different areas and draw more people locally to be involved. The plans are well advanced so should be a worthwhile project. Continue involvement at the developing garden at the school, an asset in the making. Litter bins, particularly by shops, need painting.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The monthly newsletter and the use of social websites. A lot has been achieved with very little money but when it is required funds are raised e.g. tombola for Christmas lights, Open Gardens, In Bloom calendar etc. The work at the school is good and the contribution by the parents is to be commended. The involvement of the young people on lifestyle challenge. The plans for the future with a number of exciting projects.

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Areas for Improvement

Continue to work with other groups and look for more help with ongoing care of different smaller areas. Try to get sponsorship from companies and individuals, all donations welcomed and put to good use. A notice board to display thanks to all sponsors.

Category 2A: Urban Community

Judges Comments

Allerton Bywater Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Gilt Summer Medal Position - Gold

Introduction

Having burst into bloom in the spring visit, Allerton is beginning to blossom. The hard work and dedication by all the members of the group is plain to see. The many projects throughout the community continue to grow and the many floral displays were a joy to see and of good quality. The judges enjoyed the return visit as much as the first.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The stunning display at Centenary Garden, the Mine Car, flower bed and border and grass maintenance. The display at the Edward VII Working Men's Club. The new raised bed at the entrance to the allotments and the boat planter. The work on the border leading up to the church.

Areas for Improvement

Consider making a raised bed in place of the existing bed outside Papico. Consider permanent planting on the banking at the side of Ticklecock Bridge.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The sowing of the wild flowers along the roadside. The use of bird boxes and owl boxes throughout the route and the involvement of the children. The ongoing work with the Wildlife Trust at the Lines. The Jubilee Beacon making good use of an old lamppost. Progress made on the Miners Memorial and in the school with refurbishing the pond area.

Areas for Improvement

Consider the installation of a seating area in the gardens at Highfield Crescent. Look for further ways of conserving water and resources. Develop the walking link between the school and The Lines. Possibly develop a wildlife trail for children.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The involvement of the Primary School and the banners promoting the In Bloom message around the route. The increased involvement and support of residents for ongoing care of different projects and areas. The plans for development of the area at the old junior school. Community awareness and participation throughout.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to involve the local school children. Consider running a "Best Kept Garden" competition or flower/vegetable show, run by the In Bloom group, to fund raise and to promote the In Bloom Group in the local area.

Category 2A: Urban Community

Judges Comments

Beeston Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Gilt Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

Introduction Beeston was, once again, a pleasure to judge. The well established, In Bloom Group continues to be as enthusiast as ever and is maintaining strong support from all sectors of the community. The Group has clear objectives and is constantly reviewing its Action Plan to maintain the high standards it has achieved within a challenging inner city area.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The red, white and blue colour scheme of the barrier troughs at the junction of Dewsbury Road and the ring road were eye catching and of good quality and this theme was continued in the many sponsored hanging baskets and troughs throughout the area. The introduction of colourful herbaceous perennials to add further interest and variety to the largely drought tolerant perennial plantings at the Cardinal Triangle and the commencement of the replacement of over mature shrubs within the Millennium Garden. The continuing high standards being achieved at the community run Clarksfield Allotments site. The raising of the beds on Beeston Road has clearly benefited the floral displays making them more prominent on this busy thoroughfare. The quality of the plantings in residential gardens in Tudor Gardens and within local business premises, particularly Evans of Leeds and the Chelsea Garden at the White Rose Office Park.

Areas for Improvement

The Judge's comments following the spring visit have clearly been taken into account. The implementation of the Action Plan is to be encouraged to ensure continued renewal and maintenance of the high standards now expected from this entrant.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The work in association with Leeds University on the wild flower area within Cross Flatts Park and the continuing water conservation practices at Clarksfield Allotments. The experimental use of wild flower mixes in planters on Dewsbury and Beeston

Roads and amongst the trees in Town Street. The continued recycling of plants for reuse by local residents the reuse of second hand materials and planters. The ambitious horticultural/environmental project at Cockburn High School and the opportunities this provides for encouraging young people into the industry and to care for their local environment. The reduction in litter and the general impression of pride in the community environment.

Areas for Improvement

Maintain the excellent contacts with the council and the support of the local community to ensure continued improvement of the quality of the local environment for everyone in the community. Build upon the links with schools particularly Cockburn High and involve students in planned improvement projects within the community. Continue the links with the Council to develop the gardening club and environmental projects at Hunslet Moor School. Maintain the emphasis on litter removal routinely throughout the year and through the provision of additional litterbins subject to funding.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The updated portfolio provided clear evidence of works undertaken since the spring judging and all-year-round planning of new projects identified in the Action Plan. The enthusiasm of members of the In Bloom Group and the excellent working relationships established with numerous public, private and voluntary sector partners who continue to ensure the availability of financial and physical resources to implement the environmental improvements identified within the Action Plan. Reaching the final 5 nominees in the "Improving the Environment" category of a sponsored national competition with an award of £1000. Continuing awareness of the In Bloom campaign is achieved through posters, In Bloom signs, calendars, etc. Although some sponsors have been lost due to the current economic situation the Group have managed to obtain new sponsors and have increased their fundraising efforts particularly through plant sales.

Areas for Improvement

Maintain efforts to gain sponsorship and thereby involvement of local businesses and increase partnership arrangements where possible and particularly with schools to ensure that the current level of achievement is maintained and the new improvement projects contained within the Action Plan are achieved.

Category 2A: Urban Community

Judges Comments

Birstall Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

It is only Birstall's second year in the competition, but it is clear that they have taken on the objectives of the In Bloom initiative and are working hard to fulfil the criteria. It is also pleasing to see so many of the Birstall community getting involved in the initiative. It was nice to be welcomed into Birstall by the new Birstall Stone as you entered the village.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

St Saviours Church at Brownhill was a credit to Carol and all that are involved in the church garden. The pubs and restaurants had also made a creditable contribution to Birstall in Bloom

Areas for Improvement

At St Saviours Junior School it may have made the visit more interesting had the judges had the opportunity to meet some of the children from the school

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The management of vacant premises, litter, graffiti, fly posting, dog fouling etc., was clearly an area that the Birstall in Bloom Group had paid particular attention to, which should be applauded

Areas for Improvement

Resource management is possibly an area which could be looked at for improvement in the future

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The work with the schools and BinB schools 'Pot Competition for the Olympics' was excellent as was the Fieldhead children's garden. The library once again was very supportive. There are many areas of note in this section; however, The Avenue and the work of Kevin Hearey were of particular credit to Birstall

Areas for Improvement

Birstall in Bloom are moving in the right direction by involving as wide a cross section of the community as possible and letting those involved concentrate to their strengths and if this move continues it should mean Birstall in Bloom will improve in future competitions

Category 2A: Urban Community

Judges Comments

Bramhope Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Gilt Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

Bramhope in bloom put on a fine show despite the inclement weather so far this summer. The emphasis on sustainable planting has paid dividends in a year when many bedding plants have struggled. The group have already tackled many difficult areas successfully and need to keep working with the medical centre to try and improve the situation there. This well run and knowledgeable group has made significant progress in a relatively short space of time.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

High quality perennial planting throughout the village with the benefit of minimal maintenance afterwards. The way the group achieves colour and interest without many bedding plants is a joy. It was pleasing to see the red sempervivums adding a permanent splash of colour in the wall at the memorial garden. The new perennial bed at the Puritan Chapel is already taking shape and should look good in a year or two.

Areas for Improvement

The few areas that have bedding plants such as the Cross need to have a stronger impact to contrast from the rest of the route. Keep working with the Medical centre to improve their car park area as it let down this otherwise excellent entry. Could vegetables also be grown in containers on the grass area at the car park? Bramhope has an allotment site but we were not shown it. Perhaps this may be worthy of inclusion for a future year?

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The discovery and evacuation of the hidden well area was pleasing. So too was the sheer diversity of plants growing in that area, often in shady difficult conditions. The entry had little in the way of dog fouling or litter.

Areas for Improvement

A small informative sign on the wall near the wildlife verge on Breary Lane will help notify everyone what is happening and that the young wildflower plants are not weeds! All the raised beds at the front of the shops at the Parade need a regular maintenance programme of staining to further enhance this wonderful area as does some of the street furniture.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The newsletter and chance to become a Friend of Bramhope in bloom is a great idea and it is pleasing to note that it has resulted in some new enquiries. The group has a lot of future plans in the pipeline and a healthy number of volunteers. The group has a great relationship with the Britannia Hotel and many other businesses and this is a strength of the group.

Areas for Improvement

Keep up the excellent networking that you already do around the village. Could the link with the village school be expanded upon?

Category 2A: Urban Community

Judges Comments

Calverley Gold Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Gilt Summer Medal Position - Gold

Introduction

Calverley is a thriving community with a good number of groups, representative of the whole community, who make a valuable contribution to the In Bloom campaign. The village has many lovely public areas, including the traditional park, the well used allotments and the interesting churchyard, as well as some lovely private gardens. There is a great sense of pride in the village, in no small part due to the efforts of the In Bloom group and its partners.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Again, another excellent display throughout, produced by all the community. The new herbaceous border in the park is already looking good and will add further to the floral display in the future. It was good to see the raised beds at the allotments being put to good use!

Areas for Improvement

Keeping up the current high standards and continuing to look at the fine details throughout the entry can only lead to further improvement.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The whole village was very clean and tidy. Everyone's continuing efforts at St Wilfred's Church is beginning to show good results, particularly in the wildflower meadow.

Areas for Improvement

The cleaning of the benches has been a great improvement. Finding ways to reduce the vigour of the grass in the wildflower meadow in the churchyard will help the development of the meadow.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The successful efforts to involve the whole community are a credit to the group. The involvement of the children, particularly in the churchyard projects and the schools poster competition is very encouraging. It was lovely to see so many 'In Bloom' posters displayed throughout the village.

Areas for Improvement

Consider using one or more of the winning posters in future publicity.

Category 2A: Urban Community

Judges Comments

Elland Silver Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

The people involved with the Elland in Bloom entry are enthusiastic with many ideas for the development of Elland in the future, which when they come to fruition will put them high up in the In Bloom competition

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The Spa Wall allotments are doing outstanding work and Hazel Metcalf's garden reveals something new each time it is visited. The staff from Calderdale is still making a significant contribution

Areas for Improvement

Further moves to more sustainable planting at Holland Edge Park could be helpful in the future

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The work of the Girl Guides and Brownies at both the Cartwheel Community Centre and at Elland Bridge Riverside Park made a positive impact. It was however a pity about the theft of plants

Areas for Improvement

The possibility of looking at the management of vacant premises could be helpful to future entries in the In Bloom competition

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The contribution of young people of Cartwheel Community Centre and the impact from Old Earth Primary School to the engagement with young people is enriching and good

Areas for Improvement

Getting more organisations and people involved on a year round basis with the Elland in Bloom initiative maybe helpful

Category 2A: Urban Community

Judges Comments

Holbeck Silver Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

The extremely keen and committed In Bloom Group continue to make a clear impression in Holbeck and have taken on board the judges comments from the Spring judging to ensure the on-going progress of the “Holbeck Experience”. The continuing environmental improvements and close working relationship with all sector partner organisations will ensure that current and longer term development planned for the area will both enhance and benefit the local community.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The continuing development of the Community Vegetable & Fruit Patch Initiative at the rear of the Community Centre by the introduction of wall plantings and signage on the raised beds inviting local people to gather and utilise the produce. The continuing addition of new plantings to the Nationwide Security Services car park and the raised beds in the grounds of the Ingram Road School. Despite the poor weather conditions, the surprisingly good quality of the mixed plantings in the substantial wooden and other planters located throughout the area. The organisational and promotional work being done through the local Gardens Competition to encourage residents to add colourful plantings within the very small frontages. The provision of a grassed area following the removal of the over-mature shrub border alongside St Matthews Centre and the Holbeck carpet bed sign demonstrating pride of place by the community.

Areas for Improvement

The attractive Cleveley Court Community Housing complex provides a quiet “oasis” which could be improved with more colourful plantings in the public areas. The judges thought that next time it might be useful to meet some of the residents of Cleveley Court. The Shafton Road allotments whilst clearly fulfilling a community need would benefit from investment to improve the infrastructure and security. Continue to achieve a closer link with the Ingram Road School to encourage environmental responsibility and knowledge. Continue to expand business support both directly and through partnership arrangements.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The introduction of a wild flower raised bed at the local school. The Green Corridor project along the historic walking route between Holbeck and Leeds City centre and the introduction of perennial wildflower meadows. Some improvement was recognised in controlling litter and this will be further improved by the introduction of resident permit parking, which will discourage non-resident parking in the area on Leeds United match days.

Areas for Improvement

Introduction of Interpretation boards in the community raised beds at St Matthews Community Centre identifying the culinary plants and their uses. Still more evidence of the recycling activities taking place within the community is required. Continue to maintain efforts to discourage littering of public areas directly through provision of additions bins and indirectly by demonstrating pride of place through on-going environmental improvements and high maintenance standards. Consider inclusion of aspects of local or natural heritage for judging in the future.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The In Bloom Group continue to provide clear evidence of all-year-round planning and involvement by its numerous partners through the up-date sheet handed to the Judges and the excellent visual display demonstrating all year round achievements and proposed future development. Community awareness achieved through posters, In Bloom signs, press articles, the Holbeck in Bloom blog site and the quarterly South Leeds Life magazine enabling on-going publicity to be given to the work of the group and its partners. The website is now being developed. Business support is expanding and other funding opportunities are being pursued from grant-making bodies, public sector bodies and local resources together with year-round fundraising activities, sponsorship and practical help in kind. The environmental partnerships that continue to be developed with public and private sponsors and supporters that enable resources to be made available to bring about a wide range of environmental improvements. Working with local Businesses this time Lloyds Banking group.

Areas for Improvement

Maintain and where possible continue to develop current levels of local community participation. Particular emphasis should be given to encouraging greater involvement by the local school.

Category 2A: Urban Community

Judges Comments

Owlthorpe Gold Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Gold Summer Medal Position - Gold

Introduction

This entry has grown from the need to resolve some unsociable behaviour. This involved clearing a small area of land, to say things have grown is an understatement. The group is now actively involved in the management of many acres of grazing, woodland urban green space and the provision of floral and perennial ornamental displays. They have undertaken conservation work on a large scale, and ensured that the community can access more rural areas that are adjacent to the urban area. The group also provides a whole range of events throughout the year; this involves working with schools, colleges and taking expert advice to enable them to implement projects in a correct way. They also plan for the future and example of this is the planting of hedges to form field boundaries when the fences fail. The footpaths they have created have been adopted as public rights of way.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The green wall at the college demonstrates how effective this can be when installed and maintained correctly. The maintenance of the grass areas in public spaces and residential gardens was of a high standard in spite of the weather. The school garden club, meeting with members who had undertaken the growing of a range of crops in the garden area.

Areas for Improvement

The planting of the concrete wall at the medical centre is showing good progress, but more planting will be needed to complete this large and difficult project. Consider plans for the tram stop area, and adjust accordingly once the current planting is more established indicating what will succeed in this area. Continue to develop the orchard with your own stock.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Owlthorpe has undertaken conservation work on a large scale. Hedge planting by the kilometre, tree planting and land management including improving pasture land for conservation. The use of expert surveys to provide information on existing flora and fauna to ensure projects support conservation objectives. The very successful sowing of wild flowers along path edges in the field area. This clearly illustrates how successful this can be in impoverished sites.

Areas for Improvement

The group has a clear plan for future projects, this includes more hedge planting, dry stone walling and further path improvements. When research is completed and funds allow the plan for interpretation boards should be implemented with QA codes if possible.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Working across the community with local schools and the college as well as a regular band of helpers has achieved remarkable results. This ranges from the green areas through to solar panels for the schools. The projects either directly implemented through Sheffield environmental trust have enable the community to access green space and woodland which whilst adjacent where not easily accessible.

Areas for Improvement

Adjust plans and programmes to grants that are available, and have plans in hand to take up any grant offers that may come available.

Category 2A: Urban Community

Judges Comments

Sowerby Bridge Silver Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver

Introduction

Sheila Tordoff and the In Bloom group continue to make Sowerby Bridge a more attractive place to visit. They are very well supported by Calderdale Council. They are making progress and there are some good features around the town. It is a shame that many of the good features were entered into the special categories and were not part of the judges' tour.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The Bolton Brow Gardens and Crow Wood Park, maintained by Calderdale Council were once again looking good, with an excellent variety of plants, trees and shrubs. The White Horse looked impressive and the floral displays were of a very high standard. The hanging baskets and containers added colour to the town. Sheila and her team worked very hard to achieve this. The allotments were good and there were many good residential gardens, demonstrating commitment and support for In Bloom. We noted the successful garden and allotment competitions.

Areas for Improvement

More colours around the canal basin would enhance the area, in particular beside the statue at the entrance and in front of the buildings.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Most of the areas visited appeared clean, tidy and litter free and Calderdale Council have a good policy of dealing with graffiti, fly posting etc. The Canal Basin with the lovely statue at the entrance has been tastefully regenerated and is well maintained. The recent stone clearing at the lock gates is good.

Areas for Improvement

Areas for Improvement: More work needs to be done with the Waterways Trust to ensure the area around the canal is well maintained and perhaps some colour could be added. Continue to provide wildlife areas and facilities e.g. bird and bat boxes along with more insect, bee and butterfly friendly plants. Bins for dog fouling along the canal still required. The area around the entry sign to Sowerby Bridge (from the motorway) needs to be cleaned up and a flower bed would create a good impression on entry. (This could be a good opportunity for sponsorship)

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The enthusiasm generated by all those who contribute is to be commended and the many ideas discussed should certainly move the project forward. The publicity is good and there are good links with the local newspaper. There is evidence that there is some good support and sponsorship from businesses and this is a very worthwhile avenue to pursue.

Areas for Improvement

It would be a great asset to the project if more people and groups could be involved, so it is well worth while continuing with the excellent work that has already been done. (We noted that progress has been made since the spring) Posters of support for Sowerby Bridge in Bloom could be provided for businesses and shops. The portfolio is a great help for the judges and ideally should be sent out a week before judging. It should include press cuttings, list of sponsors, diary of events, groups involved etc. (See guidelines from Yorkshire in Bloom)

Category 2A: Urban Community

Judges Comments

Starbeck Gold Rose Award Category Winner

Spring Medal Position - Gold Summer Medal Position - Gold

Introduction

After a most enjoyable spring visit to this interesting and varied community of Starbeck, we were looking forward to what promised to be an enjoyable and informative summer visit. It was good to learn a little more of the history of the area and discover the importance of the railway station in Victorian times and its links with Harrogate. Starbeck has a wonderful community spirit which is evident in the enthusiasm and close working relations ship of the 20 youth and community groups involved with the "In Bloom" team.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

New introduction in the High Street, near the Prince of Wales public house is a "Pick your own scheme". This consists of a selection of tubs containing fruit, vegetables and herbs of which there was an abundant supply. An innovative idea! Spa Mews residential area for the elderly has been transformed into a truly wonderful oasis of peace and tranquillity, full of beautiful, carefully designed tubs and planters. This has been achieved with the help of youth organisations and Starbeck in Bloom. Beautiful!

Areas for Improvement

The Starbeck in Bloom group are constantly looking at new and innovative ideas to improve their community. They are regularly up dating and improving different areas, with great success. We feel, therefore that there would be very little point in us trying to make any extra suggestions. Well done Starbeck!

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

All projects in Starbeck are undertaken with a keen awareness of, and concern for the environment. All groups involved in working for Starbeck in Bloom, such as the rail networks, schools, youth groups and members of the public are constantly reminded and encouraged to care for the environment. Even the local dog walkers are

encouraged to pick up litter as they walk! We were impressed with the condition of the railway station which has been lovingly cleaned and renovated. It is an excellent example of what can be achieved when groups are working together.

Areas for Improvement

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

With 20 different groups of helpers the community spirit at Starbeck is in a very health state. All of these groups assist or raise money for Starbeck in Bloom. Uniform groups play an important role in their keenness and financial support of the in bloom projects. The list of groups and commercial enterprises that are anxious to make Starbeck look beautiful is endless. The pirate and the cone exchange is just one innovative idea to commend amongst many! The community help is both awesome and invaluable. Brilliant! A completely different route from the spring route, but equally interesting, enlightening and enjoyable. Many thanks to all concerned for such an enjoyable and enlightening visit. Well done to the committee and all involved!

Areas for Improvement

Category 2A: Urban Community

Judges Comments

Woodlesford Gold Rose Award

Spring Medal Position – Gold Summer Medal Position - Gold

Introduction

The sun shone throughout our visit to Woodlesford which has been a rare event in this year's judging calendar! The team are extremely enthusiastic and well organised. It was lovely to meet the children at Woodlesford Primary School and visit their garden. The town of Woodlesford is a credit to all residents and especially to this team who have worked hard to enhance the town and draw in many of the community to groups to work to the same aim.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The displays were of a high quality and it was pleasing to see how the team are now moving over to more permanent planting that incorporates bee and insect attracting plants as well as utilising annuals to enhance some areas further. The village green, Langdale Road, Ron's corner and the Woodlesford Lock to name but a few of the excellent areas that are managed by this team. Pat's domain of the Langdale Estate and Jeans area of the Maltings Estate clearly show how local residents have become involved in the 'in Bloom' movement and have actively encouraged and enhanced their own residential areas. We were impressed with the use of Old Yorkshire varieties of fruit trees in the newly planted orchard at Woodlesford Lock and how they are working together with the Waterways who are creating a composting area

Areas for Improvement

Continue with the move to more permanent planting schemes, the perennial planting has worked well in the beds you have created and probably do not require supplementing with annuals now.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

This team is working hard in all areas relating to environmental responsibility, they are proud of their local heritage and wherever possible include it within their schemes,

they are planting bee and insect loving plants, they are using a light touch management with the wildlife areas allowing nature to take its course and are encouraging the local school in the same vein. The whole area was clean and litter free. The work with the Waterways in partnership with the in Bloom team is a credit to their drive to be as inclusive as possible.

Areas for Improvement

Continue the work with the school and increasing the young people's knowledge of bio diversity. The area allocated is a lovely space and it was clear to see how well used it is. Some of the raised beds at the school would benefit from more work; it may be worth allocating beds to classes or teams and perhaps encouraging the school to create an in house competition for the best bed or unusual vegetable grown.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Woodlesford in Bloom are a highly motivated and well organised team who have an excellent record of fund raising, evidenced by the cheque which was given to the team from a local business that had collected from its customer's money to support the team. The whole community appear to be involved in improving and enhancing Woodlesford. There are numerous ways in which the team communicate with the community; regular meetings of in Bloom and Action groups, letters to residents as well as the direct approach. It was lovely to see how many had displayed 'We support Woodlesford in Bloom' posters in the private residences as well as in the business areas and how well you work with Rothwell Country Park and the Bird Sanctuary.

Areas for Improvement

Continue encouraging and helping the people of Woodlesford and demonstrating through your practice how to enhance the town. We were not sure if you are involved with any other youth groups other than the school and brownies, if not, this may be an area you may wish to consider for future sustainability of the team.

Category 2B: Small Town

Judges Comments

DUNNINGTON Gold Rose Award Category Winner

Spring Medal Position - Gold Summer Medal Position - Gold

Introduction

Dunnington is a very impressive entry in the Yorkshire in Bloom Competition which clearly demonstrates the wide involvement of residents. It is very well presented and shows awareness of environmental issues. The documentation and organisation of its activities are to be admired and a good example for all entries with many plans for future development.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The grass cutting was outstanding with edges trimmed back setting a good impression of care. The attention to detail was evident and the tubs, hanging baskets and tube planters looked really impressive with good quality planting with dead heading playing its part. Most of the many hedges were neatly trimmed which is a tribute to the In Bloom Groups publicity and co-operation of householders. Julia's Garden and the majority of the other beds and displays were all of a high standard. It was good to see the support of businesses. The gardens and floral displays along the main thoroughfares added colour and interest.

Areas for Improvement

Some Residential driveways could have done with some weeding. The Olympic rings flower bed, good in concept, would have had more impact if turf had been utilised instead of reseeding. Keep an eye on turf encroaching on paving beneath seats.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The Hessacarr Nature Reserve was outstanding not only as a good example of conservation but also because for its information and education and the enthusiasm of its wardens. Throughout the entry there were many areas of wildflower planting. The care and maintenance of the street furniture was on the whole very high standard. The whole area was immaculate without litter. The Wicker Man is a stunning example

of promoting the local heritage. The re-cycling competition at the school encouraged young people to think of innovative re-use. The development of the new cemetery and the excellent facility of the play park.

Areas for Improvement

Consider more water recycling and further development of the agricultural heritage. Increase the number of bird and bat boxes and other wildlife habitats.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The Successful letter asking for donations to support "Dunnington in Bloom" The many activities to raise funds and involve people in the community e.g. Hog roast and linking with scarecrow festival. Work with the school and many other groups. The organisation of rotas, work schedules and maintenance of equipment. Contributions to the Jubilee Celebrations. Good to see new members on the team.

Areas for Improvement

Continue the work, always trying to involve as many people/groups as possible. To continue to seek financial support and sponsorship and raising the profile of the group.

Category 2B: Small Town

Judges Comments

Holmfirth Silver Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver

Introduction

Representatives of Holmfirth in Bloom turned out in force and gave the judges a wonderful warm welcome to their lovely town. The town's distinctive character and heritage are truly valued and have been celebrated by the production of a fascinating new book by the History Society. Visitors will now be able to gain a fresh insight into this fine town. Holmfirth in Bloom are to be complemented on the excellent partnerships that they have made with the Civic Society and the Rotary Club. Both organisations are carrying out projects that add value to the town in ways that are both sympathetic to its character and lovely additions in their own right.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The multitude of hanging baskets on business premises throughout the town and the attractive floral features on the Old Bridge Hotel are impressive, as is the support from business in general. Some lovely private gardens are being encouraged through the garden competition both in the town centre and on estates like Woodchurch View where they can be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. Sensory containers are adding an extra dimension to the displays.

Areas for Improvement

We understand the very real difficulties that there have been with the weather this year but feel that some of the formal bedding could be improved. Consider showing the judges other aspects of community gardening such as local allotments and school gardens.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The very proactive and positive work, including the History Society's new book and the Civic Society's blue plaque trail, which celebrate Holmfirth's heritage. It is pleasing to see new projects and features such as the Rotary Club bench that are of such good

quality and in keeping with the town's character. Local environmental quality was much improved from our visit in spring

Areas for Improvement

It would be helpful to know more about the town's conservation and biodiversity plans and policies particularly in relationship to the River Holme. Continue efforts to engage with the few businesses that are suffering from graffiti to encourage them to remove it from their premises.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The partnership working with local organisations is impressive as is the commitment and dedication of Tara and Sue. Your work to secure local funding and support from the many businesses in Holmfirth is good. Your plans to keep current projects going, despite the economic challenges and to encourage new ones to begin are to be commended.

Areas for Improvement

It would be useful to see more evidence of how you promote Holmfirth in Bloom, might you consider a simple publicity plan? The business involvement is very good; could you begin to replicate this with local community and residents groups? An initial idea may be to try to encourage the formation of a Friends Group to add value to Victoria Park.

Category 2B: Small Town

Judges Comments

Hunmanby in Bloom Gold Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Gilt Summer Medal Position - Gold

Introduction

Our return to Hunmanby for the summer judging visit took place on the wettest day of the year but armed with umbrellas the Hunmanby in Bloom group were not deterred and demonstrated to us that this is a community who take great pride in their town. We were impressed by what we saw and could see the work that has been going on since our last visit. We were pleased to see that you have considered our feedback and suggestions from our spring visit and have plans in place to take these forward. We look forward to seeing the results of your labours in future years. Throughout the day we were met by many of those involved in taking the In Bloom initiative forward. They demonstrated the spirit and enthusiasm necessary to maintain the very high standards throughout the town. Our thanks go to all those involved in this splendid effort. There is no doubt that the Hunmanby in Bloom group responds to the challenge of the competition and uses it to drive development opportunities and improvements in Hunmanby. Thank you Jo, Trish and Lisa for your organisation which ensured that we saw everything we needed to. Your hard work and that of all those involved certainly paid off. An excellent entry that continues to build on its successes year on year.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Throughout the town the floral displays were very colourful and visually impressive with planters, baskets and beds being complemented by the variety of planting in residential gardens and open spaces. The displays we saw in the high street were good and we were impressed with the window display in the St Catherine's Hospice window. You demonstrated that local businesses support and are involved with In Bloom through floral displays such as those at the Cottage Pub, the Flower Shop and Green Grocers and also the sponsored tubs with their updated plaques. Planting throughout was appropriate, attractive and sustainable. Of particular note, Bailey Gardens, the borders and grounds at the Church, the Sebastopol Nectar Bed, the Community Garden at the Old School, the beds at the entrance to the town near Bumble Bee Bank, Orchard Farm, the Railway Station, Hunmanby Primary School, Peter Milnes Motors and the industrial estate. Special note and acknowledgement must be given to the gardens at Hungate Court and the work and dedication of Vi and Brian who provide the residents with a delightful environment and an outdoor space to enjoy. Our visit to Sue and Nick's garden was a surprise and an inspiration.

Areas for Improvement

You have already identified the potential for more floral displays/impact in the high street, and are investigating ways to address this. We would encourage you in this work. It might be useful to label the herbs at the surgery or have some information about them and their uses available. There maybe an opportunity to mulch some of the beds to retain the moisture and suppress the weeds reducing the maintenance

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Local environmental quality in Hunmanby is very high and you are to be congratulated on this. It demonstrates the effectiveness of the In Bloom group, excellent partnership working and the hard work of local residents to achieve this. Getting everyone involved works as your responsible dog ownership 'Good Dog' scheme/no fouling children's poster campaign shows. Your planting inspiration leaflet addresses planting with sustainability, watering and wildlife in mind. Your plan to promote Hunmanby's historical sites will enhance the town's excellent local heritage and history to residents and visitors alike. We look forward to seeing this in the future and the involvement of community in producing this. It is evident that wildlife and natural habitat is a prime consideration of the In Bloom group. Street furniture is of a high standard and supported by the work of the Community Pay Back group. Resource management is important throughout the town including at the Allotments. The environmental efforts of and the responsibility shown by the children at Hunmanby Primary School are outstanding.

Areas for Improvement

Bumble Bee Bank is one area that you are considering developing further and we would suggest additional appropriate planting where possible to attract a variety of wildlife. There may also be an opportunity to add homes for the bees within the banking creating a habitat as well as a food source. As part of the focus on heritage there maybe opportunity for the memories of the older residents to be recorded for future generations, maybe the school could help with this project.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Hunmanby's strength is community participation. This is demonstrated in everything you do with all sections of the community participating. It is evident that the Hunmanby in Bloom and all your work is valued. You are all to be congratulated. However you are not content to rest on your laurels and have plans to move forward and will rise to any challenges. We look forward to seeing the enthusiasm of the children from the Primary School translate into ongoing participations and activities with the In Bloom group.

Areas for Improvement

There is very little we can add here. Our only suggestion would be to encourage additional individual entries into Yorkshire in Bloom and continue to work with other local groups such as the Friends of Bowling Green Park and Gods Acre.

Category 2B: Small Town

Judges Comments

Kirkbymoorside Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Gilt Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

Kirby Moorside in Bloom enjoys good support from all sectors of the community and they work hard to ensure the town is an attractive place to live and work. The group has a full calendar of events and is active in fundraising and in securing business sponsorships. Kirby Moorside is interested in conservation and biodiversity and has a high standard of environmental responsibility. A very good entry.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

There were good floral displays in the town, particularly on the Jubilee roundabout and residential gardens were very attractive e.g. those at the sheltered housing complex in Sturdy Court. The bowling green was absolutely immaculate and the beds and borders surrounding the main playing area were beautiful. The allotments were well maintained and well used, with a good variety of crops grown.

Areas for Improvement

The atrocious weather we have had this summer has hindered the floral displays – but it's still really worth aiming for the "wow" factor.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Congratulations to the administrators of the Golf Course for their environmental awareness and excellent management of habitats surrounding the course - which includes the planting of trees and of gorse and the protection of orchids etc. in the wildflower verges. The judges were impressed by the research into Kirby Moorside's heritage done by the History Group, resulting in a CD, DVD and several information booklets – with more in the pipeline. Moreover, the history group has worked with schoolchildren to commemorate the Jubilee and Olympic year by producing a superb wall mural depicting activities in Kirby Moorside.

Areas for Improvement

Continue with your plan to turn the town "pound" into a wildflower area and with your excellent project for the Church Millennium Garden, working with the Environment Group and the PCC to enhance the Beck planting and reveal the mosaics. The new interpretive board at Manor Vale Woods is still awaiting installation and, hopefully, this will be in the near future. In the longer term, it would be a great achievement if the land owned by Holts at Manor Vale could be incorporated into the Manor Vale woodland. The rubbish bins detracted from the entrance to the church grounds because the area was scattered with litter – would it be possible to encourage a tidier collection?

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Kirby Moorside in Bloom has been active in securing many business sponsorships e.g. the sponsorship success with Tesco's, who provided the hanging baskets in the town centre. Many local shops and companies also sponsor a tub. The group has a full calendar of events, including several money raising initiatives: stalls/coffee mornings/open gardens. There is good publicity, particularly with the 'best kept garden competition' and award ceremony, which is held annually, with an increasing number of entries. Recently, the group has involved the scouts with their work – litter picking and tree planting.

Areas for Improvement

Consider working with your local schools e.g. helping to introduce a gardening club or asking the children to produce anti litter posters or planting potatoes in a bucket etc. Your suggestion of working with the nearby Special School would be excellent.

Category 2B: Small Town

Judges Comments

Menston in Bloom Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Gilt Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

Menston is situated within the picturesque valley of the River Wharfe with the main roads linking Menston to Leeds and Ilkley running along the eastern boundary of the village. Historically, Menston was one of a number of farming communities that settled and developed along the length of the Wharfe valley and today, Menston has a thriving village community of 5,500 inhabitants.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Since their formation in 2005, the group have worked extremely hard to source plants which are totally in tune with their environment, even researching rabbit resistant varieties. The grounds of both St John's and the Methodist church were particularly pleasing and it was wonderful to see orchids in flower in the wildflower section of the church yard. The emphasis on sustainable and wildflower planting has allowed new projects such as the High Royd Cemetery Garden and Railway garden to be initiated and followed through. The residential gardens at Ellar Gardens were bright and colourful

Areas for Improvement

Continue to cooperate with Bradford Council to move the very worthwhile project at Butterfield Park forward. Consider planting trailing plants in the planters to add variety and form. Encourage local businesses to join the scheme and to follow the example of the hairdresser. Consider natural planting without a membrane at the Station Garden. Find ways to involve the local school children both in the school garden and in the wider community.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The many wild flower areas are a credit to the hard work of the group. The cemetery for former High Royd patients is a very good and interesting example of development

of the local heritage. The parents and children will certainly appreciate the new picnic benches in the park together with the new Redwood trees planted for the benefit of future generations. Well done for having a complete absence of litter, graffiti and dog fouling and excellent recycling methods.

Areas for Improvement

Consider carrying out wildflower surveys at various sites at set intervals each year. A wildflower trail around the village with identification quiz may encourage younger families to join too and nurture a love of wildlife.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

There was plenty evidence of strong community involvement. The Memorial Scroll kept at the library is an excellent and sympathetic way of acknowledging donations and bequests. Andrew Musgrave and John Briggs at Meadow Lea Children's Home have worked wonders in encouraging the children to grow their own fruit and vegetables in spite of an invasion by the local rabbit population.

Areas for Improvement

A poster competition for next years In Bloom entry or a competition to design a new flower bed could motivate the local school children. The village website www.menston.org.uk is an excellent publicity tool and is in need of updating.

Category 2B: Small Town

Judges Comments

MESSINGHAM Silver Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

Without a doubt the “Blooming” group has only one thing on their mind and that is the excellent presentation of their village for all to see and be proud of. The sun shone on what can only be described as a very pleasant tour of the village and surrounding areas with Sue and John at the helm. Again the amount of input by locals is quite evident in the standards that can be seen at numerous points of interest that help promote the village aspect to the full. It is an ongoing quiet revolution that takes place and continues to increase the overall appearance of such areas as the Memorial Garden, Wildlife Area and the new Library plantings.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Marking up from the spring tour was no problem as the quality of seasonal bedding was very colourful, well maintained and relevant to the royal and Olympic events taking place. The Tour around the housing estates, of which there are many, was well planned and showed the interest householders take in their gardens by the standards that were seen. The business areas around the village are in the main all beginning to show some interest and the appearance of hanging baskets, planters and tubs is a welcome sight and brightens the narrow High Street at various points. The difficult start to the season has resulted in vigorous grass growth but many of the verges and greens were quite well maintained.

Areas for Improvement

Keep a check on the village “Welcome “signs as the excessive spring growth have begun to over grow them and block them out. Difficult to increase the seasonal colour along the narrow High Street but many other shops etc could look at adding tubs and baskets such as the petrol station for instance. Consideration could be given to the small flower beds at various locations being interplanted with permanent plants to compliment the seasonal bedding and help reduce maintenance and costs.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The nature reserve was again a pride of place and with the wet spring was a carpet of wild flowers along the length of the footways and around the lake edges. The recycling depot was visited and acts as the local centre for all unwanted items not covered by the household recycling bins. The

Messingham History group has to be congratulated on the publication of their booklet about the history of the village and area and is well presented giving a very detailed legacy of the heritage. The whole village was clean and tidy with no sign of graffiti, litter and dog fouling thanks to efforts by local volunteers putting up signs warning would be dog owners of the consequences. There are many sites that are well presented to the local people and it was good to see many children enjoying the play area around the Memorial Playing fields, which were looking well maintained, and using the footpath link through the church grounds.

Areas for Improvement

Keep a check on any vacant plots and odd corners around the village to ensure they are kept to your high standard of maintenance and cleanliness. Consult with the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust about the area and check for SSI status, also if there are leaflets available for the wildlife area that can be placed in libraries, village hall, schools etc for locals to see. Street furniture around the area can soon become neglected so look to monitor these items and maintain them as good as the bus shelter.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

There is a great deal of residential involvement being carried out as a normal activity and the gardens around Church Street bungalows show what local initiative can do. The group has increased in size slightly and this is indicative of the community spirit that comes across when talking to local people and volunteers. The relationship with the local Parish Council and North Lincolnshire Council seems to be working well and the various grants available to the group enable the whole village to look forward to continued support from all concerned. Discussions with Sue and John and other people have given a clear indication that the involvement will continue. Well Done.

Areas for Improvement

There is a need to look forward for the next 3, 5 or 7 years to identify the groups intent and a “where are we going” strategy formulated so that the work load is spread evenly around those interested and projects planned that can be successfully undertaken. The school children is one area that needs to be considered in becoming involved either by projects at school or various events throughout the village say at the Horse Show which will link in with the groups forward thinking. While the sign was missing from the COOP windows some form of similar publicity should be considered for getting your achievements broadcast and encourage more help.

Category 2B: Small Town

Judges Comments

Pickering Silver Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Gilt Summer Medal Position - Silver

Introduction

Pickering is a delightful market town. The 'In Bloom' team, although relatively small given the size of the population, work exceedingly hard to promote the town and its environs.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The Garden for All Seasons at the Beck Isle Museum was looking stunning and in particular the judges were impressed by the choice of plants under the mature trees within the garden. These included a good mix of cottage perennials such as Alchemillas, Astrantias and Lavenders. Recognition needs to be given to the colourful displays of planted tubs in the Smiddy Hill area with the use of sustainable plants included. The visit to the Outgang Lane Allotment Site was much appreciated, and a special mention must go to Phil Fisher and his volunteers who ensure that all the paths are well maintained. The judges were particularly impressed with the new herb bed at Smiddy Hill and it was pleasing to see people respecting and using it to teach their children about the aromatic and culinary uses of plants.

The Ropery toilets landscaping deserves a special mention and illustrates a good example of partnership working as well as the substantial regeneration of a neglected area.

Finally it was good to see the In Bloom group interpreting the Diamond Jubilee with the patriotic theme of red, white and blue across the town and in particular the Market Place flower bed.

Areas for Improvement

There was still a disappointing amount of discarded cigarette ends around the town, and it was noted that there were several items of litter along the A170 and at Pickering Community Primary School. The judges were particularly disappointed about the leaf litter and detritus around the entrance of the Co-op store. The judges would have liked to have seen more residential gardens in the tour.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Since spring judging the Smiddy Hill area has been greatly enhanced by the painting of flower containers. In addition it is good to see the bird feeders and nectar rich plants in the Town Council bed. Newly planted barrels near the public toilets at Ropery Walk are an asset to the town and provide a colourful display for visitors and residents. It was good to hear that the tenants at the Outgang Lane Allotment site are encouraged to collect water from green houses and sheds. It was also good to hear from the pupils at St Josephs Primary School about their proposed butterfly garden.

Areas for Improvement

The area immediately adjacent to the public toilets has been greatly improved by gravel/ chippings laid by the District Council. However, on the other side of the pathway the Town Council have done little to enhance the area despite the town being entered into 'Yorkshire in Bloom'. At the end of the tour the judges were taken along the passageway adjacent to Flintoft Ironmongers, and it was noted that there was a considerable amount of graffiti on the buildings and walls. The judges felt that more information could be provided in the future about the In Blooms intentions to save natural resources, such as water conservation and peat use etc.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Delightful stone trough at the John Wilson memorial – very colourful sustainable planting. Popular allotments, 80 of them tenanted, at Outgang Lane – well maintained and productive. Once again the Civic Society herb garden deserves a special mention as it is a really attractive feature and is a good example of partnership working. Colourful planting displays at Champleys Yard were noted and the judges were pleased to see more of the business and retail premises participating in the summer tour. The judges felt that the Calendar designed and produced by the pupils at the Lady Lumbleys School will help to raise the profile of the In Bloom Campaign in 2013.

Areas for Improvement

At St Joseph's RC Primary School the herb garden could be given some attention by way of pruning etc. Consideration could be given to an information board to enhance the knowledge of both staff and pupils. The Outgang Lane Allotments would benefit from a notice board informing members of the public where they could obtain information about how they can obtain a plot. The judges were concerned about the lack of 'In Bloom' team members at the time of the judging with the exception of Eileen Blakely who was seen to be giving 100% effort on the day.

Category 2B: Small Town

Judges Comments

Shipley Town Centre Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Gilt Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

A widely spread entry making it difficult to cover all areas, but the route covered a selection of interesting locations. The entry is co-ordinated by the Town Centre Manager, but she involves the Parks staff, Highway cleansing teams, High Craggs School and various members of the community.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Some good floral displays at several pubs in the town. The Wheelbarrow competition is very successful

Areas for Improvement

Consider introducing some areas of permanent planting, particularly herbaceous perennials, and perhaps lessen some of the annual bedding. It will help reduce maintenance, and can provide more all year round effect.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The Butterfly Meadow, near the railway station, is most unusual, attractive and effective. Glad to hear of co-operation with Railway Company and other bodies. The Victoria Mill complex now has 449 apartments and is an excellent combination of the conversion of the original mill buildings and ultramodern new buildings, all well landscaped. Delighted to see the derelict garages have been removed and the site tidied up, the recycling bins have been cleaned, and as before the paved areas in the Market Square were spotless and free of any litter - a real credit to the workforce!

Areas for Improvement

Continue improving the allotment site - glad to see the current work is already achieving some success.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Wheelbarrow competition is a success. A local artist has designed the banners on display in the town centre. The project for the disabled (Northcliffe Environmental Enterprises Team), now 20 years old, is an excellent project growing plants for sale to the general public. High Craggs Primary School has produced some very good posters made from recycled materials.

Areas for Improvement

Would be good to know of more general involvement of general public, and perhaps see a wider selection of house gardens.

Category 2B: Small Town

Judges Comments

Swillington Silver Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver

Introduction

The enthusiastic in Bloom team showed us round Swillington, where some improvements and new developments have taken place. The visit to the superb residential garden at Rose Cottage was a stunning addition to the route. Swillington in Bloom has a passion for their town and a drive to help improve it. Swillington has a huge amount of potential and hopefully if the team can encourage more people to join them they will be able to take this entry to the next level.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The work the team have undertaken at the front of St. Mary's Church and the entrance to the former rectory has much improved these areas. There was good planting of shrubs in front of the Church and the boxes of begonias on the street in front gave good visual effect. On the Green, the beds and new boxes from Green Leeds were well planted and the Primrose House bed contained sustainable planting.

The allotments, many of which were competition winners, were particularly impressive and a pleasure to visit. They are a credit to all the gardeners who have plots there. The bed at St Mary's Avenue has been well thought out and planted with perennials.

It is also good to hear that the Parish Council take an active part in the management of the allotments, ensuring they meet a high standard. The judges were impressed with many of the local resident's gardens.

Areas for Improvement

The Garage and car wash had planted out tubs for the first time this year so try to target more businesses to have display boxes, for example the Working Men's club. The bed at the Swillington Road bus stop has been earmarked for more sustainable planting.

The planters at Primrose hill are of an excellent quality, consider moving from annual planting to more permanent planting that may be supplemented, if necessary, with

some annuals. Whilst this move may take time as it will incur expense, in the long run it will save not only money as the plants may lend themselves to being split but also in the teams time having to plant them every year with annuals. Also look to the drainage of these planters and consider at some point incorporating a 'reservoir' in the bottom of them.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

There were compost bins and bird boxes at the rear of the church and water from natural springs was used at the allotments where a notice board with current and relevant information was displayed. Some well designed posters were in evidence. We were impressed with the cleanliness of Swillington with regards to the absence of litter, graffiti and fly posting. Also it was lovely to see how the local heritage had been incorporated into the displays.

Areas for Improvement

Consider further developing the wildlife area at the back of the church, perhaps creating log piles and introducing a bug hotel and or a wormery. You may also wish to consider incorporating more bee and insect loving plants into your displays, especially on the entrances. We discussed using Rosa Rugosa and cranesbills at one of your entry points that is difficult to manage. Whilst most of the street furniture was of a good standard, the heritage wheels, which are prone to spray from traffic, may benefit from a coat of paint in the autumn months.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The group has recruited a new member. The team have worked hard at attracting funding and support from various areas. There is a strong support from the Parish Council and they have a good relationship with Leeds City Council. It was good to meet Councillor Mark Dobson who was keen to stress how important the 'in Bloom' team are to Swillington and to keeping his team 'on their toes'!

Areas for Improvement

Some boxes and beds are not sponsored. Whilst we were extremely impressed with the amount of work this team of highly dedicated individuals are, we wonder if there is any possibility of increasing support from local scouting, brownie, Church or other youth groups? Also continue to encourage the local school to become involved. Fresh information and pictures could be posted on the in Bloom link of the website and try to obtain sponsorship for those beds and tubs which lack it.

Category 2B: Small Town

Judges Comments

Upper Poppleton and Nether Poppleton Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

The In Bloom group were only formed in 2011 but are making great strides under the guidance of Eddie and Mike. Hopefully as the groups profile rises in the village this will result in additional members and the group will build on its excellent foundations.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The sensory garden at the Tithe Barn and the recent further development of this with the new white bed and tubs of geraniums and calendula, good lavenders here as well. Millfield Lane Allotments have existed since 1739 and are owned by a charity, good horticultural practice here, 32 plots and a 4/5 year waiting list. Good local gardens with 12 entered in the inaugural front gardens competition, winner excellent, also pub garden competition won by the Lord Nelson. All open grassed areas well maintained. Church grounds; good with herbaceous borders tended by members. Volunteers do an excellent job at the Railway Nursery and will grow plants for the In Bloom group in 2013. The nectar garden here is developing well. York College are to do access ramps for the disabled. Rachel continues to look after the floral side of Poppleton Railway Station.

Areas for Improvement

By increasing the community awareness of the group hopefully additional members will come forward and the group are presenting themselves at every opportunity - future developments in the Tithe Barn area should augment the portfolio of the group and increased membership should enable further baskets and tubs to be placed around the village.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The village is steeped in history and this is well appreciated by the group, the Tithe Barn project being outstanding. The wild life pond is good and the ducks came out on

cue - we understand they are to acquire a duck house (all above board this time!!). Recycling facilities at the football field and Community Centre. No litter, graffiti or dog fouling anywhere in the village. Management of Mount Field is by a group of volunteers under the guidance of Natural England. Community Pay Back team used for some of the work. New Diamond Jubilee footpath in Millennium Green area opened and attended by around 145 adults and children, it is the intention to extend this path in the future. A definite pride in the village exists.

Areas for Improvement

Future development of the wild life area and Millennium Green area will add to the village but excellent work already in this section.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The Brownies are involved with the group and made hanging baskets for placing around the village and have also planted and maintain a flower bed at the Millennium Green plus border at the church. New logo designed for Poppleton in Bloom. Good community involvement with front garden and pub garden competitions. In Bloom group gave 2 tubs to each pub. The group took a stand at the annual sports day making the community more aware of the group and a planning meeting is to be held in September to decide projects for 2013.

Areas for Improvement

Suggest a leaflet drop around the village to let people know about in bloom and maybe suggest a donation towards this plants/money or arrange dates when the community can get together with (say) bulb planting or similar.

Category 2C: Town

Judges Comments

Elloughton cum Brough Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Gold

Introduction

It was helpful to receive a well produced portfolio in advance of the visit and to have a short presentation including a DVD prior to the tour. A well organised tour taking in all aspects of the bloom group's work in planting, maintenance and communication with the local community. The emphasis on Elloughton's Roman connections was particularly good. The Roman soldier statue was really impressive and we hope planning permission for a permanent site is granted.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The town was full of excellent floral and sustainable planting. The efforts to recognise the Diamond Jubilee in choice of plants and colours was impressive. Some businesses had floral displays and demonstrated their support for in-bloom. All areas visited were of high quality planting and maintenance, a credit to the bloom group members who look after designated areas.

Areas for Improvement

There were quite a lot of weeds in kerbsides and wall bottoms on the pavement edges. The council might like to look at their weed spraying regime. Continue the interplanting with permanent plants as a way of helping to reduce seasonal bedding cost and reducing workload in spring and summer

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Council recycling is well organised and the allotment holders set a good example with composting and water recycling. The tour route was well managed with no dog fouling, fly posting or litter. Congratulations to James who regularly litter picks as part of his Duke of Edinburgh award. The Roman heritage is very much a part of the local community and especially emphasised in the schools.

Areas for Improvement

It is unfortunate the Spindlewood conservation wood group did not get the £20000 grant to purchase extra land to develop a wild flower and wild life area. Ensure all street furniture, seating, bins etc. is kept up to scratch by regular monitoring.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The bloom group is clearly well established and organised and that bodes well for the future. There is good liaison with the primary schools and local business. A well planned programme extends across the year. The DVD used at the opening presentation is shown as a rolling programme on two screens in the town library. The work at the Petuaria Centre is impressive with indoor and outdoor activities for those attending. The scarecrow event had an impressive 55 entries.

Areas for Improvement

Just continue the excellent work being done. It may help identify more sponsorship or help by distributing the excellent news letter to establishments that are not already on board with the group as discussed.

Category 2C: Town

Judges Comments

Garforth Gold Rose Award Category Winner

Spring Medal Position - Gold Summer Medal Position - Gold

Introduction

Garforth in Bloom is a relatively young group but has made great strides since its formation in August 2008 and the enthusiasm of the group is second to none and they continually seek to improve the environment and quality of life in Garforth. The new Diamond Jubilee garden is an outstanding achievement and has raised their profile in the town.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Potty Cottage may be an innovative garden but the quality of plants and horticultural work is good. St Benedict's church has good beds and borders all maintained and grown by church members. Diamond Jubilee garden outstanding - group received letter from the Queen and garden opened by Deputy Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, 2 members now maintain this. Members involved in the Allotment Show in September. Good quality and sustainable planting in area of Gaping Goose - verge re-turfed by members and lower area has wild flower seeding. Allotments have 112 plots with a further 48 on waiting list - on site composting and good horticultural practice. In bloom group have allotment for growing on plants for use in the town. Good gardens on Grange Estate.

Areas for Improvement

The group are well organised and have their future plans well sorted - amazingly sponsors are already lined up for future projects but the group are realistic about the amount of work they can undertake. Hopefully they will continue the good work.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Members repaired street furniture and planted up around this. Mining heritage shown by truck planter at Gaping Goose. Plants being recycled by over wintering the previous years and then taking cuttings the following spring e.g. geraniums. Definite

pride of place with no litter, graffiti or dog fouling. Time capsule buried in Diamond Jubilee garden had input from many local organisations. When new beds created then turf removed used to patch other areas. 5 recycling plants in Garforth and library have solar panels, sun pipes and sedum roof.

Areas for Improvement

The application for a grant for the development of a wild life area will hopefully be successful and allow for improvement in this area.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Community participation in Garforth is excellent. In addition to the active members a Friends of Garforth in Bloom newsletter is circulated to approaching 100 households who contribute a donation to the group for this and are kept up to date in bloom matters. The group now arrange social outings to places of gardening interest. Dates are already fixed for 2 further coffee mornings, a brass band concert and the autumn bulb planting and a tombola was recently held at a local gardening centre. The Diamond Jubilee garden has a notice board with all in bloom activities. They worked with Community Payback group in the construction of the garden. Eleven local pubs took part in this year's floral competition. A bloom member helps with the garden at Ninelands School and funding is being pursued for a wild life area at the school, they are acquiring a greenhouse which will be used to provide tomatoes etc. for the school kitchen. The Brownies also plant and maintain a flower bed and the scouts have made bird boxes for the local retirement homes.

Areas for Improvement

The group have involved the community very well indeed but are considering doing a further mailing to households and this will hopefully produce further "hands on" members and more "friends"

Category 2C: Town

Judges Comments

Horsforth Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

There is evident pride in the community of Horsforth, which was highlighted by the lovely displays by the businesses, in private gardens and in the public spaces throughout the town. The enthusiastic 'In Bloom' group's efforts are greatly enhanced by the co-operation and help of the many businesses and community groups.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The recently completed planting of the Town Council Jubilee Garden project at the library, which will be further enhanced with the completion of the mosaic; the planting at Crabtree car park is an improvement and a great addition to Town Street; the planting at the car park at the entrance to Hall Park is lovely; all projects that enhance the Horsforth In Bloom entry. The contribution made by the many local businesses is also a credit to the town.

Areas for Improvement

Keep developing the plans for the improvement of Crabtree Car Park.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The copies of Freda Copley's book on the burial ground on display in the library and museum are lovely and plans to keep them updated are very encouraging. The new bat boxes in the burial ground are good to see. Despite the recent weather, everywhere in the town was clean, tidy and weed free - well done! The avenue of 1st world war memorial trees along Stanhope Drive is a fitting reminder to the town's loss and is well maintained.

Areas for Improvement

The marked improvement since our previous visit underlines the fact that your plans and work days are successful. Keep it up!

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The overwhelming support of all the businesses, both with floral displays and sponsorship, is to be commended. The additional help and support by Halifax Sharedealing Ltd in the Japanese garden in Hall Park, along with the continued use of Community Payback volunteers has made a big difference.

Areas for Improvement

Following the success of the photographic competition, continue to find new ways of involving the younger community.

Category 2C: Town

Judges Comments

Ilkley Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

On going round Ilkley it was clear there that like many other towns Ilkley had suffered from heavy rain and that the financial climate had some impact on the town. However the judges were happy to take account and make allowances where necessary for matters outside the influence of the in Bloom Group in Ilkley.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The new herb garden at the Box Tree was of particular note as was the high standard of maintenance at the police station and the garden at 2 Wheatley Lane was outstanding. The planters outside the Manor House were stunning with white flowers.

Areas for Improvement

May be in the current financial climate consideration could be given to more sustainable and permanent planting.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The work undertaken and around the bandstand is exceptional and the flowerbed between the highway and the bandstand were particularly well planted. It was pleasing that no graffiti, fly posting, dog fouling and very little litter could be seen on the visit.

Areas for Improvement

Consideration could be given to looking at resource management issues – criteria B2.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

It is pleasing to note that Ilkley in Bloom feel that they have secured longer term funding which is a significant achievement and it was evident that the businesses continued to be involved in the in bloom initiative.

Areas for Improvement

It may be helpful to encourage wider community participation in the Ilkley in Bloom management and execution.

Category 2C: Town

Judges Comments

Morley Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Gilt Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

Despite the poor weather Morley looked resplendent in red, white and blue for our summer visit. The town has combined the Jubilee colour theme with its In Bloom entry with flair. It was pleasing to meet so many of the very active and committed Bloom Group, formed from a true partnership between the public, private and voluntary sectors working together to make a real difference to Morley. Morley in Bloom is to be complemented on the way that they are structuring the work that they do. Their careful methods of identifying areas for improvement, consulting, planning and following through with on the ground projects is a recipe for success, not just for their Bloom entry but for lasting improvement.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The excellent level of business support, with premises throughout the town enhancing their frontages with attractive floral features. Your plans to grow replacement trees for Scatcherd Park, your commendable involvement of the schools and the good relationship that exists between yourselves and the Local Authority Parks Service. The Beryl Burton display beds looked lovely and make the area a very pleasant place to stop and rest. Both Siegans Court and the Methodist Church have maintained the very good standards set in the spring, the hard work of Keith at Siegans Court and Kath & June at the Church is admirable. Fountain Primary School was a joy to visit and can be proud of the sterling work that has transformed their school grounds to an outstanding level.

Areas for Improvement

There were some areas leading from the main street that need a little more attention to remove weeds from back edges. The plans to extend the spring planting and to introduce new planting in the autumn around the Police & Fire stations should make a real difference to that area.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The work that is being carried out at Daffil Wood is excellent, volunteers can be proud of their many achievements and the extensive list of events that have involved local people and children. The very many excellent projects that you are involved in including the new wildflower meadow and the fabulous murals. We applaud your determination to protect your local heritage and to ensure that new initiatives are in keeping with the character and charm of Morley.

Areas for Improvement

We would have liked to know more about recycling practices and how you encourage recycling. On the whole local environmental quality was good but there some areas where chewing gum was beginning to be a problem, could you consider both cleaning and prevention measures? We also wish you well with your plans for an interpretation boards at Woodcross, these should provide the finishing touch for a great local resource.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The enthusiasm, commitment, passion and dedication of the Morley Bloomers were wonderful to see and the judges have no doubt that this great group will continue to go from strength to strength. Siegans Court continues to flourish and bloom and is a good example of a community taking ownership of their area. Fountain Primary school was a joy to visit and is a perfect example of what can be achieved when the natural environment is embraced by education.

Areas for Improvement

Our main comment here would be to 'keep up the good work', continue to expand and encourage even more people to get involved

Category 2C: Town

Judges Comments

Newby and Scalby Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

A uniquely challenging entry to manage, being made up of a historic village and a mix of more modern urban housing estates set betwixt Yorkshire's largest coastal resort and the North York Moors National Park.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Ongoing development of play areas. High standard of allotments.

Areas for Improvement

Possible use of barrier baskets for the railings in the main shopping area to increase impact. Given that regular grass cutting is reduced, possible expansion of meadow areas as suggested in spring?

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

A naturally bio diverse environment enhanced by sustainable projects. Lack of litter / graffiti. The two prominent businesses in Scalby (cafe and pub) were excellent contributions.

Areas for Improvement

Improved communications with the local authority that was responsible for spraying off wild verges next to Church Beck - a real blot on a natural area. Year round management of the church grounds.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Evidence of year round events / activities. Schools engagement.

Areas for Improvement

Expand the best garden competition to include other categories which could make a positive contribution to visual impact from the roadside (as opposed to mainly rear gardens).

Category 2C: Town

Judges Comments

Northallerton Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Gilt Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

Northallerton Blooming Together is working well with many sectors of the community in order to improve their environment and they have successfully secured support from many local businesses. The floral displays in the town centre and on traffic islands are very good; the hanging baskets at the hospital are superb; and the gardens at Castle Close are outstanding. North Dale Horticulture must be praised for their tremendous work, especially with young people with learning disabilities. The local primary schools are also to be commended for their excellent achievements, encouraging pupil interest in the environment. In summary, this is an active community and a very good entry.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The floral displays by various businesses in the town were colourful, for example, at 'Barkers', at the 'Golden Lion' and especially at 'Maxwell's.' Martin Coyle is to be commended for the superb display of hanging baskets and tubs at the Friarage Hospital and in the Memorial Garden. As usual, the gardens at Castle Close were superb. The grass verges and green spaces were all very good and the allotments were well maintained. Finally, congratulations to Mr and Mrs Buxton-Smitheringales for their garden oasis.

Areas for Improvement

It would be helpful for the judges if there was more information in the NBT brochure on the achievements of the group, relating them to the 3 sections: horticultural achievements, environmental responsibility and community participation. It's good to 'blow your own trumpet'! The judges would have liked to meet the 3 town gardeners. Would it be possible to involve young children, such as Brownies or Scouts, in some environmental activities?

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The town centre was clean, tidy and litter free. The re-cycled orchestral instruments - a playground feature at Applegarth Primary School – were a brilliant idea, very innovative.

Areas for Improvement

Richard continues to work on several excellent bio-diversity projects. Plans are ongoing, but, unfortunately, nothing has come to fruition as yet. Local heritage?.....The judges would love to see/hear about local heritage.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

We were impressed by the outstanding work done at Mill Hill Primary School, including their beautiful 'quiet garden', the veg beds, tree planting, outdoor classroom and wildlife study area – not forgetting the hens! Congratulations to Mill Hill on coming 4th with their veg. box at the Yorkshire Show and also on their success in securing a large grant from Toyota for environmental work in their school grounds. We were also impressed with the achievements of the Gardening Club and the Reception Class at Applegarth Primary School, including their 'Olympic rings', their fruit and veg. and their tree planting. Our thanks to Elliot, Junior, Katie and Lucy for their guided tour.

The annual competitions organised by NBT, and subsequent presentation of awards, are excellent; they include the painting/photo competition for schools, the commercial competition for floral displays and the best effort competition. NBT have been active in securing funding and support, including that of Simon Bailes (who kindly provided our transport) and many businesses in the town (e.g. the sponsored tubs in the town centre and in Garden Court, providing a restful area).

Congratulations are due to the helpers from Northallerton Prison for their excellent work in the grounds of the cemetery, which is now maintained to a very high standard. Finally, we must again praise the tremendous community participation at North Dale Horticulture, which includes young people with learning disabilities, Age UK, North Yorkshire Rotters (composting) and the Probation Service.

Areas for Improvement

We must repeat the comments we made in the spring – it would be good to raise the profile of the group with publicity materials and press coverage.

Would it be possible to find more opportunities for fund raising?

Category 2C: Town

Judges Comments

Otley Silver Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

It was a pleasure to judge Otley on a rare sunny day! Otley in bloom are to be commended for their forward thinking nature. The group takes on a wide range of projects and has a hand in many others. There were impressive pockets of colour in the town centre, despite the lack of sunshine this summer. The town centre retailers commitment to hanging baskets and also the efforts of the bloom group with barrier baskets are strengths of this entry.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

There was a nice array of tubs, baskets and containers, with colourful summer bedding in the town centre in spite of the tough financial climate. The summer bedding outside the Red Pepper restaurant and the hanging baskets at the Buttercross/market Square were particularly of note, as was the lovely display at the Academy florists. The summer bedding at the Pizza Base down the side of the building was an unexpected joy. The Todd's allotment site was a veritable mix of well grown vegetables and bursts of flowers on many plots. Well done to all. It was pleasing to see the grass verges on the main approach roads to the town nicely cut.

Areas for Improvement

Could more volunteers be found for weed control in certain key areas to further compliment the improvements that have taken place? Consider varying the route a little more from spring so the judges see a bigger area of the town overall. The group needs to take care not to spread themselves too thinly across the town and thus keep a control on the workload.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Nice to see the impressive Wharfedale printing press stone. Well done to all in securing this lovely feature. The memorial Garden was well maintained and it was

good to see the staining of the tubs there, which further enhanced the overall appearance of the area. It was good to see the addition of a bird box at the old Gasworks site which also seemed to be thriving.

Areas for Improvement

It was pleasing to note that more bird boxes are being put up. We hope this will continue where it is appropriate to do so. We acknowledge the report done by S.Andrew. However. We wonder are any of the Nature Reserve/wetlands areas suitable for viewing from the car or on foot to add a greater conservation and wildlife element to the route. It would be good to see first-hand what recycling facilities there are in Otley.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Jackie's weekly involvement with Wharton's school is a shining example of how well the Bloom group integrates in the town and is to be commended. It was pleasing to see the many school posters around the Methodist Hall and also some of the Bloom advertising in the town centre. The ongoing funding and sponsorship initiatives are a huge success. The Bloom group are clearly a respected and important part of life in Otley.

Areas for Improvement

We are aware of the good work you are doing with Ashfield School. It would have been nice to have seen some of this on the route. Continue to liaise as you are doing, with the Town and District Council's and regularly check for any new funding streams.

Category 2C: Town

Judges Comments

Pocklington Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Gilt Summer Medal Position - Gold

Introduction

A well prepared and delivered early portfolio gave the judges chance to look through the tour itinerary and raise items for discussion on the day. It was also very pleasing to see that some of the spring comments made by the judges were already being acted on by the In Bloom group. A bright sunny day lit up Pocklington and a very pleasant tour was arranged by Richard and John which covered all the aspects required including a very interesting discussion with staff from East Riding Council on the green and household recycling program carried out throughout the district. The Town was beginning to bloom and the long awaited colour was returning to the flowers in the various tubs, planters and very well sponsored hanging baskets, although the watering of these had been a bit easier this season.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

As mentioned earlier the quality of horticulture was very good despite the poor start to the season and things were looking up. The entrance shrub borders with rabbits were looking very colourful and clean and tidy thanks to the WI group. The allotment site was a thriving area of activity and well used plots having a bountiful crop at last, the quality of the site is very good and managed well. The journey through the various housing estates highlighted the quality of house gardens associated with the Town and the judges were not disappointed. The Cross Keys pub and various other shops and small business in the Town had done exceptionally well in providing a colourful show for locals and visitors alike. The East Riding Grounds Maintenance Section had done a good job on the verges and greens around the Town and despite a troubled mowing season things were pretty good

Areas for Improvement

Keep the All Saints Church ground in the summer tour as this is a well used and very tidy area that should be highlighted each year. Try to develop a relationship with larger local business around the area for future sponsorship and try to include an odd one on a tour. Continue with the balance of seasonal bedding and sustainable plant use where possible to offset the annual cost of bedding but keep the colour balance. Continue to chase the few poor plot holders on the allotments and ensure those on the waiting list have a chance to grow.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The quality of the Town was evident all round with very little litter, weed problems and no graffiti seen all through the tour. Well done to the Town Council and Bloom volunteers. The recycling information was welcome and shows that the residents do benefit from the efforts taken in sorting our waste from homes and business. The walk through the Town centre relives the past by looking around and seeing the local heritage still present in the small cottages, shops and terraced houses that were Pocklington past, even those with improvised roof gardens. One interesting act undertaken by the judges was presenting the House Competition winner, Mr Higgins, with his certificate and rose bowl which was very well deserved and received.

Areas for Improvement

There are many areas around that can be considered for future development and one is the "stumpery" at Burnby Hall gardens which is an outstanding area that has to be taken further and include the small area of woodland adjacent to this area as a possible future conservation area which could be developed by a school or other community group. Continue the street furniture quality and style around the Town where possible as this is a "mark" for Pocklington locals to connect with. Include the newly acquired Woodland Area on the outskirts in a tour as this is work in progress and needs to be on the schedule in either spring or summer.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The Town has a continued support for the "In Bloom" initiative from several folk interested in the well being of this Market Town which is welcoming to see. There are outstanding areas of high quality work being undertaken, as a matter of course in many aspects, by local people. Such areas as the Pocklington School which in itself is a credit to all involved with an outstanding area that is visual to all, and being developed further by head gardener Paul Wright. The Burnby Hall gardens are a treasure to be investigated by locals and visitors alike as an area of good quality horticulture. The work and projects undertaken by the Infants School visited will reap benefits as the children continue their experience later in life.

Areas for Improvement

Try to involve and engage many more groups into the "In Bloom" fold to help spread the workload and increase ideas that may be developed this way. A way of this is to get volunteers to help formulate a forward plan working with the Town Council, of projects to be considered for future action. It would have been good to see some small posters in shop window heralding the Group's activities and achievement, possibly a scheme for the local schools to design a poster accordingly and an Identifying "Logo" for the townsfolk to become recognized with. Continue the close liaison with the East Riding Council as this is a working relationship that can only reap benefits for all concerned.

Category 2C: Town

Judges Comments

Rothwell Silver Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver

Introduction

Rothwell in Bloom continue to improve the quality of the town centre and are now also working with other organisations on environmental matters. Hopefully recent exposure at the gala will lead to more members to build on the present hard working team.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Good work at St Mary's church by members, most plants donated. Springhead Park, good information boards, day lilies and bird garden beds good. Margaret's Garden built by bloom group with funding from Green Leeds, perennial border good. Begonias at war memorial very colourful. In Bloom group supplement council baskets. Good hanging baskets at the Black Bull and planters at The Vets. Group have done 3 new beds at Marsh Street car park - conifer bed good. Good planters at Fox's Funeral Parlour.

Areas for Improvement

The beds in Springhead Park were in need of weeding. The group are making efforts to secure business/community sponsorship and we wish them well in this difficult climate.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The historical sign at Commercial Street showing mining history and the fence at the groups Dorothy's Garden showing coal mining/railway/brass band. Good information board at Church Street car park giving information on Rothwell Manor. 5 year project with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust/Leeds Council at Rothwell Pastures very good - coppicing of willow to provide potential habitat for water vole (formerly present), coppicing used for dead hedges, working to extend reed beds and becoming link in conservation corridor. A wild flower meadow is also proposed and development of scrub area for nesting birds.

Areas for Improvement

The judges were pleased to see the links with the past history of Rothwell and maybe this could be brought into the floral side of the in bloom group. The project with Rothwell Pastures is very interesting and the development of this is very much looked forward to.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Posters in evidence throughout the town designed by Rothwell Haigh Primary School and pleased to see businesses displaying these. Community now growing plants for Rothwell in Bloom. Rothwell Record is source of information to the community on Rothwell in Bloom. Company Ashleigh Signs becoming involved with Rothwell in Bloom. Stand taken at Springhead Park gala to publicise group will hopefully lead to additional members and greater community awareness.

Areas for Improvement

The group should continue in their efforts to involve local businesses and make the community more aware of the group. It is appreciated this is not easy but seeds are being sown and hopefully will bear fruit.

Category 2C: Town

Judges Comments

SKIPTON Gold Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Gilt Summer Medal Position - Gold

Introduction

We were very impressed by the warm welcome on such a rainy day and the enthusiasm and commitment of such a wide range of people. Everybody should be very encouraged by the hard work and fantastic results that have been achieved. An outstanding contribution to the in Bloom movement.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

- * The impressive knowledge and implementation of the work undertaken by Mike Myers and Dawn Barrett and their teams, especially in the Jubilee Garden, the Cenotaph, the hanging baskets, the planters and at Stepping Stones.
- * The lovely display at Skipton Auto Services

Areas for Improvement

- * It is a pity that the poor weather has made it difficult to keep on top of weed control, and resulted in some blooms and vegetables failing to achieve their potential.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

- * The change of mowing regime at Craven College which has resulted in orchids
- * The organic and bio diversity approach at Stepping Stones
- * The woodland walk at Skipton castle Woods

Areas for Improvement

- * Have the committee thought of promotion a Skipton wide bird box campaign or a scheme to promoting wildlife in back gardens?

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

- * An embracing Community wide support for Skipton in Bloom e.g. the 7 organisations joining together for the Jubilee Garden, and the "donation for a rose, tree and bench" idea
- * The new tabards
- * Visiting Brooklands Community Special School to see their raised beds and wildlife garden
- * The Town garden Competition and seeing some examples of the winners e.g. Michael Drury's magical garden and Billy Robinson's impressive allotment

Areas for Improvement

- * In other "in Bloom areas" schools competitions are run in a similar way to Yorkshire in Bloom, e.g. Gold, Silver Gilt etc. Would Skipton concenter this as a way of rewarding and encouraging school participation?
- * Starbeck in Bloom has some excellent lamp post banners. Skipton may like to have a look at these as an idea for the future.

Category 2C: Town

Judges Comments

Todmorden Silver Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver

Introduction

A warm welcome but no sunshine just big smiles! Congratulations to all the team for such a good effort after the devastation of the floods in the last few weeks. The cleaning up was so efficient that there was little evidence to be seen, everyone had obviously pulled together with a real team spirit. It was good to meet the contractors Volker Stevin who had gone 'the extra mile' to help Todmorden.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The colour scheme of the town and the planting scheme for the many barrier baskets were very good and remarkably good flowers considering the weather conditions. Some slow flowering and some mould on verbenas but with your continuing deadheading this should be rectified. Permanent planting in the car parks and other corners is good. Business participation was very good, of particular note Hartleys herb boxes, Mario's herb border, the fernery at Tudor Chippy, the geraniums at Warma Int and of course the large displays at Central Hair Design corner. We loved the planting at Pollination Street - fight to retain that site!

Areas for Improvement

It was sad to see such devastation at Centre Vale Park but that will be dealt with in time. As in every district the local authorities are struggling with grass maintenance due to the weather and cutbacks and this showed Lets hope 2013 will be drier

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The Green Route/Incredible edibles/Todmorden in Bloom partnership has proved so good for the town. The large grant has been wisely spent with good informative boards along the Bee route. Butterfly Garden with its amazing sculptural insect houses is a delight; hopefully Stage 2 of the project on the other side of the road will be possible soon. Apparently there are now 54 new beekeepers in the area so the bees and

insects are on the winning side! All areas were litter free with only small amount of graffiti and dog fouling. Good to see two very smart new benches courtesy of the Free Masons, the recycled plastic wood should wear really well.

Areas for Improvement

Funding for more replacement seats should be sought on a one by one basis, good luck! So many lovely and interesting old buildings in Todmorden, it would be good to see more information boards?

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The group are acting sensibly with development and expansion of new projects with care being taken to still maintain older projects .Good news that new members are joining to help. Involvement with school was well demonstrated and the inclusion of children in annual events is commendable. Funding seems to be well established, with leaflet drops, sponsor letters and bag packs. All year round events Christmas, Easter, Harvest make for a well formed group. Good website -and up to date too!

Areas for Improvement

Keep on with publicity for TiB and YiB with posters etc

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

Judges Comments

Beverley Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

In a very difficult year both climatically and financially Beverley in Bloom has proved beyond all doubt they are back in the competition and are here to stay. On judging day Beverley shone in the sunshine the judges were treated to a very comprehensive tour starting at one of the best primary schools the judges have ever visited. This was followed by a very relaxed and informal tour of the East Yorkshire gem culminating at the historic Coronation Gardens. Given a little time and experience this regional entry has great potential to represent Yorkshire on the national stage, well done!

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

It was great to see how the judge's comments from the spring judging had been interpreted and an action plan developed. The considerable improvements made to Lord Roberts Gardens have greatly enhanced the area. The newly developed Diamond Jubilee garden a fitting tribute in a very special year an extremely tasteful scheme well carried out. The considerable efforts been made by the Towns traders to support the Town Centre floral displays are to be commended.

Areas for Improvement

It was felt that the tiered planters in the Wednesday Market Square are a little tired, maybe its time to completely re think their condition and appropriateness. The sustainable planting in Coronation gardens was of variable quality, could this element be looked and where appropriate renewed. One or two of the planted containers are in a state of disrepair, could this be addressed in a phased manner doing worst first.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The very extensive art trail around the Town is a great addition to the street scene. The considerable investments made in revamping the paved areas throughout the

Town centre. There was very little evidence of litter or dog fouling throughout the Town.

Areas for Improvement

The section referring to conservation and biodiversity was weak, could this be addressed on a future tour by a visit to a wildlife area or site. One or two of the litter bins were a little shabby especially in the newly refurbished memorial garden. As in spring there was a small amount of graffiti seen on the tour, could this be tackled as a matter of routine.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The partnership working from all agencies supporting the Bloom effort is to be congratulated, if only every community could emulate this! The considerable funding being put in place by the Town Council is crucial to the voluntary sectors efforts in improving the environment, this compliments the Bloom teams own efforts in raising their own funds. The supported hanging Basket scheme together with the traders own scheme is excellent. Although no points are awarded for the portfolio, both spring and summer editions are informative and well presented.

Areas for Improvement

On future tours a more formal introduction to the aims and objectives of the group would provide an opportunity for the judges to get to know a little more about their activities. Further development of the action plan would benefit the group's activities and enable a more focused approach to be made identifying both strengths and weaknesses.

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

Judges Comments

Goole Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Gold

Introduction

The Judges were pleased to meet Jean and Brian again for the summer tour of Goole. The Waterways museum was our first meeting place and what a gem, the judges thought the work with disadvantage children was remarkable and demonstrated what can be achieved with dedicated teaching staff. We enjoyed having the opportunity to sail on the Wheldale and to speak to Sally who described her experience in the pageant for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, which they were honoured to be invited.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

In spite of the horrendous rainfall and the flooding which Goole endured this year the In Bloom group did a magnificent job. The planting at the roundabout, the hanging baskets through the town and the barrier baskets behind the market looked splendid. Visitors to the town couldn't fail to be impressed with the displays. The businesses were very supportive of the In Bloom group both in financing the initiatives and putting lovely displays out side their shops. The parish church was planted with a good mix of plants and looked very neat and well cared for. The judges thought the leisure centre was thoughtfully planned with lovely shrubs keeping the trees in the car park added a special dimension to the centre.

Areas for Improvement

The hanging baskets at the station did improve the station however consider approaching Net Work rail for support to establish a couple of planters on the station platform. Keep a check on the allotment plots that are not being fully used and highlight the waiting list to poor plot holders to encourage them to cultivate. Include local business firms that have improved their property which might encourage others to follow suit.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The judges met the recycling officer who out-lined the up to date recycling programme. There was very little litter and the town was free from Graffiti and dog fouling. The Seaman's memorial was very neat, well planted and cared for in a peaceful setting. The tour introduced us to a wealth of sites depicting Goole's heritage. The award winning Junction and gates and the paving representing Goole's history of transporting coal via Tom Puddings was stunning. Going from the modern to the ancient the sensitively restored, Lowther Hotel so many historical features a real gem for Goole to show its visitors.

Areas for Improvement

The signal box area of the station could use a litter bin mainly for cigarette ends. The painting of the litter bins would have further enhanced the town. Check the area for vacant plots and ensure they are looked after as the area behind the signal box fence looked weedy

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The examples the judges have been shown in which the majority of the community have been included is to be applauded. The initiatives which the in bloom team have devised, for example, the poster competition the residential garden and business competitions have encouraged lots of involvement in the community. The work of the Green team, the Castaways, and the court yard involving people with disabilities is also to be applauded. The In Bloom team have well formed plans they are a forward looking team, indeed need to be recognized for their outstanding work in the community.

Areas for Improvement

Include a brief intro at some point to highlight areas that are not included in the summer tour to show their interest and support for the group. Continue the In Bloom banner sponsorship and try to include some posters in shop windows to show the groups achievements and activities to local people. It would be beneficial to have the portfolio a couple of weeks before the tour date so judges could highlight areas to be seen on the tour.

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

Judges Comments

Pontefract Silver Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Bronze Summer Medal Position - Silver

Introduction

The judges were really impressed with the improvements since the spring visit. Once again the whole town was tidy and litter free. The town has many historic and interesting features including the castle which was incorporated into the judging route. The judges were glad to see a vibrant and buzzing town centre on a market day, which added to the visit.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The many hanging baskets in the town centre, on lampposts, above retail outlets and on public houses. The excellent work carried out by Patrick, Mabel and the team at the Prince of Wales hospice. The planting at the bus station enhances the whole feel to the area, and Liam and Nigel and the team are to be commended for their hard work in brightening this focal point in the town. Residential gardens around the town were well maintained and public areas clean and tidy. Local businesses such as the Beastfield and Liquorice Bush pubs had created a colourful display of seasonal baskets.

Areas for Improvement

The former UK Coal bed could make a stunning feature, however this bed needs urgent attention. Continue to encourage all involved with the excellent work at the bus station. Continue to encourage business participation in the town centre.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The excellent work being carried out at the park nature reserve and the development of the friends group will only help to improve the site. The provision of bird feeders at the busy bus station is an excellent idea. The planting of the herb garden at the castle and the interpretation at this site is to be commended. The absence of litter and

general cleanliness throughout the route is to be commended. The troughs within the precinct maintained by the Lioness's, in patriotic colours.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to support the Parks Friend group, local business's and school children to fully participate in improving their local environment for the benefit of all. The inclusion of the history of the liquorice fair and the contribution that the market makes to the town adds to this entry. Continue to work with the LA on providing sustainable planting around the town.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The involvement of the Pontefract Express in publicity for the group on the day. The involvement of the pupils at Larkhill School, and the wonderful gardening achievements they have made at the school. The links with the Police & Probation service on graffiti removal around the town. The support of Local Councillors on the day at the meet and greet at the Castle.

Areas for Improvement

Consider running a poster campaign with local schools to promote the in bloom message. Posters could be used around the town and bus station to make visitors aware of the good work that is being done throughout the town. Continue to progress the idea of In Bloom banners around the town, which will aid to spreading the word.

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

Judges Comments

Pudsey Silver Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

Judges evidenced a marked improvement at Pudsey for the summer judging. Seasonal displays were very good despite the weather conditions experienced and baskets and barrier baskets were breaking out into colour. Public parks were of a very high standard of maintenance and generally the street scene was good. It was good to see the improvements at Sparrow Park since spring with herbaceous borders providing good form and colour. The contribution from Lowtown School is to be commended and special thanks from the judges to Ellie, Erin and Ella for their enthusiasm.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

On arrival judges were met with the colourful hanging baskets at the town's swimming pool and the sponsored barrier baskets scattered within the main centre. Highlights in summer were the very unique Crimble Allotments with produce in abundance, the Lowtown Gardens and the now maturing sustainable planting at Sparrow Park. The main Pudsey Park was well maintained and the Begonias at the entrance beds were a good choice for this year's climate to date! The newly planted borders are a positive addition to the public space.

Areas for Improvement

It was noticeable that repairs had been undertaken to the raised beds at the library since spring judging. Further work to the beds by way of replanting would enhance the general precinct areas for the community. Some weed was in evidence along the route in car parks and in between buildings which would have merited removal.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The groups planting schemes at Sparrow Park and at the swimming pool car park are providing a diverse range of species which are attracting insects to the area.

Lowtown School's management of their wildlife areas and recycling initiatives was exceptional and is to be commended.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to promote the heritage and pride of place. The group is doing well and more members with specific responsibilities would enhance the entry. Careful planning of the route is important to ensure that judges see the best that Pudsey has to offer. Sadly, graffiti is still an underlying problem at certain locations.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Without doubt the engagement with Lowtown School is proving very successful. Judges were very impressed with the enthusiasm of staff and pupils who were so keen on their work at the school. There is so much outdoor educational learning taking place. The members of Crimble Allotment Society can also be proud on the quality of their site which includes individual plots and a unique space for their gardeners to rest.

Areas for Improvement

Development and continuation is the key for Pudsey. More membership and a greater awareness by the Pudsey public is a target for the future. Judges wish every success for the In Bloom group.

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

Judges Comments

Ripon **Gold Rose Award** **Category Winner**

Spring Medal Position - Silver Gilt Summer Medal Position - Gold

Introduction

Ripon is a beautifully located market town (although it has city status), founded over 1300 years ago, with it's famous Cathedral, Spa Gardens, canal basin, historical buildings, museums, market square, shops, cafes, restaurants, and public houses. On almost every corner the judges were greeted by Jubilee colour-themed evidence of the 'In - Bloom' entry.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Impressive new hardwood planted boxes (X9) outside the refurbished West entrance of the cathedral. The Temple Garden. The maturing sustainable planting at Bedern Bank. The planted Union flag at the Welcome to Ripon sign on the approach off the bypass, and the Welcome to Ripon sign adjacent to the 'Garden Racecourse'. The Workhouse vegetable and wild flower garden project is well worth a visit.. Most impressive gardens at some of the public houses, notably Magdalens on Princess Road.

Areas for Improvement

Attention to detail, for instance removal of dead / dying trees from the Market Square. Still more plants required to fill out the Bedern Bank display. The Canal Basin offers an obvious opportunity for further development.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The range of recycling available, and the helpful personnel, at the amenity site. The multiple high quality playground facilities around the town. The new engraved glass entrance to the cathedral. Absence of litter.

Areas for Improvement

Keep up the good work.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Clear evidence of community group participation and engagement - and real pride in their city. In Bloom publicity material, including posters and signage, were to be seen throughout the city. The Holy Trinity School was a shining example of environmental awareness.

Areas for Improvement

More engagement with the business community may be a possibility as the economy picks up.

Category 3: Large Town (35-100K)

Judges Comments

Halifax Silver Gilt Rose Award Category Winner

Spring Medal Position - Silver Gilt Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

Halifax has made a significant a significant move in horticultural terms towards a sustainable regime of planting and environmental sustainability without losing any of the interesting landscape, which is an achievement. Shibden Park is an outstanding example of the local heritage, the preservation of the environment and an excellent family facility. Halifax in Bloom cannot be considered without mentioning the outstanding display created by the staff of Fred Wades Book Shop, which could become a tourist attraction in its own right

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The floral displays in the Woolshops and throughout the town are to be commended. The use of perennial planting and Wild flower areas is excellent. The many interesting features at Manor Heath Park are a real asset to the community. Albert Park was immaculate and I am sure that with some warm sunshine will look very impressive.

Areas for Improvement

Continue with the use of sustainable planting and the use of seed packets for meadow planting. It will be interesting to see the horticultural aspect of the new shopping plaza in the future.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

All areas were clean tidy and litter free. Shibden Park. The restaurant is impressive with its heat pumps and planted roof. The wild life areas are also noteworthy and it is good that they are supported by many groups and organisations. The work with schools and community in tackling litter.

Areas for Improvement

Showing the judges in more detail how the general recycling is undertaken in the town may be helpful.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

It was good to see the work at Ravenscliffe School and to note the funding support from the Halifax Bank. The education to other schools is a good project. There were many good examples of working with groups from the community, e.g. Friends of Shibden Park, Rotary and Inner Wheel and those employed for specific tasks. The Support from businesses for floral displays. The use of Social Networks

Areas for Improvement

It would have been desirable for the judges to have engaged with more of the community groups involved in the Bloom initiative. Consideration could be given to giving the 15 minute presentation on year round involvement. The hanging basket covers looked good but we would like to have seen more posters and stickers in the shops and around the town.

Category 4: City

Judges Comments

City of York Gold Rose Award Category Winner

Spring Medal Position - Silver Gilt Summer Medal Position - Gold

Introduction

In spring the judges asked to see more areas of York. They were not to be disappointed. In its 800 Celebration year as a city the judges were treated to a whistle stop tour meeting community groups, schools private organisations and individuals all keen to show us what a floral City York has developed into over the years. With numerous community and floral groups linked together this makes York a very strong entry in the competition. Thanks should go to Liz, Russell and David for there efforts in showing us round and putting together such a route finishing at the Mansion House on time and meeting civic dignitaries and all involved to make this a memorable day.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Good floralisation and landscaping throughout the route, Hartrigg Oaks, Northminster Business Park, York Race Course and Museum Gardens to name a few Community involvement throughout, Poppleton Railway Community Nursery, Wheatlands Community Woodland. Schools Lord Deramore's, Low Moor Community allotments. Floralisation within city walls Museum gardens, treasures house Dean Court Hotel and Grey Court Hotel gardens to name just a few of the horticultural features

Areas for Improvement

Reduce route to allow more time at some sites particularly in city centre. Show more of city centre floralisation. Link some areas together rather than visit similar areas twice Wheatland's and Rowntree Park wildlife areas. Avoid hidden gardens. Very nice to see but take time away from route.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

York has an abundance of wildlife projects and insect corridors running into the City. Rawcliffe and Clifton ings, Wheatlands educational Woodland and wildlife area in

Rowntrees park. Saving the Tansy beetle only to be found across the York area. Art around the city cleverly disguised into the landscape but easily accessible with today's technology

Areas for Improvement

York scores highly in this area and shows it has a good environmental responsibility. Shown both in Spring and Summer judging

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Community projects throughout the visit showed very clearly, Work going on throughout the city engaging community groups and young people. Good publicity of bloom competition. People certainly know the judges are coming and good to meet and speak to people involved. A lot of hard work has gone into these community groups and their volunteers. Bloom campaign backed by local businesses benefiting the city.

Areas for Improvement

Difficult not to include all community groups along route. With so much community participation in city it's difficult to see where improvements could be made.

Category 4: City

Judges Comments

Kingston-upon-Hull Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

Our guides, Andrew and Simon continued where they left off at the Spring Judging by introducing us to a wider selection of Community groups, which highlighted the wide range of features and facilities that the City has to offer its residents, businesses and visitors.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The highlight of the summer bedding was the large scale superb displays in the city centre Queens Gardens. The grounds of the Museum Quarter with table tennis in the midst of the parterre garden. The landscaping of several sponsored roundabouts some with colourful seasonal plantings, and the Freetown Way Clock bed. The impressive grounds of East Park with its Green Flag status. The well maintained landscape of 'The Junction' retail development. The Rainbow Garden under the dedicated and enthusiastic guidance of Jeannie. The improvements at Newland Avenue shopping area. Numerous pubs with attractive displays. The various specialist groups, at Pickering Road Community Orchard, Bakersville Allotment Group supported by the NHS Mental Health Unit, and the Greenfingers Allotment group.

Areas for Improvement

The standard of roadside maintenance in some areas has a negative impact for visitors. The poor weather conditions have played their part in the standard of some grass and shrubs areas. The planned improvements to the area directly surrounding the central fountain in Queens Gardens will further enhance this well used City Centre facility. The grounds of some community organisations, particularly churches, could be highlighted, as they appeared to be reasonably well cared for and would add another community group. Encourage more residents to follow the example of some excellent private gardeners.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The involvement of schools in planting trees. The recycling policies and facilities for all sectors of the community in Hull are excellent. The Museum Quarter and other historic features in the City, including the Wicksteeds Water Splash in East Park. The work of those at the Rainbow garden in developing its profile and being awarded a grant for the project 'Befriend a Bug' which is part of their wildlife preservation policy. Jeannie's involvement in advising Mexican and African Groups with their gardens in the City.

Areas for Improvement

There appears to be a large number of underutilized allotment plots throughout several areas of the City.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The growing number of community groups getting involved in the Bloom campaign. The very enthusiastic group of knowledgeable youngsters at Gillshill Primary School, who despite torrential rain insisted we inspected the wide variety of growing spaces in their quadrangle! The involvement by students of the University in the natural areas of the grounds and in having a space in which to grow produce. The Hull in Bloom competition and Awards presentation. The activities and events organised by various groups throughout the year e.g. May Day and Wassail celebrations at the community orchard. Sponsorship of various features in the City.

Areas for Improvement

Though there was promotional literature, there appeared to be little press coverage of the Bloom initiative. Could it be useful to encourage a sponsor/advertiser to devote one advert to the Bloom initiative as part of their contribution to the Bloom effort? Careful planning of the judging route to avoid the not-so attractive areas

Category 5A: Coastal Resort A

Judges Comments

Hornsea Silver Gilt Rose Award

Spring Medal Position - Silver Gilt Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

Once again, Hornsea looked at its very best and the summer sunshine added some extra sparkle to our visit. The judges were impressed with the many floral features around the town and at Hornsea Freeport. Special mention must be made of Christine Sumner who has led the group since its inception 11 years ago. Her spirit and enthusiasm is undaunted. The highlight of the tour was the visit to the Sunken Garden. Beautifully planted, this is what all coastal resorts can aspire to - right plants and right place!

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

It was a pleasure to see that Hornsea had managed to achieve some high quality and very colourful hanging baskets throughout the town all of which appeared to have survived the poor weather. The planting at Hornsea Freeport was to be commended throughout the site and the allotments looked clean, tidy and productive. Without a doubt the highlight of the tour was the Sunken Garden on Morrow Avenue - a riot of colour and a perfect place to sit and unwind. Beautiful and a credit to everyone involved in the maintenance and planting.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to develop links with the school where there is great potential for future growth. Continue to develop the plan for pole baskets on the roundabouts as this will add to the overall floral effect in the town. It is a good idea to continue to develop your plans for increased sustainable planting across the town to save resources, time and money in future years and to add all year round interest.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

There was good evidence of recycling both at the municipal site and at the allotments. There is a great feeling of heritage around Hornsea and plenty of high quality

interpretation as a source of information. There appears to be good management of street furniture and generally everywhere was very clean and tidy. Once again the council's maintenance team must be highly commended for their enthusiasm, initiative and creativity in their work around the town.

Areas for Improvement

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Press coverage in Hornsea is very good and the group are developing this relationship well. Fund raising both by the group and by various organisations across the town is very good. Local business support is to be commended in these difficult economic times.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to seek out new volunteers - we know this is not easy, but it would help the existing volunteers to spread the workload. Continue to develop the Best Kept Gardens Competition as this is a really good way to involve the local community and encourage future volunteers.

Category 5A: Coastal Resort A

Judges Comments

WHITBY Silver Gilt Rose Award Category Winner

Spring Medal Position - Gold Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

The judges were met with great enthusiasm by the 'In Bloom' team in St Mary's Church car park. Colourfully planted barrels were strategically placed near the 199 steps leading down to the Old town with its historic links to seafaring and the exploration of the globe.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Super private residential gardens at Sandside Cottage and Sanders Yard and a special mention should go to Mary Smith at Clarks Yard whose garden is a haven of seclusion. Additionally, the judges would like to commend Joyce Stangoe and the residents of Linskill Square who have worked relentlessly to resolve the anti-social issues surrounding their houses in the heart of the town, by beautifying the area.

The Duke of York pub and the Whitby bookshop had very decorative floral baskets/ planters and there were some excellent, sustainable planted troughs at Hadley's Fish Restaurant. Well-presented grassed areas at Royal Crescent Gardens with very attractively planted borders – a great credit to the maintenance team. It was good to see the creation of the children's flower bed - Diamond Jubilee completion winners at the centre of the gardens.

The floral Clock and Jurassic Garden at Pannet Park were outstanding in design. It was good to revisit the Ruswarp Gardens and the judges particularly enjoyed the Olympic theme that had been created by Mary, Beryl, Julie, Kathy and Gwen. The Chubb Hill roundabout showed an excellent choice of plants and seasonal bedding displays.

Areas for Improvement

Ragwort observed on both sides of steps down to the Old Town should be removed. The judges would have like to have seen the whole of St.Marys Churchyard strimmed, however they did appreciate that there could be a badger set within the area. Again, perhaps some further advice and encouragement could be offered to residents of some of the little courtyards not yet developed within the town centre.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The 'Sunken Gardens' project has changed significantly since the Spring judging visit and has been transformed into a delightful picnic area with a mainly restored stone wall from existing

resources on site. Excellent, landscaping work by Peter Dring and team, and it was good to hear that the Cordyline dot plants displayed in the seasonal bedding are recycled and over wintered for future years.

The judges were pleased to revisit the Heredale Triangle and particularly liked the positioning of the new bench (made by students at the Dalewood Trust) to make use of the historical views of the abbey and the surrounding natural landscape. Once again the judges liked the innovative approach of residents at Linskill Square regarding the use of one large commercial refuse bin instead of using twenty four individual bins which would have a huge impact in terms of resource management. A special mention must go to Geoff Wilson of the Cinder Track for his long standing contribution to improving the biodiversity of the area.

Finally, the judges would like to thank the pupils at Stakesby Community Primary School - Eco-School for all their efforts, despite the visit been cut short by the adverse weather conditions. Thanks must go to Lauren, Isabel, Millie, Emily and William and their class teacher Mrs Wendy Holliday.

Areas for Improvement

Greater awareness of dog fouling and litter issues at the Stakesby Allotments would be beneficial, and evidence of preventative measures should be encouraged. The hard landscaping at the Caedmon Garden may need to be power washed as there were quite a lot of algae and moss build up on the paved areas and the wooden benches could do with a re-stain.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Parkol Marine Engineering, Whitby Seafood's are but two of the many local businesses offering support and sponsorship to the 'In Bloom' campaign. The Stakesby Vale allotments are well-tended, productive and very popular with all 27 allotments tenanted. The newly constructed raised bed project at Stakesby School is a good example of community interaction and a fantastic way of engaging young people in environmental projects.

The judges were pleased to be introduced to Julie Charlton whose contribution to the In Bloom campaign as a volunteer is much appreciated. It was good to see that Pannet Park has achieved a Green Flag Award for the past two years and that Whitby beaches have been recognised with blue Flag for 2012 as well as a Quality Cost Award. The in Bloom group seem to have a good relationship with the local media.

Areas for Improvement

Perhaps greater engagement with more of the Whitby schools and greater assistance with some of their projects. The judges would have like to have seen more of the In Bloom group who help out with projects across the town. It would be good to see the Whitby in Bloom Website more up to date. When searching online the official website took the judges to the 2011 campaign.

Category 5B: Coastal Resort B

Judges Comments

Scarborough in Bloom Silver Gilt Rose Award Category Winner

Spring Medal Position - Silver Gilt Summer Medal Position - Silver Gilt

Introduction

The dedicated team continue to strive to create a well presented entry across the 3 criteria. The weather conditions have hindered progress in certain areas and also had an effect on the grass cutting operations and floral displays, which is understood. The community spirit continues to shine through the overall entry and everyone involved should be proud of the outcome across the spring and summer judging periods. A very commendable entry during abnormal and challenging weather conditions.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Bearing in mind the wet weather conditions, the floral displays are to be complimented. The judges saw some very good residential and community gardens during the tour. Sandybed allotments were well organised and maintained and their composting scheme is too commended. The judges were impressed with the quality of the allotments shown to us and we would like to thank everyone who took the time to meet us. Considering the extremes in the weather the maintenance of Peasholm park was of a good standard and it was clear to see that the partnership between Scarborough council and the Friends of the park is working well. We were delighted to meet the proprietor of Red Lea Hotel and hear how he supports the Friends of South cliff gardens. The judges were impressed with the three circular flower beds designed by the children of Friarage junior school. Seeing all the hard work that all the hoteliers on Columbus Ravine are doing in their gardens was very encouraging they clearly appreciate that flowers and tidy gardens encourages business, keep up the good work.

Areas for Improvement

The allotment holders, to support what is a very well managed re-cycling area, should consider investing in a wood chip machine to deal with prunings, etc, which would benefit other areas of the allotments, e.g. footpaths and mulching material. Wet weather has affected grass cutting schedules/frequencies. Areas of chickweed were evident at the photo call.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

It was interesting talking to John Bradley and hearing about the plans to develop Raincliffe Wood further. Developing an education centre and have full time apprentices working and learning in the woods. The work with Community payback team is really working well. The work they are doing in Peasholm park painting shelters, railing and a new bench are really improving the experience of visiting the park both for visitors and locals. For such a large and busy tourist town there was very little litter and no graffiti, everyone involved should be congratulated. Scarborough Council has to be congratulated on an excellent approach to recycling initiatives. The project in Manor Cemetery unearthing the secret garden is a very exciting yet challenging project. All involved are to be complimented. Local heritage aspects were evident throughout the tour.

Areas for Improvement

Some of the park benches along South cliff were in need of re-staining. Every effort should be made to engage in Raincliffe Woods's project as this will be a truly outstanding development.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Clear evidence of all-year-round planning and involvement by the In Bloom Group and its numerous partners, particularly evidenced by the portfolio. Again we felt that all community groups around the town were going an amazing job in difficult conditions and they should be commended for all their efforts. The wishing well in Peasholm park is a great way of raising funds for Scarborough in Bloom. The publicity mobile unit is a great way of getting your message across and supporting the awareness and fundraising of the group.

Areas for Improvement

You may consider having a Facebook page as a way of getting your message across to a younger age group. Again it seems that the press did not think that Scarborough being in Yorkshire in Bloom was news worthy. This is such a shame as everyone has put in so much effort. Maybe a few more posters could be put up around the town to say when the judging was taking place. Consider using the pagoda on Peasholm island as an exhibition of Scarborough in blooms work and maybe some were to sell your postcards etc.