



2013 Judges Comments

Category 1A: Small Village

Ecclesfield Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

It was lovely to meet so many friendly and committed people at Ecclesfield. We really enjoyed our visit. Ecclesfield is in a charming conservation area with many outstanding historic features with St. Mary's Church and the former Benediction Priory Garden of particular note. There also appears to be a good level of inter community activity with many voluntary groups working well together showing a considerable pride in their local area and environment.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

St. Mary's Church Yard grounds were a credit to those volunteers that maintained it and the planting was of good quality and well maintained. We were especially impressed with the quality of the planters and the group are to be congratulated in raising and splitting their own plants for them. We were pleased about the use of the groups own compost. The use of herbs outside one church doorway was a good idea. There are some lovely private gardens in the village.

Areas for Improvement

Perhaps it would be possible for some of the business car park surrounds could be improved with low maintenance perennials and shrubs. Maybe wildlife attractive shrubs such as buddleia would attract butterflies into the village centre; with spring bulbs and possibly the public park could be developed further in a similar way. Obviously there is lots of business support for the group but perhaps some businesses might be able to install planters or hanging baskets.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

We were pleased to see that there was very little litter, if any, and no graffiti or fly-posting. Obviously the way the group source their plants and use their own compost is really good. We were pleased to hear of the wildlife habitats being created in the churchyard. The churchyard is being well managed for the future. The wildlife meadow is a really good resource. It was clear that the group are

very knowledgeable about the heritage of their village. The memorial fountain planter in the churchyard was very well maintained.

Areas for Improvement

Perhaps it would be a good idea to get help doing a wildlife survey of the lovely woodland and then introduce woodland walks to encourage awareness of local people to this super asset. Possibly to put some insect friendly plants and shrubs into the wildlife meadow area. Maybe it would be possible to work with young people to create log, stick, leaf piles etc. to benefit wildlife in the woodland and meadow. Consideration could be given to more recycling and water harvesting and providing more natural habitats to increase conservation and biodiversity.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The portfolio demonstrated that the in bloom initiative was well supported by the local community groups and there is good support from business, charities and local residents. Clearly there is lots of committed local support for the group and we are confident their efforts will continue far into the future. The group are to be congratulated on their fundraising activities; the cards sold by the group were a really exciting idea. We saw lots of evidence that the community are behind the Bloom initiative.

Areas for Improvement

The judges did not meet any school age people or visit any establishment for younger people which may be useful in future. It was lovely to see that the scouts and guides had supported some of the planting areas. Keep making efforts to get further involved with schools in the area. Keep trying to get local businesses involved in work around the central car park. Keep working on encouraging local businesses to invest in hanging baskets.

Esholt Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

It is difficult to imagine that the small tranquil village of Esholt is less than eight miles from the centre of the City of Bradford. Once used as the location for filming the television series Emmerdale Farm and more recently plain Emmerdale. The recently re decorated Woolpack Pub is still one of the main features of the village

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Many premises displayed hanging baskets giving a superb display of summer colour. The judges were allowed entry to some back gardens in the village which were crammed with summer colour from ground level and also up the walls in some cases. The Woolpack Pub had a magnificent display of hanging baskets contrasted nicely with the newly painted signs. The church is kept open daily to enable anyone to visit as well as holding the normal services throughout the year

Areas for Improvement

Not all the baskets and planters had been re planted for the summer judging. It would be a good thing in the future if all containers could be planted with seasonal colour or more sustainable planting such as perennials which could give all year round colour. Empty and unused baskets could be removed. The introduction of a simple portfolio showing recent events and seasonal plant displays throughout the village would be appreciated.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The local allotment site was well used with many crops nearing harvest. Weed control on the paths and road side was good. There were water butts and piles of logs for insect habitation around the allotment site and in some gardens around the village. The large haulage company just outside the village is well screened off and the yard itself is scrupulously clean. Any building alterations are strictly monitored before work begins.

Areas for Improvement

Obtain professional advice in conjunction with the local authority for the future planting of replacement trees around the edge of the village near existing woodland to replace the mature trees which may be starting to decline in the near future.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

It was a pleasure to walk round the village and look over the walls of many gardens and allotments to see the residents working in their gardens. The residents did not have prior knowledge of the judge's visit but were never the less hard at work. Some local people were around the edge of the playing fields and trimming back the trees and shrubs for the benefit of the community. Some people were helping the older residents with their gardening and exchanging plants with one another. One of the local farmers keeps rare breed animals and encourages schools and groups of young people to visit the farm. The local Bowling Club is host to many village events throughout the year including weddings and "in bloom" fund raising events.

Areas for Improvement

Thought should be given to some of the village trees as they are becoming slightly overgrown and may need the local authority to carry out some light pruning

Ledston Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Ledston is a small but very picturesque village. There are a good number of stunning residential gardens within the village combined with nice floral displays on every corner.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Well maintained floral displays throughout the village, and the standard of residential gardens and public spaces were excellent. Some to note, Manor Park, Manor Barn court yard, and the "Old Village Hall" were particularly impressive. The portfolio provided the judges of evidence of the village throughout the year including colourful spring displays. Boundary features gave a welcoming impression to the entry.

Areas for Improvement

The White Horse pub let down this entry, look to encourage this business to be part of the In Bloom campaign and take ownership of their patch.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The natural habitats at both entrances to the village(wildflower verge & stream), increasing biodiversity.(Gerald's ingenious water system). The general cleanliness across the village. The water pumps and original buildings form part of Ledston's heritage. Good to see the barrel planters along the main road had been renovated.

Areas for Improvement

Consideration be given to revarnishing the seat at the side of the Coronation tree, and either look to repaint the existing bus shelter or remove as was suggested by the group on our visit. There is the potential for interpretation information about the village's heritage.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Good to see the school children were getting involved with the poster competition, and the number of posters in private house windows supporting the village in bloom.

Areas for Improvement

The Judges would have liked to have seen the garden/wildlife area at the school and see how the children are getting involved in learning about their outside world. Keep trying to encourage other villagers and the pub to be more involved with the In Bloom activity's within the village.

Mill Bank Village Gold Rose Award Category Winner

Introduction

Mill Bank is a picturesque village set on a steeply sloping hillside, which is brought together by the wonderful planted pots and containers, preserved cobbled pathways and of course the graveyard, which is a mixture of environmental, art and peacefulness. The judges were entertained by the young

children who showed their knowledge of vegetables in a well rehearsed song performed appropriately in their garden.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The entrance to Mill Bank, with its rough Pennine stone features and its sustainable planting, creates a remarkable first impression, after which the visitor is then dazzled by the range of doorstep pots and containers, as well as by those plants that have found a niche in the walls. Although Mill Bank doesn't have a large business area the effort made by the cafe to be part of the community is commendable.

Areas for Improvement

It really is difficult to suggest improvements when there are so few opportunities for new planting areas, however the concerns about the grass banking at the top of the village needs resolving.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The area round the stream is a peaceful, well thought out green space for all to use, including the wildlife. The graveyard is another haven for residents to enjoy. The effort by the school to engage learners in their environment is very successful, and we were particularly impressed by the 'bug palace'.

Areas for Improvement

Perhaps to establish a clear policy on the use of weed killers and other chemicals.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

A community feel is very evident from the people we met and the work we saw. There is a wide range of fund raising efforts, with many contributing their own particular skills. It was very pleasing to see the contribution from the school.

Areas for Improvement

It is always possible to try and bring new people on board, but many do seem to be fully aware and contribute as individuals without becoming part of the formal Bloom group.

Welwick Village Bronze Rose Award

Introduction

As a first time entry the residents of Welwick and Weeton are to be congratulated on how much they have achieved in a relatively short period of time. Their in bloom initiative has been fostered via their successful Neighbourhood watch Group and has produced a number of floral features within the

village. A sterling effort has clearly been made and the engagement of the residents and in particular the Youth Club members at the Village Hall deserve recognition, well done.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The wildflower verges, particularly at Humber Lane Bank. The striking roadside planters at the entrances to the village, and the durable planters at Weeton village. The developing Village Hall car park borders rescued by the youth club volunteers.

Areas for Improvement

At these early stages it would be appropriate to identify sites where more sustainable plants could be established for all year round display. Explore the opportunity and expand the use of the church grounds for additional plant display areas with the emphasis on low maintenance choices.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The Gunpowder Plotters sculpture is a striking feature that visitors to the village cannot fail to see. Well done for minimising the litter in the village, clearly a community effort which has achieved success.

Areas for Improvement

Additional proposals should be presented to the judges concerning conservation and biodiversity, together with more information about recycling achievements.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Developing an in bloom campaign isn't easy, therefore achieving the levels of community awareness and participation to its current level is to be applauded. The Open Garden Scheme, involvement of the youth club, newsletter and planned proposals for future developments, gives evidence of a progressive group which if sustained will achieve success within the Yorkshire in Bloom competition.

Areas for Improvement

The establishment of a separate Welwick in Bloom group would give greater focus to the initiative, and greater opportunity to seek funding for specific proposals within the campaign. Having more evidence of the villages involvement in the Yorkshire in Bloom campaign displayed in the village would promote the entry in the village and potentially generate more support.

Category 1B: Village

East Morton Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

East Morton is a rural village on the edge of the moors and the very well maintained centre is a real joy to see, and is now the real hub of the village. This Village has made great progress in the last 4 years, due to the setting up of the "In Bloom Group", and the village pub having new owners. There were good floral displays and much evidence of a thriving community based around the pub, and the Institute with the Village Society providing support for many of organisations.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The village green, with the waterwheel, mixed planting, and the two wheelbarrows created an impressive display. The Busfeild Arms looked stunning with its' vast array of planters and hanging baskets, which were maintained to a very high standard. The allotments were of a high standard and it was good to hear that many of the plants for MIB are raised in the poly tunnel. The planting and maintenance of the area around the public toilets. The flowerbed at the entrance made a good impression, together with some good residential gardens seen on route.

Areas for Improvement

It is good to see wild flower areas being developed but it might also be worth considering using other insect friendly sustainable planting in the future. Interpretation and information boards at strategic projects will enhance the work carried out. More attention to quantity of planting/planters or lamppost baskets throughout the village particularly the main street to create the sense of floral continuity. Continue with bulb planting.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The "Rec" as part of the village heritage was well looked after and appeared to be free of litter and dog fouling. The recognition of the past in having the second largest waterwheel is well presented in the waterwheel on the green, and in the logo. The street furniture and most areas were clean and well cared for. The community orchard being developed by East Morton is an excellent project.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to develop areas for wild life and the protection of the environment and to raise awareness. A lot has been done to improve the village but there are still areas to be tackled which we are sure the group are aware of.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

There is evidence that many groups are supporting Morton in Bloom and that they are working together. The joint working with the Toddler Group and the Rainbows is a good example of ensuring the future and working with young people. Much of what has been achieved can be attributed to

support from the villagers who regularly do what they can to litter pick, water and weed where it is needed.

Areas for Improvement

The visit to the school was interesting and it was good to hear and see the results of the children's efforts. We note that there is a new gardener who has plans for the future so hopefully the school once again feel that they can enter YIB in their own right. Funding is always required to improve an area and perhaps it would be good to look for additional monies, Sponsorship by businesses, residents who have businesses outside the village or by residents themselves can be quite rewarding and should also lead to further publicity and Promotion of "In Bloom" The close co-operation with other groups is essential but there can be also be benefits of working as an independent organisation. It would have been good to have met more people from other organisations during the tour.

Grassington Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Grassington is a very attractive Dales village, set in the National Park. It is, therefore, subject to the rules and restrictions laid down by the National Park. The village is set on the steep hillside above the river Wharfe. It consists of a mass of narrow streets and alley ways, linking beautiful cottage gardens, public houses and shops. The shopkeepers, publicans and householders all do their best to contribute to making the village attractive, with displays of hanging baskets and planters.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The village was awash with colour and vibrant planting schemes. Shops, hotels and private houses alike were involved in the excellent display and from the co-ordination of colour schemes it was evident that there had been a great deal of co-operation and enthusiasm in the planning stages.

Areas for Improvement

Keep on working together, it obviously achieves successful results!

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Throughout their visit the judges were aware of the achievements of a group of people working together who were proud of their village and keen to produce a picturesque and enjoyable area for visitors and inhabitants alike. The green waste storage and composting areas were particularly well managed.

Areas for Improvement

The wild life meadow requires a re-think and perhaps some advice from the National Park would be useful. Wild life meadows in limestone areas require a great deal of thought and preparation in order to achieve the correct balance. Pamphlets with advice are available from the National Park, but I would also suggest glancing through the book "A year in the life of an English meadow "by Andy Garnett and

Polly Devlin. It may also be useful to contact the Stepping Stones group in Skipton who may be prepared to help with both advice and labour.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Community participation and communication is apparent throughout the village and everyone who is able seems prepared to offer some support. It was good to hear that the youth are involved and that the Brownies of Grassington and Threshfield participated in the planting. What a splendid achievement! The "Grassington in Bloom" leaflet also explains that funding is well organised.

Areas for Improvement

Grassington is a very popular tourist destination as well as an attractive place to live and work. The judges appreciate all the hard work and organisation that goes into making such an attractive and enjoyable place to live and visit. Rather than suggest any particular areas for improvement, we would rather encourage everyone in the "in Bloom" group to keep up the good work and to maintain a lovely area for the future.

Kirkby Malzeard Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

A true delight to visit again with the 'in bloomers' warmth and shared commitment. A very high standard is maintained everywhere in the quaint and enchanting village environment. The update at the Coronation Diamond Jubilee Gardens enhances the already immaculate magnificent playing fields and sports pavilion.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The whole communities combined efforts have really come together to produce this year's outstanding 'In Bloom' entry. Congratulations to everyone.

Areas for Improvement

The already in hand tasteful village entrance display sign will be a great enhancement and possibly in time at both ends of the main street.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Ownership and pride abounds everywhere. The in Bloom group is to be congratulated on tackling sensitive areas of involvement.

Areas for Improvement

For judging day remove or replace damaged street furniture. Attention to grass edging, detail weeding and grass cutting collection. The cleaning of all street signs. Once all this done and top awards are achievable.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Not being disenchanted and discouraged by the earlier unseasonable weather conditions, the whole communities' efforts and help to Kirkby Malzeard in Bloom shows true dedication, pride and support. Sharing the tour in turn with all the in bloom members was very pleasurable and interesting.

Areas for Improvement

Attention to detail and fine tuning along with persistent publicity and press coverage at every opportunity.

Newmillerdam Gold Rose Award

Introduction

It was a pleasure to visit Newmillerdam on such a lovely sunny day. We were really impressed by the commitment of local people and by the way local groups come together for the benefit of all. The pride that everyone takes in the village was clear and they are doing an impressive job in generating support for the initiative. The initiative and generosity shown by residents in providing planting and other features is really lovely.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The installation at the village gateway had lots of impact and was clearly sustainable. The use of grasses fitted in well with the rural surroundings. Using mulch to conserve moisture is a good idea. The arboretum is outstanding and the use of QR codes to make tree identification easy is an exciting innovation. The residents are impressively generous in donating planting, features and indeed their own time to improve community areas. The general standard of residential gardening is high. Plants in communal areas were very healthy and appropriate to the area. There are not many business premises in the village but local pubs and cafes are showing pleasing support. The use of bright geraniums to emphasise local well is really eye-catching. The lovely Village Green area is being managed in a way which will improve and safeguard it far into the future.

Areas for Improvement

Continue working on beds in the car park area to develop colourful and sustainable planting. Continue with the proposed development of the second village gateway installation. Continue with the planned installation of a handrail on the arboretum steps. The idea of installing trellis planting on the toilet block at the entrance to the country park is a good idea.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

We were impressed by the wildlife surveys which the group has had carried out. The Village Green, Arboretum and Country Park areas are all bursting with wildlife and are being managed in a way which means they will only be better in the future. Mention must be made of the wonderful work of the

knowledgeable Roger Parkinson of the Tree Wardens Volunteer Group. The area has a wonderful heritage and the group are working hard to enhance it. The efforts the groups make to control litter and dog fouling are really impressive.

Areas for Improvement

Perhaps it would be a good idea to continue installing interpretation boards in all areas to make visitors aware of all the wildlife in different areas. Wherever possible consider installing appropriate water butts. Perhaps some sort of signage near the old mill building would make visitors more aware of its importance. Avoiding the use of chemical sprays where possible is good, keep it up. Continue with the idea of developing the lodge building for community use.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The group is very well managed and the cooperation with other local groups will clearly safeguard its future. There exciting plans for future projects which we are sure will come into being. The local community is aware of the groups working and giving tremendous support. Work is being carried out with the local schools and other young people. The group are well supported by local businesses. There are plenty of community events which will make people aware of the group's activities. Innovative ways have been found to secure funding, including the production of a calendar.

Areas for Improvement

Perhaps place copies of the group portfolio in local pubs and cafe's for visitors to enjoy. Consider forming links with some of the groups working with other local nature reserves around Wakefield. Keep building on work with the local schools.

Spofforth Gold Rose Award

Introduction

A comprehensive well illustrated brochure, plus an excellent descriptive Judges Itinerary, only reinforced the professionalism of this entry. Blessed with sunshine throughout, a large welcome banner at the Village Hall and several of the dedicated In Bloom committee, greeted the judges. Cleanliness showed from the outset, with a total absence of litter and dog-fouling. All the many gutters and walls were free from weeds and grass. Great strides are still being taken to switch to sustainable planting, and the use of peat-free compost and water retaining gel underline their Environmental Responsibility. At most stops throughout the tour, members of the In Bloom team escorted the judges, to give further explanation, to detail future plans and to answer questions. The all too short visit to the Church of England Primary School, and to meet children from the gardening club was memorable. Ginny Greenholes, as an environmental resource and play scheme, never fails to impress, and an explanatory walking tour only highlights Spofforth's commitment to the protection of wildlife reinforced by Interpretation Boards. The Millennium Garden, the Manor Garth Corner Border, and the private gardens seen, are a credit, as are the other excellent features. What an asset too, is the historic castle and its well maintained grounds, being used on Judging Day by some 600 students from nearby schools. The long list of Spofforth in Bloom sponsors, most certainly get value for their generosity. The judges hope they approve of a new proposed village sign.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Spofforth has ably presented a noteworthy summer colour scheme of red, white and orange for the many floral features along the judges' route. Credit is due to all the 'In Bloom' volunteers who have helped to nurture and maintain such a high standard throughout. The private gardens seen in passing along the route are equally to be commended

Areas for Improvement

Whilst there are no obvious areas for improvement, the laying of cabling around the Village Hall with all associated disruption, must have been of concern for the whole village in their preparation for Judging Day.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Cleanliness and orderliness prevailed. Litter, dog-fouling and graffiti were non-existent. Residents pride themselves on water conservation and composting, and Spofforth continues to switch to sustainable planting. An annual mulch of composted bark is given to flower beds. Ginny Greenholes never fails to impress, continuing to develop as an environment resource, with an emphasis on furthering a naturalistic play project for all the public.

Areas for Improvement

The recognition of Environmental Responsibility is very obvious, and in addition to the new Interpretation board in Ginny Greenholes, more educational boards are being considered to better enhance such responsibility.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Throughout the itinerary, community participation is highly visible, with members and others only too willing to meet the judges and offer explanation, and any clarification. From the onset, the tour of Spofforth was carried out in both a friendly and a professional manner.

Areas for Improvement

To find areas for improvement would be difficult. The 5 sections in Community Participation are dealt with. Perhaps, local business support might be more visible.

Upper Hopton Gold Rose Award Category Winner

Introduction

Upper Hopton is a fairly small village near Mirfield, with some very attractive housing and much potential, which the local community are working hard to achieve. The group has been in existence for

about 10 years and each year has a development programme which includes environmental studies and improvements, community involvement and floral enhancements.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Very good floral achievement around Croft House, the main community hub, and also in other areas, all using a golden theme, reflecting on the community gaining Gold in 2012. Elmwood Close, originally a neighbourhood entry was very good, as was the garden on the site of an old Congregational Church. 32 new double skinned barrels have replaced old wooden ones. Large numbers of daffodils have been planted in several areas around the village. The In Bloom group promote a garden trail.

Areas for Improvement

Plans for a community orchard are well advanced and we look forward to hearing that planting has been achieved.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

They grow many of their own plants from seeds in the greenhouses of their members; make their own compost, and collecting rainwater in large butts. New church seats have been made from old pews. Each year environmental data is collected for Plantlife - there is a good range of wildflowers throughout the village which they are keen to retain. The village is kept very clean and recycling is taken very seriously.

Areas for Improvement

Complete the compost area project.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The working group now numbers 15, with extra people doing 'backroom' jobs or looking after specified areas or projects. The garden trail supports the work. Two people have given over 5,000 daffodils for planting in the community areas. The group is active throughout the year, and also has regular formal meetings.

Areas for Improvement

Although we feel sure everyone in Upper Hopton is well aware of the benefits of the Yorkshire in Bloom campaign, it may be useful to spread the good news of what is achieved by items in the media and in places where visitors gather.

Category 1C: Large Village

Bramham Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

This is a very good entry. On a sunny day, the welcome to the judges was equally warm. Children's YIB posters are everywhere. The committee of 4, and all the many enthusiastic and dedicated gardeners who greeted the judges, are to be congratulated. The standard and variety of all the floral features along the judging route were to a high standard. Of great interest was the time spent at All Saints Church and the Anglo Saxon churchyard, where the grass is cut but once a year, helping to conserve both flora and fauna. Whilst nothing should be especially singled out, the Community Garden, Bowcliffe Corner and Cattle Ramp among many others, were worthy of mention. The enthusiasm of children and staff during the all too brief visit to the Primary School was infectious, as was their understanding and acknowledgement of environmental issues. Congratulations are also due for a very descriptive and informative brochure, particularly the listing of sponsors and the many other specific gardeners. The belief is that development in the village is to a well accepted level, and that the future will be devoted to concentrating on what has already been established. Villagers greeted the judges at the cenotaph, as did those at the OAP shelter, with its nearby newly painted road mileage stone. Note was recorded of the distinctive village approach signs, and indeed of all other signage. Grass cutting was to a high standard throughout. The absence of litter and dog fouling was very evident. Much hard work has achieved an excellent result.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Bramham's policy of specific gardeners to take responsibility for particular features - for the planting and maintenance, has certainly paid off. This high standard of care is clearly evident throughout, with the many excellent floral displays seen on the judges' tour. Approaches to Bramham from all directions were especially attractive with good signage and well-tended beds. Congratulations to those who take care of Bowcliffe Corner and the Wetherby Road approaches. The very many excellent floral features, seen in the Square and Bridge area, only reinforce the number of dedicated gardeners and volunteers who keep Bramham so attractive, the introduction of shrubs into certain beds can only enhance sustainability.

Areas for Improvement

Whilst there may appear little change over the last year, Bramham should be applauded for recognising that for the size and character of the village, the number of displays and features are sufficient.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Litter and dog-fouling were non-existent. Cleanliness of gutters and walls was to a high standard. The judges enjoyed the all too brief visit to All Saints' Church and the Anglo Saxon churchyard, and the conservation of flora and fauna resulting from a once a year grass cutting. The small wildlife area close to the OAP shelter was imaginative and well cared for.

Areas for Improvement

Though there may be some parts of the village that warrant improvement, the aim is to further enhance the village, and to tackle any environmental issues as they arise.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The children's' posters were everywhere, and were a constant reminder of the schoolchildren's' involvement in the In Bloom initiative. This was further underlined by an excellent tour of the Primary School, and the enthusiasm and knowledge of the children gained from maintaining their own Bramham in Bloom bed, and from being in the 'Little Seedlings Gardening Club'. The judges had many instances to meet gardeners and volunteers throughout the tour. Villagers have the luxury of a well thought out and designed Community Garden. Community Involvement has rewarded those who have made such a contribution to this high standard entry.

Areas for Improvement

The judges saw little room for improvement during their tour, but certainly believe the committee of 4 and many other volunteers will have other projects to deal with.

Cayton Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Cayton in Bloom was established 12 years ago and whilst there have been changes in who leads the team, the passion and commitment has not changed; there appears to have been a natural transition. This team has continued despite the well-publicised vandalism which destroyed all of its beds three years ago, and it is a great tribute to the group that they have not only come back from this vandalism, they have done so in a commendable way. The village is a credit to the team and all its residents who have played as much a part in the rebuilding as the In Bloom team has.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Colour co-ordination of plants with the Parish Council gives a seamless display throughout the village. The areas that have been replanted due to the poisoning are now becoming well established and clearly have been well thought out and looked after with great care and attention. It was good to see the use of annuals to fill small gaps in the bedding areas.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to split and fill the very few gaps left in your bedding areas.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

We were impressed to hear how the team had worked with Friends of the Earth in identifying bee friendly plants. There are many areas in Cayton that could be mentioned in this section, the bird garden and its well disguised composting area, the number of bird and bat boxes around the village, the butterfly and bee friendly planting that has taken place and Killerby Wood which is an impressive area, with the sponsorship of trees and the reuse of the sycamore stumps to make tables, log piles, bird and bat boxes along with the well thought out planting and maintenance of the hedgerow was impressive. The Caravan park was extremely impressive and a credit to the owners and the creator of the park 25 years ago.

Areas for Improvement

We understand that storage of plants which can be reused is limited, is it worth asking residents if they can offer a small amount of space, eg in their greenhouses, for your use?

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Cayton in Bloom has clearly demonstrated that even with a change in the team roles, the In Bloom initiative continues and thrives. The close working partnership with the Parish Council works really well, the fund raising events are innovative and 'fun' (though we would expect hard work!) but well appreciated. It was lovely to see and meet young Aaron who had won this year's competition to create a bed in the village.

Areas for Improvement

Try to encourage more young people to become involved with the In Bloom initiative, we understand this is hard to do but you have already made great strides towards this goal.

Great & Little Preston Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

An attractive village, a few miles from the centre of Leeds, with a history of mining, including open cast, now much restored as a nature reserve with 5 lakes. The groups meet in a closed church, which is now the Village Hall, which is adjacent to some grass land which they are planting up with trees, and developing a 'human sun dial'. Adjacent to these is an extensive wood where they have recently constructed a long pathway through it, and covered it with wood chippings.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The group have worked hard in planting daffodils, and now have a detailed map of where they are, and where more are needed. Quite a number of tubs and flower beds, all being well cared for, as are some of the grass verges which are maintained by local people. 40 hanging baskets are provided by the

Leeds Council, and much appreciated. Very good house gardens at Old Hall, Little Preston where there are static homes. Land around small war memorial carefully planted.

Areas for Improvement

Concentrate on consolidating planting in grounds of Village Hall, and appropriate planting on approach to wood entrance.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

There is a village litter pick twice a year which is well supported. The woodland walk is a great asset, and they are to be commended for the work that has obviously been needed. The newly completed, although temporarily closed, nature reserve, with its 5 lakes all formed as restoration from open cast mining is to be applauded.

Areas for Improvement

There is one property, with we understand an absent owner who lives in France, next to the village hall site, which is semi-derelict and is letting the site down! It has graffiti on it and is an eyesore.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The Committee is in the process of producing a calendar and heritage tea towel to raise funds. They are planning a 'human sun dial' - the only other one is in Australia. The woodland path had been a community effort. Cricket ground looked very well cared for.

Areas for Improvement

Reform links with the local school now that a new Head has been appointed.

Grenoside

Introduction

Grenoside is a village high on the hills south west of Sheffield with panoramic views north as far as Hull. It has a mixed community of urban and rural life contained within it. The group are obviously very committed to the village and very knowledgeable about its history and heritage. Their pride in the village was obvious to see.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

It was pleasing to see the results of the hard work of Grenoside Grange housing development. The judges were particularly impressed by the work of the volunteers and the high standards of maintenance at the war memorial. It was noted that the community garden Grenoside Green above the school was using sustainable planting and that recycling was taking place with water harvesting and composting.

Areas for Improvement

It would have been useful for the judges to have had the opportunity to have met some younger people of school age that had been involved with the in bloom initiative. Whilst Grange Hospital was well maintained the addition of fragrant planting and seating areas may have been appreciated by the patients, particularly in the courtyard area. Perhaps planting might be developed around the hospital entrances. Consider introducing seating in the orchard area so that visitors and patients can enjoy the blossom and fruit.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The village was litter free and no graffiti fly posting or vandalism was noted. The local authority undertakes waste separation collection from businesses and households and Grenoside green is recycling water and composting. We were thrilled to see that the last bit of ancient pasture is being protected on Grenoside Green. The project being undertaken at the Reading Room will greatly benefit the village. We were pleased to see the art work around the school and at Grenoside Green.

Areas for Improvement

Some of the pavements and hard areas could have benefited from weed removal. Consideration could be given to increasing the volume of composting, water harvesting and developing areas to encourage biodiversity. Perhaps wildlife shrubs could be planted in areas such as Grenoside Green. Perhaps schoolchildren could become more involved with creating wildlife habitats, such as leaf, stick and log piles. Continue with the idea of creating a Georgian garden for the Reading Room.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The judging day was displayed on the village's notice boards and a number of articles had appeared in the local press. We were impressed by all the activities being enjoyed year round. We were pleased that the school is being involved with group activities. The community are very much behind the Reading Room project.

Areas for Improvement

It was not clear if a newsletter was published and distributed but if not then may be consideration could be given to publishing one. Keep trying to involve all areas of the community in the group's work. Keep working with the school.

Hook Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The lovely village of Hook sits comfortably on the banks of the River Ouse near Goole. A small band of dedicated "bloomers" assisted by many other villagers are doing a fabulous job of looking after their surroundings. The residents are rightly proud of their heritage and the natural and built environment

around Hook. Without a doubt, and with a little polish, this village has tremendous potential to reach the highest level of the In Bloom competition.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The judges were shown some excellent residential gardens of all shapes and sizes throughout the village. Water Lane was particularly nice to see. Although small, the allotment site looks well maintained and very productive. The planting at the Sotheron Arms was of very high quality. Although the judges were unable to view the village in spring plenty of evidence was provided of seasonal displays of daffodils.

Areas for Improvement

The judges were interested to hear about plans for Jubilee Gardens and look forward to seeing new roses planted in autumn and the picnic bench installed.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The riverbank walk along the banks of the Ouse is a delight and a jewel in the village. The heritage of the village has been well documented in print and also practically with the siting of a bench at the point of the original ferry crossing on the river bank.

Areas for Improvement

Could the Bloom group work with appropriate people to survey the habitats and wildlife to be found on the riverbank foreshore?

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

It was a great achievement for a relatively small group to raise over £700 at the Open Garden event attracting over 200 visitors to 14 gardens. Congratulations to the Life Style girls who are working in the village and obviously making a very good impression in many projects including garden maintenance for those unable to garden for themselves. The produce stall in the village is an excellent way of fund raising for the group and the judges particularly liked the herb barrel from which villagers are encouraged to help themselves. Could this idea be replicated across the village following an Incredible Edible theme?

Areas for Improvement

Hook in Bloom are working closely with other community groups to look after this beautiful village. You are making great strides forward and with a little attention to detail and some polish you have the ability to reach the top level in Yorkshire in Bloom.

Hutton Cranswick Gold Rose Award

Introduction

An excellent entry and from the moment we approached Hutton Cranswick we knew that we were in 'In Bloom' territory. Our welcome from those involved in Hutton Cranswick In Bloom was as warm as the day itself. Thank you to all those involved who demonstrated their commitment to their community and the ethos of In Bloom. This is a stunning village with beautiful floral displays, green open spaces and very colourful, clean and tidy residential and public areas. A well thought out route which enabled us to meet many members of the community who work on In Bloom. It was obvious that there is great pride within the village and support from all sections of the community including 'Cranswick the Crane'. We congratulate you all on your efforts.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

A very high standard of horticultural achievement and the floral planting impact following the elements theme was excellent. The mix of planting with an ongoing commitment to sustainable planting was good and is to be encouraged further in terms of sustainability. The variety of historic planters with their varied planting, including edible, and wildlife attractive planting were excellently maintained and placed in appropriate positions throughout the village. The village green and pond area was very attractive and obviously well used and appreciated by the community. The wildlife corridor planting by the church was impressive and is doing its job attracting the bees. The Centenary Wood is an asset to the area and wildlife. Anyone visiting and arriving at the station could not fail to be impressed at the displays and beds there. The management, use and scale of your allotments are impressive.

Areas for Improvement

The very high standard of horticultural achievement could be enhanced by inclusion in the route of the industrial business area both in terms of horticultural achievement together with environmental responsibility by the businesses.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

There is a very high standard of environmental responsibility within Hutton Cranswick with excellent work going on throughout the village to encourage wildlife and enhance and improve natural habitats. The village is well maintained with an absence of any litter, graffiti etc. Street furniture and signage is good and enhance by the floral displays. Local heritage is acknowledged by the village boards, agricultural architecture, displays of tractors, the Way of the Roses cycle route displays and the 'recycled' train structure at the railway.

Areas for Improvement

We would echo previous judges' comments about the production of a village leaflet/trail, and we understand that one is being considered. Given the number of visitors to the village, especially cyclists, this would assist them, highlight local heritage and be an aid to boost local economy and businesses. Additional information for the judges about resource management such as recycling would benefit the entry.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Your entry clearly demonstrates that community participation is at the heart of Hutton Cranswick and goes from strength to strength. After 20+ years you clearly know what you want, where you are going and take to heart and put into practice suggestions that strengthen your entry and village. Support from the community is impressive and you play to everyone's strength. Well Done.

Areas for Improvement

There is very little we can add, however some additional information as to the engagement with the school and young people (we appreciate it was the end of term), – and succession planning – getting younger members/new members of the community engaged in In Bloom activities would be the icing on the cake so to speak.

Micklefield Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Micklefield has a lot to offer, both in its heritage and landscape. Its small but dedicated In Bloom group are making a big difference which in turn is inspiring the whole village. Things are really starting to bloom in Micklefield !

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The seasonal bedding displays round the boundary stones. The barrel planters and hanging baskets throughout the route The Planters outside Churchville House Community Centre, and the permanent planted island bed outside the bungalows maintained by Jackie & Frank was full of colour. Many gardens along the route were well maintained, Alan & Janet's gardens to name a few. The colourful planting schemes at heritage sites such as the village pump, milestone, war memorial and beds around the interpretation board at Vandicourt Quarry. The herbaceous & shrub border along the path to the school provides an attractive walk way, throughout the year. The Sedum "Great North Road" sign and perennial border. The new "Garden Village" stone and bus stop area.

Areas for Improvement

Continue with the sustainable planting schemes on St. Marys walk, this mix of seasonal and permanent planting has lifted this area. Maybe consider a small tree, flowering cherry or Sorbus to give height and interest across the seasons. Potential to look at using climbing plants along the trellis in the planter outside the takeaway to help disguise the area behind. The Village pump area would have benefitted from the surrounding hedge being trimmed back a little. Consider improvements to the corner plot of senecio at Churchville House, re-stain knee rail and maybe look to replant the old shrub bed.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The Living Churchyard the mix of mature trees and grassland increasing wildlife opportunities within the heart of the village. The composting facilities at the church. The SSSI at Vandicourt quarry, fantastic natural resource for education. The judges were impressed by Terry and his persistent efforts in keeping the village litter free. The Village was generally litter free and clean

Areas for Improvement

The churchyard has some good areas of natural habitat both for flora and fauna, every effort should be made to sustain this element and maybe look to refresh the interpretation /information boards to support the scheme. Little area of graffiti on the bus shelter. The railings outside the school entrance are in need of repainting.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The judges were impressed by the banners promoting "In bloom" and the posters displayed throughout the route. The work by the community payback scheme has been an invaluable help to the entry. Members of the community helping to maintain small pockets of planting across the area such as The Mews beds, Carole at Jerry's planter and Michael at Churchfield Ave planter. The Support of Local Ward Members and Parish council both on judging day and throughout the year.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to recruit more volunteers to help the group. Encourage the School to play an active part in looking after the border along the school footpath and planter outside the gates. It would have been nice to meet some of the children involved in the entry.

Nafferton Gold Rose Award

Introduction

A very impressive entry by the well organised and highly motivated Nafferton in Bloom team which has recently been re-invigorated with "new blood". Excellent support has been achieved from a substantial number of organisations representing public, voluntary and private sectors. Despite digging up what at the time was thought to be an unexploded WWII bomb, the Group have successfully achieved a wide range of floral displays of excellent quality, including a pleasing mix of annual bedding and sustainable planting providing a range of colour and texture, throughout the village.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The excellent mixed floral displays throughout the village, particularly the railing racks at the Primary School, Jubilee Gardens and the bus shelter on Driffield Road. The quality of the plant material and attention to detail to achieve high standards of maintenance by each of the In Bloom geographical teams all working to an agreed Management Plan. The high standards achieved in almost all

residential gardens particularly Hall Close, Parsonage Close, and Beech Grove and the container plantings associated with the public houses, particularly The Kings Head, and other business sites. The variety of plantings at the gateways to the village ranging from formal bedding, sustainable shrub and herbaceous plantings to wild-life friendly plants. The acquisition, via the Parish Council, of the new water bowser and the herculean efforts of Colin and Christine to hand collect water from the Sheepwash area of the beck, when the bowser tractor driver was indisposed.

Areas for Improvement

Consider the inclusion of an introductory presentation and visual display given by members of the In Bloom team at the commencement or end of judging. Continue to maintain the standards achieved throughout the village and at the important gateways to the village. Maintain efforts to achieve increased maintenance of some grassed areas by the local authority.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The considerable efforts to encourage and introduce wildflower areas particularly in the Nafferton Under Fives garden, at the school, on the new site on Station Road by the station, which also includes helpful information, and on the church bank. The commencement of the joint project with the Parish Council and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to introduce waterside plants at the Mere to provide a habitat for insects and other wildlife. The contribution being made to the Guides and Parish Council to establish a Heritage Trail and the practical use being made of the historic Sheepwash. The overall cleanliness of the village, which together with the many horticultural and environmental projects being undertaken and planned and the promotion of local "Wild Spaces" and rural footpaths, clearly demonstrates local pride in the working rural village.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to emphasise and promote the importance of the rural nature of the village's natural environment. The possible research and placing of interpretation boards explaining the history of the mere and other areas of the village. The possible inclusion of more sculpture or art in borders or beds around the village. The use of Banners around the village promoting Nafferton in Bloom.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The clear evidence of an on-going programme of improvements throughout the village. Similarly with respect to the sustainability of the In Bloom initiative through the strength of resolve and determination shown by the re-vitalised and well organised In Bloom team and its many associated support organisations. Wide community support by partner organisations, local groups and individuals clearly evidenced. The very close engagement with the village school and Under Fives Group and the diverse horticultural and environmental work of the toddlers, pupils and staff that will undoubtedly influence the children's outlook on life. The generation of awareness of the In Bloom's activities through the village website, newsletter, press articles and the three annual In Bloom competitions is to be highly commended. The numerous fundraising activities and other funding opportunities from local charities and grant-making bodies and in kind support drawn from Network Rail, the District Council and other bodies.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to support and encourage village improvements and also to maintain efforts to attract new participants in the In Bloom teams. The three annual Garden Competitions are very good tools to achieve this. The possible use of social media like Facebook and Twitter to promote the work of the group and to get across your message.

Ripponden Silver Rose Award

Introduction

Ripponden is a small industrial town which nestles in valley topography. It has several schools, residential and commercial areas as well as busy roads which cut through the town centre linking Yorkshire and Lancashire through the Pennine hills. The Jubilee Gardens is starting to be the green centre of the town with a new archway; proposed railings and attractive well cared for perennial planting on a steep site.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Some of the containers by the bus turn round showed a very individual touch of design and colour, as did the perennial plantings above the Jubilee Gardens, which showed the hard work of the In Bloom group, who use this area to share plants.

Areas for Improvement

The planting surrounding the car park, although clear of weeds needs some renovation to introduce more species to fill the gaps where plants have died and perhaps to reduce the size of those that remain.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The introduction of compost bins for the use of everyone is good practice. It is good to see the involvement of Calderdale Council in the maintenance of green areas, and cleansing activities. Obviously there is also co-operation between the Parish Council and the Bloom group, all of which is good to see.

Areas for Improvement

The installation of the Jubilee Arch to the entrance of the garden is a very positive addition, and it is hoped the proposed new hand rails can be achieved during the next year. The redesign of the War Memorial Gardens will need some careful thought due to the sloping nature of the site and the existing mature trees.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The enthusiasm and knowledge of the schoolchildren was good to see, and it would be helpful if more parental/friends could be involved, perhaps in creating raised beds which the children would find more rewarding to use, and then grow a wider range of plants, ones which mature before the children break up for the summer, or if they can be maintained during the holidays, plants which mature in early September.

Areas for Improvement

While there is evidence of support from the community the judges would have liked to meet more of those involved so they could discuss with them what they are achieving. The portfolio would be improved by annotating the pictures, as they form part of the history of Ripponden, and the portfolios should be lodged in a local library for future public reference.

Scholes Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Scholes is a large, linear village consisting of some 1,000 properties. The hugely enthusiastic and active Scholes in Bloom group, along with their plentiful supporters, should be proud of their many achievements. We were fortunate to visit the village at 'scarecrow time' when many interesting and creative characters are added to gardens, displays and public areas. Well done to everyone who helped to give this very unique and delightfully humorous aspect to the village. The excellent portfolio gave us a good insight into the background of the village and group and how 'in Bloom' permeates the life of Scholes throughout the year. That this small community has taken In Bloom to heart was demonstrated by the many attractive private gardens and the wealth of support and enthusiasm from the local residents, scout group and primary school. Well done Scholes.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

We were very impressed by the superb hanging baskets all along Main Street they were extremely colourful with a simple but striking and very effective choice of plants. The sports club area where the Bowling Green was immaculate and the sustainable flower beds surrounding the car park were delightful, congratulations to the volunteers who created and maintain the area. We saw a multitude of well maintained and colourful residential gardens. The geranium beds were lovely and the Japanese garden exceptionally well done. Well done for the successes that you have achieved with the flower beds that are in challenging positions i.e. under overhanging trees. Keep up the good work.

Areas for Improvement

A good start has been made at the small shopping site and the memorial clock is a nice feature, consider building on the work started with further improvements and encouraging the businesses to become more involved. It may be useful to review all of the flower beds that you have created around the village. Identifying sites where more sustainable planting could be introduced would allow some of

the floral beds to be further developed. We would have liked to visit the allotments site and to have stopped at more of the planted areas to allow viewing.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The work at both the school and the scouts hut on the creation of wildlife areas, the respect for natural habitats and good composting practices was noteworthy. Signage was extremely good from the very attractive village signs to the extremely well designed hanging baskets that incorporate a dedication/sponsorship plaque. Sponsorship signs as a whole were used to good effect. We thought that the seating around the coronation tree was also very well designed, maximising the seating space and creating a pleasant place to sit and chat. Local environmental quality was first rate, not a scrap of litter, a trace of graffiti or any sign of dog fouling in sight.

Areas for Improvement

We would like to have heard more about recycling practices and sites and about household recycling. You have already discovered the origins of the name of the village; consider building on this by researching more about the history of the village. This could potentially be incorporated into the themes for the beds or perhaps to create art in the landscape features.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Your projects and events, both for fun and for fundraising, are clearly well supported. The enthusiasm of the people that we met who open their gardens and the numbers who attend was impressive, the many scarecrows add a delightful extra dimension to the village. The newsletter is good, just the right length and readable with a nice mix of progress reports, achievements and event notification. We also liked the notice board the decorative features were a nice touch. We felt that you had done exceptionally well with community support for Scholes in Bloom with the school and the scouts fully engaged and the many, many residents contributing in such a variety of ways.

Areas for Improvement

Look at ways to capitalise on your lovely projects, could you attract new members and support through them? Ideas might include; displays of your work at events and coffee mornings, a more extensive use of the Scholes in Bloom logo, perhaps a 'Young in Bloom' club to support the next generation of Bloomers. We would have found it very useful to have an itinerary for our visit and to have seen a small display or portfolio of some of the materials mentioned in your portfolio e.g. your calendar, posters from the competitions etc. Consider adopting one of the children's poster designs or the competition flower bed design as a trademark poster for the year, this can be done relatively inexpensively through scanning and colour copying and children are always thrilled to have their work reproduced.

Shadwell Gold Rose Award Category Winner

Introduction

The floral colour from the blooms in the planting displays at the village marker stone was magnificent in the warm summer sunshine. The village had numerous floral displays at every location including barrier baskets on the corner by the village hall to the traditional hanging baskets throughout the main street of the village. The enthusiastic in Bloom Group had made some very impressive improvements to the quality of the green space within the village especially in front of the School clearing and levelling to form a floral planting and The Garden of Remembrance in St Pauls Churchyard. The private gardens throughout the village added to the overall effect.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Planting and improvements to the road side verge outside the village Hall to counter road salt contamination. The magnificent raised bed contained mixed planting which was full of colour and made a striking feature next to a busy corner. Level of support and sponsorship within the village for the hanging baskets Allotment site was at its best with all plots taken and fully planted. St Paul's churchyard and the Garden of Rest created by two of the in bloom groups which was well maintained and contained interesting plants and colour in a small corner of the churchyard.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to expand getting villages to adopt planted areas to ease watering and maintenance this approached would aid long term sustainability. Consider refurbishing some of the verge planting using herbaceous planting grasses and salt tolerant plants. Consider development a management and development plan for the village green space which would allow you to refresh areas on a rolling programme which would aid external funding application.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The school site Vegetable garden area was well planted and used by the children to grow vegetables which they have used as part of school meals. The on-site composting will provide a rich source of soil improver for the vegetable plots. The schools wildlife garden and pond contained many wildflowers and made an ideal habitat for wildlife and birds. The village did not have any litter, dog fouling or graffiti and was a pride to the group and local community.

Areas for Improvement

We feel the tour should have pointed out additional recycling sites within the village. Some of the features which the group have developed would benefit from some form of interpretation information. (The garden of Remembrance being a good example) It was good to see that the group had adopted some of the recommendations from last year's judges in terms of water capture from the roof of the building near to the allotments.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The in Bloom Group are well supported by the parish council. The Group members have a diverse range of skills and expertise which is been used for the benefit of the village entry. The school plays a major role in the villages in bloom efforts and it was good to see the children involved. The village church and local scout groups are involved in the entry.

Areas for Improvement

The entry would benefit from producing a small map of the judging route indication key features. The group should develop a media plan to get the local press more involved in covering the work which the group have achieved. A photograph from the judging day could be used together with a press statement and sent out to the local press. Do not forget to celebrate success.

Thornton Silver Rose Award

Introduction

Thornton is a village with many historical features and connections, many of which are enhanced by the efforts of the Thornton In Bloom group. The group is still relatively young, having just come to the end of their original 5 year plan. Much has been achieved and the group has laid a good foundation for the future.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The achievements at the Bell Chapel cemetery set the benchmark for the rest of the entry; it is an interesting and delightfully peaceful space in the village, sensitively managed and maintained. Some of the allotments are very well maintained and it was encouraging to hear of future plans to increase the number of plots on the site.

Areas for Improvement

Consider planting herbs for the community to use in the James Street garden. It would have been interesting to see more residential gardens, perhaps including some of those entered in the village competition. Continue to increase the planting of perennials in the large beds at the railway site.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The history and heritage of the village is well documented and celebrated by the community, with excellent information boards and finger posts at the railway heritage site and Kipping Gardens, which also has some interesting artwork. The work recently undertaken at the Bell Chapel cemetery to increase the biodiversity by creating a wilderness area is to be commended.

Areas for Improvement

Greater attention to detail, including weed control and general tidiness would greatly enhance this entry. The extension of the railway site to link with the school and footpath is exciting - continue to try and find funding for this worthwhile project.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The In Bloom initiatives have begun to make a difference to the community. A number of the local businesses support the In Bloom group through sponsorship of hanging baskets and planters.

Areas for Improvement

Try to find ways of encouraging other local and the younger community groups, such as the scouts and the school, to engage in a greater range of activities. Consider a community fundraising event, such as a plant sale or coffee morning, to raise not only funds but also awareness of the group's activities and to help recruit new members. It would be helpful in future if the judges were to receive the portfolio in advance.

Wilberfoss Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

On arrival in the village it is evident that a committed core of Wilberfoss in Bloom volunteers has worked hard to maintain and develop a very good standard and all are to be commended for their sterling work. They have good links within the community, retail outlets, and residential areas and with the church and school. Colourful baskets, planters and new planting are evident and there is community involvement in on-going projects and fund-raising. This group is aware and enjoys caring and working with its natural heritage. Being part of 'Bloom' will help to enhance and develop this work as Wilberfoss in Bloom steadily moves forward. With a little bit of fine tuning, especially with regard to the presentation of the entry, Wilberfoss has the potential to achieve a Gold standard and could be considered to represent Yorkshire in the National Britain in Bloom competition.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Massed planting of daffodils for spring colour. Well maintained summer baskets and planters of high standard feature good mixed plant combinations and colour. Newly created Blacksmith's Forge Grass Garden and Diamond Jubilee garden are planted sustainably. Good residential gardens in community, especially Windmill Meadows and two raised community herb beds and links with the Community Centre, Pub, School, retail frontages and churchyard are evident.

Areas for Improvement

Limit the group accompanying the judges to two or three volunteers and suggest the judges meet other members at key locations along the route. Consider introduce sustainable planting in front of fence at

Blacksmith's Forge garden. Be aware of weeds. Give some thought to creating a sustainable bed in an appropriate open area.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Installation of bird, bat and insect boxes; care and management of Church wild garden (sowing of yellow rattle seed); wildlife area and impressive interpretive boards. Sustainable planting of trees; awareness and conservation of the Foss Beck. Recycling of compost and garden waste; water butts; Wilberfoss in Bloom working with the Parish Council have reduced the amount of dog-fouling and also keep area clean and tidy with help from Street Scene. Introduction of Victorian seat on Main Street. Interest and awareness of local heritage; development of Blacksmith's Forge into new grass garden: agricultural machinery now a floral planter and re-siting of restored milestone.

Areas for Improvement

Further sustainable planting such as lavender on verge-side. Include visit to school to meet local children who have been involved within the competition.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Working with local businesses, the Pub and community groups; setting up of Fund Raising and Planting Committee and to replacing existing planters. Churchyard interpretive boards inform about natural environment, good signage and welcome banner promote 'Bloom'. Working with other groups including the Playing Fields Association to create a garden. Successful posters by schoolchildren promoting community involvement in keeping area clean. Working with the Churchyard group and residents of Moorfield Way to improve the area in which they live and encourage involvement in It's Your Neighbourhood. The Duck Race is a good use of resources and raises funds in the community as does the success of the Wilberfoss in Bloom Calendar 2013 which is to be repeated in 2014.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to work with school: growing wildflowers. Look to expanding sustainable planting, e.g., raised herb beds which were some of the best the judges had seen. Consider interpreting and improving the small woodland area adjacent to the church as this is an ideal location to provide additional features to enhance this aspect of the entry.

Category 2A: Urban Community

Allerton Bywater Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The village was once a mining community, and this is well remembered and revered in an exciting new tile monument. A major housing development, the Millennium Estate, with 500 properties, has brought a significant change to the village. There are several impressive contributions being made by individuals and groups of volunteers. However, it was a pity that we were not shown a number of areas which are featured in the portfolio, and met more of the community who are involved in the work.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The display at the Edward VII Working Men's Club is outstanding (worthy of becoming a commercial entry) and the display by residents on the opposite side of the road is also excellent. The allotment holders are doing a great job, but it is important to ensure that unused plots are quickly relet. The War Memorial was attractively planted with petunias. Both the Victoria and Anchor hotels are working very hard providing well planted barrels.

Areas for Improvement

Ensure quick turn round of unused allotment plots. Please show us more house gardens, and any other displays made by commercial outlets.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Doorstep recycling takes place and there are regular collections of garden waste + church has its own composting area, and there is a bottle collection at the WMC. There are a number of heritage features throughout the village - coal trucks, wheels, etc, but the highlight is the new tile monument which clearly shows scenes from the mining industry.

Areas for Improvement

Be aware of graffiti and some weeds in certain areas.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Good to hear of involvement in monthly coffee mornings, village newsletters, and the press. Good working between Bloom Group, Parish Council and many of the local groups which meet in the village.

Areas for Improvement

Ensure judges meet more members of the community who are involved in the Bloom.

Beeston Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Beeston is a suburb of Leeds, located about 2 miles south of the city centre. The area is separated from surrounding areas to the north, east and west by the M621 motorway. In the latter part of the Victorian era Beeston became a primarily residential area for people working in Leeds and surrounding industrial areas like Holbeck and Hunslet. Beeston has a population of about 16,000 people. Parts of the area suffer from few incidents of crime and are generally considered more affluent. Beeston is home to the Leeds United football club and Hunslet Hawks rugby league club and parking for the supporters at their events impacts on the surrounding streets. The Beeston in Bloom Group was founded in 1997 and is proudly celebrating its 15th anniversary. Well done.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The 88 hanging baskets, and the floral and vegetable planters provide a wonderful array of colour throughout Beeston and the troughs at the junction of Dewsbury Road are a delight to see. The self managed allotments committee at Clarksfield is to be congratulated on the thriving plots of vegetables and the social events they plan. In spite of illness, the parishioners at St Mary's church have maintained their high standards in presentation of the flower beds with the lavender garden a new addition this year. Placing planters in front of businesses has encouraged a spectacular entry in its own right from Park Fisheries. The comments from last year's judges have led to lessons in pruning to define and shape the Millennium beds and a difficult area has been replanted and is to be monitored

Areas for Improvement

Consider using some permanent small shrubs and some perennial plants with a variety of spring bulbs to give an extended flowering period in the planters through the winter and in Spring.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The marker post, the new archway in front of the Millennium Garden, together with planting of the Peace tree nearby, are wonderful examples of the development of heritage for future generation. The gardens and pools surrounding the White Rose Centre have both immaculately trimmed hedges and havens for local wildlife. The children of St Anthony's school have begun the journey of exploring the natural history of the area with their wildlife garden and vegetable plots. A windfall of 1000 litres of compost from a police raid on a cannabis farm was put to good use in the planters on Beeston Road

Areas for Improvement

The closed churchyard could, with some imaginative projects, possibly involving school children, be transformed into a wildlife haven to provide educational opportunities. Consider planting different varieties of honeysuckle or other climbing plants, at the four post of the Millennium Archway. Plans are in hand to renew the hard surface in the Millennium Garden and this together with cleaning the Mosaic will greatly enhance the Garden. Consider designating an area to create harvest their own compost

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

There is plenty of evidence of the progressive involvement and integration over the last 15 years with the council, both large and small businesses, schools, police, churches, allotment groups and local residents culminating in a strong community spirit and pride in Beeston together with good sources of funding and volunteers. The judges were grateful for the informative power point presentation at the start of the visit and the beautiful welcome card.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to foster good relationships with all of the above and begin to forge links with other community groups such as Friends of Stank Hall Barn and with Groundwork. Continue to engage with the schools to encourage the next generation in the care of their environment

Birstall Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Birstall is a large village in Kirklees, situated roughly 6 miles south-west of Leeds and close to the M62 motorway. It features a quaint triangular Victorian market place, home to a statue of Joseph Priestley, the discoverer of oxygen to commemorate his birthplace. The village has a reputation for discretion and silence. Locals insist that it is because no Birstall Luddites were ever arrested. Regeneration of the Market Place in 2009, retaining many of the original features, was the inspiration for the formation of the In Bloom group. From the start this group has successfully enhanced the village by means of its strong links with the residents, the businesses and the schools and it was good to meet many of the 15 members of the group.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Following the redevelopment the marketplace has been transformed by the planting of semi mature trees, and the co-ordinated colour schemes in the three tier planters, hanging baskets and barrier troughs. Many areas near business premises with poor conditions for cultivation have been imaginatively converted to a vegetable plot, a Mediterranean garden, and a garden full of colourful perennial plants near the library. The participating business premises are festooned with bright tubs and planter and the garden for little people is particularly eye catching Carol with help from two volunteers and members of the armed forces have created a peaceful and serene garden surrounding St Saviour's church.

Areas for Improvement

To continue the excellent work already achieved by encouraging other businesses and residents to be more involved in the In Bloom campaign. To carry forward the plans to enhance the footpath entrances to Oakwell Hall. To work with St Patrick's Primary School to improve the planting at the front of house.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The Birstall Stone and surrounding landscaping are a credit to the group and their cooperation with the Rotary Club in Birstall. The wildlife area in the school and ongoing woodland project.

Areas for Improvement

Continue the development of the woodland area and the proposed wild flower area at Kings Court. Consider planting more trees in the area where the old oak tree has been lost and also on the recreation ground near the school which could attract grants.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The community involvement is excellent as evident in the In Bloom Posters, photos and information in the library and weekly local press coverage. Over the four years, the group have developed strong community relationships by working closely with the Chamber of Trade, Rotary, local businesses, schools churches and other community groups. The nine annual competitions, including the vegetable planter for schools and the gardens competitions, ensure the In Bloom group are in the local spotlight. 200 trees and two Royal Oaks have been planted to make Birstall a greener place to live.

Areas for Improvement

To foster closer relationships with the rangers at Oakwell Hall, which will provide benefits for both groups. To consider holding more fundraising events with community involvement. To develop the web site. To assist in the judging process, it would be helpful to provide a timed itinerary for the judges and submit the portfolio prior to judging day.

Bramhope Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

It is clear that Bramhope in Bloom has worked hard to develop good relationships with businesses for the benefit of residents and visitors. This aspect is clearly shown in the area by The Parade, where local shops sponsor and care for the hanging baskets and flowerbeds. Mature trees are very much in evidence around the village, and this horticultural heritage is reflected in the street names of The Rowans, Poplars, Cedars and Birches. Many planters, barrels and beds throughout the village create a good mix of planting and offer a wide variety of colour. With new members joining the in Bloom group, there is a solid foundation for continued enhancement of the environment.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The work being done around the Puritan Chapel is commendable. The parterre is becoming established, and the use of gravel for the path and around the gravestones presents a neat and tidy appearance to the Chapel grounds. Also, The Parade beds, which graduate from tropical plants in the sunny aspect, to shade loving plants in the area shadowed by a mature tree, is a creative way to work

with the environment. The use of wildflowers along a hard to maintain verge on Breary Lane shows good use of space and adds colour to the roadside.

Areas for Improvement

The Medical Centre next to the school could improve upon grounds maintenance and water the planters more frequently.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The local heritage of Bramhope is being well highlighted by the work being done by the In Bloom group. In particular, the area around the Well is being sympathetically developed with wildlife in mind, and the work around the Puritan Chapel includes discrete placement of compost bins to the rear of the building.

Areas for Improvement

Unfortunately there was evidence of litter, such as drinks cans, cigarette ends and weeds in numerous areas of the judging tour, especially around the War Memorial.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Community engagement is a strong feature for Bramhope in Bloom. The group supports Bramhope Primary School, and the Baden Powell patrols of Scouts, Brownies, Cubs and Beavers all get involved with planting up. Fundraising activities such as the Open Gardens have raised valuable monies to maintain the In Bloom group's activities in the village.

Areas for Improvement

Improved publicity, particularly using social media, will help to highlight the In Bloom group's many and varied areas of achievement, and raise awareness of future events.

Calverley Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The judges were greeted by an enthusiastic Bloom committee which has now reached 30 strong members. Calverley has come long way from its early years. Everywhere the judge went we were greeted by enthusiastic bloom members and local residents. We were particularly impressed by Calverley Park, with its new Boules Court and edible veg bed. The allotments were all well maintained and the new raised beds for disabled use producing good crops. Good floral residential areas throughout. Good to see the younger people at the schools and local children's nursery getting involved as well. Makes you want to go back to school. Finally on our route we reached Brookleigh Sheltered Housing which is maintained by residents who were all proud to show us what they were doing in the grounds and believe us when we say it's a lot of hard work. An excellent clean and colourful entry and thank you to everyone involved for a wonderful visit.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Calverley Park, New herbaceous border and edible veg bed particularly good among the already established bedding schemes. Clean allotment area. Local pubs putting out good displays. Bedding and planters in main street to a good standard along with barrier boxes. Standard of cultivation at Brookleigh sheltered housing and imaginative planting by residents.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to encourage mixed planting throughout village.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

St Wilfred's Church yard a good example for wildflower habitats and insect /animal areas. A very clean entry throughout no litter, graffiti or dog fouling to be seen. Street furniture well laid out throughout village and all in keeping.

Areas for Improvement

Further development of wild flower areas in church yard and surrounding areas if space allows

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Involvement of local schools and support for school projects. Good Yorkshire in Bloom Poster competition. Old vicarage nursery excellent use of grounds for young preschool children to learn about growing and nature. Community involvement throughout the village.

Areas for Improvement

An excellent entry supported by many in community; growing each year. Well thought out route but please remember time for judging. However judges pleased to meet and hear about what's going on in Calverly

Elland Silver Rose Award

Introduction

Thank you Joe, Tony and members of Calderdale Council for showing us Elland and explaining how the Town is being developed from its heavy industry heritage to its new role as a major distribution centre, in this very difficult financial climate. The enhancement of the environmental quality of the town is taking shape with the help of the EDP and the Council.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The attractive gardens of the Cartwheel Community Centre, planted and maintained with the help of the guides and brownies. The Spa Well self administered allotment site, the standard of maintenance of the main paths and cultivation of the plots justifying their past awards. The Community Garden on a Pennine Housing Site, well done to Sue Monty in coordinating the construction and development of this attractive community garden. The Old Earth School grounds were a sheer delight. Paul and the Residents of the Ellen Hall Caravan Park maintain their grounds to a very high standard. The landscaped grounds of Overgate Hospice were excellent. The Town Centre barrier and hanging baskets were colourful.

Areas for Improvement

We bypassed one or two large commercial developments and hospital grounds which appeared to have been well landscaped and these should be included in a future tour. The landscaping of the Morrisons site will be worth a revisit when it matures

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

There is a wealth of Heritage sites and features throughout the town. The new features of The Jubilee Stones and the figure of Eight roundabout announces 'Pride in the Town' Old Earth school is leading the way in the education of pupils in Resource management, natural habitats and wildlife areas. The town was generally clean and tidy

Areas for Improvement

There is potential to develop wildlife areas incorporating tree planting within the Hullen Edge Park and recreation Area. Some graffiti spoils some areas

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The Elland and District Partnership are working hard to develop and promote pride in the community, with some good results. The schools, brownies and guides are active and involved in environmental projects. The Flower Festival at St Mary's showed how individuals and community groups can work together. Local sponsors are supporting the aims of the EDP and the community.

Areas for Improvement

The setting up of a dedicated 'Bloom' group for Elland would help focus on the development of the community and environmental aspects of this campaign and assist EDP in promoting the area. Develop environmental enhancement projects which could attract grant funding. The plan for the day could be improved by the judges meeting more representatives of the community. The tour should also include well timed breaks for refreshments)

Endcliffe and Ranmoor Student Village Silver Rose Award

Introduction

The entry comprises a number of older historic buildings combined with a modern student accommodation complex. Maintained by the University grounds staff, assisted by students in term time.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The Halifax building and its traditional formal garden layout with mature trees, perennial planting, ornamental ponds and memorial garden. The Students Eats Project (NUS funded scheme), the herd garden at Rivelin site. Public spaces and car hard surfaced areas were well maintained

Areas for Improvement

Evidence of spring displays/initiatives would aid this entry

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The campus was litter free, with a vast amount of areas within the site given over to reduced grass & hedge cutting to encourage wildlife and increase bio-diversity. The "Pond" was an unexpected treasure, situated in the centre of the new complex and was a wildlife haven. Good site signage, some artwork/sculpture and well maintained hard landscaping. The Grounds Team's nursery/growing space, providing plants for across the University sites, for both indoor and outdoor displays. The bee hives within the nursery run by the Sheffield Bee Company.

Areas for Improvement

Future plans for the nursery terraces (nursery stock area and improved composting areas) and future bee colony will enhance this entry.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The Students Eats project which encourages students to actively take part in growing their own food. The NUS funding for the above.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to encourage and support students to be involved in all aspects of the site. Promotion of the In Bloom campaign would have been beneficial to the entry. The judges feel that the current category for this entry does not reflect the site adequately; it may be prudent to place this entry within the University category for next time.

Holbeck Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Holbeck is situated on the southern edge of the Leeds city centre and the M621 motorway passes through the area dividing what was Holbeck Moor. Over recent years efforts have been made to regenerate the Holbeck area. From 2007, Leeds City Council began vacating the back-to-back housing and in 2009 commenced demolition. Since then large parts of Holbeck have been vacated in preparation for the regeneration of the area, the district has suffered from a population exodus. A small group of six In Bloomers began three years ago to improve this very challenging environment.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

They are to be congratulated on the many areas, which were derelict and overgrown and consequently gathered litter, which have been transformed either into tidy areas with a tree and grass surround as under the circular walk way or into wildflower meadows as part of the Green Corridor Project. The residents of Cleveley's Court are appreciative of their newly planted garden and outdoor seating. The colourful hanging baskets at St Mathew's Community Centre offer a focus of colour opposite the park.

Areas for Improvement

Consider ground covering perennials such as Vinca in the triangle at Cleveley's Court. Consider climbing plants from the base rather than troughs on the wall of the Nationwide Security Car Park. Consider planting sustainable small shrubs and ivy at perimeter of planters to give height and depth and reduce the number of bedding plants

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The many areas of wild flowers have created an abundance of pollen sources for bees and butterflies. The conversion of a derelict building to the Greenhouse which incorporates both homes and offices powered by sustainable energy, encourages greener living and is dedicated to creating a sustainable community. With sponsorship from various groups six litter bins were bought and placed at strategic sites has greatly reduced the litter. Placing five tubs under the Domestic Street Viaduct has certainly softened a dominant feature of the landscape

Areas for Improvement

Restoration of the railings around the Mathew Murray obelisk together with an interpretation board on his contribution to the history of Holbeck. Continue with the projects at Joe Brown's triangle and managing and monitoring The Meadows. Consider working with the developers of Holbeck Mills to promote its Grade 11 status.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The garden competition encourages residents with gardens ranging from the very small to larger gardens to become involved. It was such a pleasure to see the children of nursery in St Luke's school

enjoying the vegetables and fruit that they had grown under the supervision of their enthusiastic teacher who is grateful to the In Bloom group for providing their greenhouse. Plans for their bird friendly garden are well in hand. The thriving vegetable plots at St Mathew's Community Centre and the bowling Club are an excellent method of engaging with the wider community. Other evidence of strong community participation is securing the skate park for the young people of Holbeck and volunteering at the Working Men's Club to secure its future.

Areas for Improvement

Consider a Heritage Trail to include all the historical aspects of Holbeck including the Union Workhouse and the new concept of the Greenhouse. It might be helpful to the judging process to compile a list of year by year projects and achievements and submit the portfolio before the judging date.

Kippax Gold Rose Award Category Winner

Introduction

On arriving in Kippax it was obvious from the outset that here was a community that cared for its environment and was proud of what it has achieved over the past ten years, where it has transformed the area from its mining heritage to a very green and pleasant village. The Judges Pack was very informative and many thanks to all involved.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The very high standards of horticultural development and maintenance throughout. The many colourful floral features, daffodil plantings for spring effect, the irregular shaped beds with a tropical theme for summer. Residential gardens of varying styles were colourful and well maintained. Unique tiered colourful planters screening a substation. The Growing Zone on the Gibson lane allotment site was inspirational. The planting of perennials and low maintenance shrubs in many areas. The Methodist Chapel grounds, now maintained by church members, and not content with this considerable task have spread their influence to the adjoining St Mary's churchyard. The additional grass maintenance on public open spaces which supplements the reduced mowing cycle which the Local Authority can provide.

Areas for Improvement

Continue with reviewing the style of planting in various areas, but never losing that 'wow' factor which annual bedding provides. Rockeries are notoriously difficult to maintain as they tend to harbour perennial weeds under the rocks.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The mining heritage is not forgotten with coal-tubs from the Middleton railway, filled with flowers. The extensive Townclose Hills (Billy Wood) nature walk is a haven for wildlife and flora, thanks to Edgar for explaining its development and management regimes. The old school vacant site was appropriately

screened awaiting development. The 'art' in the village in the form of 'tromp-l'oeil' on buildings, enhancing what would otherwise be rather drab frontages. The whole area was clean and tidy.

Areas for Improvement

Develop and maintain the heritage theme wherever practical. Influence the future development of any vacant sites to ensure the environmental enhancement of the village.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The cooperation and coordination of many volunteers and groups is well organised and with their 'kick start' philosophy has established many local projects which local groups go on to develop and maintain. There is a wealth of events throughout the year by several organisations and groups, all involved in promoting and improving the image of the village. Funds are raised from grants, Parish council allocation, sponsorship, fundraising and donations. Well done to the Scouts and the School for all their hard work.

Areas for Improvement

Continue developing and enhancing all areas of the village and at the same time celebrate your achievements. Consider extending the KIB competition to other categories.

Swillington Silver Rose Award

Introduction

Arriving and touring Swillington it is soon obvious that this was a mining community with reminders of their heritage with mining wheels at various locations throughout the village. The Bloom group are enthusiastic and are gradually persuading groups and individuals to get involved in this worthwhile campaign to enhance the appearance of the village.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Some excellent private gardens, unfortunately not always visible from public footpaths. The allotment site and all the plots were cultivated and maintained to a very high standard (the best I have seen anywhere). The newly acquired and planted wooden planters on the roadside in the centre of the village. The move towards using perennial and low maintenance shrubs in many areas will have lasting benefits for landscape effect and ease of maintenance. Evidence of bulb planting in many areas of the village giving colourful spring displays.

Areas for Improvement

More commercial premises should be encouraged to participate in the Bloom campaign to improve their local environment and premises e.g. the Miners Welfare Club have an extensive frontage and some planters would enhance this area. Continually review the style of planting to ensure the best overall effect of colour and texture, not forgetting the wow factor which concentrated seasonal bedding provides.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Efforts to improve the natural habitat areas in St Mary's Churchyard and the support and advice of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and the information board. The use of heritage mining wheels at the entrance to the village. The use of spring water at the allotments, which must have been valuable this summer.

Areas for Improvement

Further improvements to the wildlife habitats, the maintenance regimes and the composting areas. The tour included some fairly long detours which did not emphasize the elements of the criteria, suggest you concentrate on the highlights and don't worry about filling the allocated time.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

It was good to hear that the school is interested in developing the Garden club and getting the young people more involved. Well done to the scout group for their efforts in creating the new flower bed. Obtaining grants from various sources to assist in the 'Communities at Heart' project.

Areas for Improvement

Seek assistance to help the staff and pupils at the school develop the many aspects of growing plants for food, ornament, and environment enhancement. There is a need to involve more people both residents and businesses to share the load of developing and maintaining the many features in the village to make the area more attractive.

Woodlesford Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Unlike much of the judging period last summer, this time we were blessed with glorious sunshine and high temperatures - fitting conditions in which to showcase this village's many fine features. The quality of colour and the cleanliness around the village, and the various projects visited by the judge's shows what can be done with a limited task force and a well committed group of local residents.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The judges were particularly impressed with the planting in the residential areas, most notably on Langdale Road where the efforts of Pat Yates, one of the residents, has been absolutely inspirational. Also very impressive were the beds bordering the Aire & Calder and Navigation canal, where the group's planting has complimented the old 'tool holders'. There was also an excellent example of sustainable planting across from the Jolly Giraffe nursery. The RBS grant-funded school garden at Woodlesford Primary School was a fine example of what could be achieved from an area of neglected land. Here the school now grow a variety of fruit and veg in a clever use of crop rotation.

Areas for Improvement

Is there an allotment in the village? If this could be included no doubt it would be another jewel in the group's portfolio.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The judges were very impressed with the high-level of street cleansing -litter and graffiti was nowhere to be seen! The best kept feature was the wonderfully well-maintained area alongside the Aire and Calder Navigation, where the work by the Waterways Trust is commendable. A wildflower meadow here will further add to the appeal of this area once it gets established.

Areas for Improvement

Very little. If possible, a once-over with The Council's mechanical sweeper would really finish off the job. A couple of bird boxes at the school and perhaps in the taller trees near the wildflower meadow/community orchard area by the canal would increase the wildlife value.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The judges thought that the work done here by the group engaging the community was first class. It was good to hear such a diverse group of people such as The Army cadets, the Woodlesford Brownies, the RBS volunteers and the large number of villagers contributing. Horticultural interest is being instilled at a very young age at Jolly Giraffe's Nursery! The proposed gabion basketing along the village green sounds an exciting project and will improve this already fine area.

Areas for Improvement

Some forward planning of the group's activities for the next period would help to focus attention on sites that need work doing and help spread the workload. Continue with the publicity of the In Bloomers success's and gain as much as possible through local press coverage and use future programme posters in local shops etc. to advertise the group. Look to involve the youth of the village by including the schools as much as possible in work projects such as naturalised bulb planting, litter picking etc.

Category 2B: Small Town

Addingham Gold Rose Award

Introduction

A sunny day for a well organised tour led by an enthusiastic team around this old mill village in the Yorkshire Dales. Every corner was a delight; making good use of old demolished cottage sites along the main streets. It was lovely to meet so many enthusiastic people 'en route' who showed real pride in Addingham.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Every single community garden was good with well thought out planting with good emphasis on sustainable planting but still colourful. Of particular merit were Cottages refurbishment and the delightful border of Alchemilla and roses at Hen Pen. Allotments were excellent showing good management. High House Mews were a delight with excellent maintenance standards. The Fleece was bright and colourful which obviously attracts customers. Of unique interest was the Church Orchard.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to help and advise Medical centre with their planting. When the Methodist church has finished their improvements it will be yet another addition to your colourful Main Street. Cutting of bowling green hedges would smarten up the car park area even further.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

March up Ghyll was a credit to all- a truly delightful area. Any Gap sites are all incorporated in the village forming part of Addingham's heritage. There was a total absence of litter and graffiti. The Ruin with its composting, storage area for stone and a resting place for plants was a really exciting recycling area. Using the stream for watering will be very useful in the present drought.

Areas for Improvement

Keeping the empty Sailor pub is a good idea to minimise that vacant look-even the burnt out house is being dealt with. To achieve full marks more evidence of recycling needs to be shown on the route.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

School gardening group was impressive with pupils showing good understanding of 'seed to plate' The total commitment from all the groups in the village was well demonstrated. The group ably led by Carol and Fiona is obviously sustainable for the future assured by a rotation of 'committee'. Grants have been successfully sought and used and the group manage on an incredibly small budget.

Areas for Improvement

More posters could be displayed around the shops and houses maybe done by youth group? A display of photos at the lunch would add to the presentation. The group have clearly gained from their experience in the National competition last year and are a worthy Yorkshire in Bloom Gold winner -Well done!

Dunnington Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Dunnington in Bloom is a well-established group with strong leadership and a dedicated, well organised and welcoming group of volunteers. Their planning and work schedule is of a high standard and the results of their efforts are clear to see in every aspect of Bloom activity from colourful hanging baskets and planters, sustainable planting to managing and promoting biodiversity and caring for the local environment.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

High impact from well-designed, colourful mixed planters and hanging baskets in residential areas and supporting local businesses: many areas of interest including well planned innovative new flower feature. Residential areas of high standard and attractive pockets of planting near Council properties; well established and organised allotments and sensitive natural grassed area at new cemetery. Sustainable new planting at Route 66/cycle feature and in Julia's Garden. Good signage promoting 'Bloom'. Sports Club, bowling green, (green of competition standard) with sustainable planting surrounding. Attractive planting at St Nicholas Church in memory of a friend and Julia's Garden with award winning feature garden within, a sustainable and peaceful area open to all. All areas neat and tidy and impressive, the grass cutting around the village is a credit to all concerned, lock-up workshop for storage of 'Bloom' grass cutting and other horticultural equipment.

Areas for Improvement

Clear direction needed on judges arrival. Consider health and safety aspect when locating press opportunity/high visibility jackets needed at Village Cross. Continue with the good work!

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Hessacar Nature Reserve (Conservation Group) working with Bloom is a local resource shared with children and available to interested parties. Year-round work, regular monitoring and recording of flora and fauna and winter feeding programme. Mowing programme allows section of grass near hedge to grow for benefit of wildlife: use of peat free compost; recycling, water conservation in butts. All areas clean and tidy; promotion of use of Dog Waste Bins and provision of bags. Well managed street furniture: re-painted telephone box, attractive train display, clean and tidy bins and hard landscaping, laminated Bloom leaflets, artistic floral designed creation, Route 66 and Wicker Man. Good relationship with other groups in the community and the Probation Services Pay-Back team who help to keep areas tidy. Impressive Activity Play Park.

Areas for Improvement

Consider further sustainable planting and developing already impressive wildflower area at Cemetery.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Commendable provision of snow wardens who work to keep areas safe in the winter: year-round fundraising brings the community together, raises money for on-going projects: well-designed sponsored leaflet seeking funding. Dunnington in Bloom has a good relationship with the primary school and has been involved in the development of a school allotment. Children have learned about growing vegetables, planting seeds; sunflowers and wild flowers by perimeter fence. Supervised planting of saplings and shrubs demonstrating sustainability. Community support through voluntary and statutory groups and from local businesses; regular media coverage.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to highlight new initiatives and projects in order to keep the group focused and forward planned for future in bloom initiatives.

Holmfirth Silver Rose Award

Introduction

Holmfirth is an interesting small town, rich in heritage, including Bamforths Post Card museum, and the relationship with BBC TV Last of the Summer Wine programme. It is set in a very hilly landscape, with a busy road going along the valley bottom, dividing the communities.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

A large number of daffodil bulbs had been donated the Rotary Club, but of course these were long since over by the date of our visit. Many shop fronts were attractive, but beds in the park and in some parts of the town, whilst tidy were very dry, rather sparsely planted. 70 baskets have been sold to shopkeepers, etc.

Areas for Improvement

Several areas, like the Rotary sensory garden needed attention, and we would have liked to have seen more private gardens.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The town is very conscious of its heritage, with the Blue Plaque and History Trails. An excellent Art Exhibition was being held, with proceeds going to the Macmillan Cancer charity. Throughout the year the town hosts various festivals featuring various topics.

Areas for Improvement

'Secret' garden where people had lunch had some litter around the seat. Signage in the Rotary sensory garden was very small and difficult to read.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

We were invited to visit Birks funeral home, which is on a main road, and has used over 2,000 bedding plants - all very tidy - but unfortunately was not included on the judging route. Perhaps another year they could be encouraged to enter the commercial category? The judging party was made up of several representatives from local organisations, whom we were pleased to meet.

Areas for Improvement

It would have been good to have seen more of the things shown in the portfolio, which we only received when we arrived. It is always good to have this information in advance so we have opportunity to study it before we start our inspection. It would have been good to have seen how children/ young people are involved and perhaps met the local press.

Kirkbymoorside Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Kirkbymoorside is a delightful market town set amidst glorious countryside with some outstanding views. The judges were met with great enthusiasm by the 'In Bloom' team led by Gaynor De Barr. The small team work exceedingly hard to promote their town. With increased membership to help spread the load there is no reason why the Town could not proceed to the next stage of participation. A very strong entry built on good foundations and a credit to all involved.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Colourful displays in well-maintained barrels throughout the town. An impressive amount of plants are grown by group members, including the production of all the groups own baskets. Excellent displays in the residential gardens of West Pasture and at Sturdy Court, no doubt encouraged by the best kept gardens competition. The allotments on Gillamoor Road were very productive and well maintained and managed; the judges noted the very good composting facilities onsite as well as the excellent recycling of plants from the groups displays. The bowling green is superbly maintained and there was some well-planned sustainable planting around the Green, which was highly maintained by John Warriner the golf course at Dale End is nothing short of magnificent. Tony Rigby provided a really interesting mini-tour complete with tame hare, biodiversity at its best!

Areas for Improvement

Much time and energy is spent growing bedding plants so perhaps the group may consider more sustainable planting reducing the dependence on annual plants to provide additional interest and colour. Whilst much work has been carried out at the Brownie Garden at Tinley Garth several large

weeds were in evidence along the frontage. The main entrance to the Golf Clubhouse needs some TLC. Some dead shrubs need removing and some general weeding would enhance this area.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

There was a notable absence of litter and no dog fouling was in evidence. There were well-planned recycling facilities on the edge of the town which were well placed and concealed from the main road. The information provided by Ryedale District Council's recycling Officer John Brown was informative and expertly explained. It's a very good idea to utilise the assistance of the local window cleaner to water the floral containers. The Golf clubs' approach to conservation was enlightening and informative.

Areas for Improvement

Some of the street furniture is looking rather shabby. Perhaps it may be appropriate to contact the local council with regard to maintenance. The area has obviously a wealth of local heritage perhaps this could be portrayed more clearly on future tours. Perhaps a greater emphasis could be made of conservation areas. It was felt the area at Manor Vale could be made greater use of, perhaps by meeting someone connected with conservation to explain the wildlife in the area would be helpful. Mention in the portfolio of the River Dove was welcome; it may be an area the judges would be shown on future tours.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

For a relatively new group the improvements made to the Town are very impressive and a credit to the enthusiasm and commitment of the small team of "bloomers". The 'In Bloom' team are an inspiration to anyone trying to raise funds. Their initiatives are well supported and it is to their credit to forge links with Welburn Hall. The annual newsletter is a useful method of creating awareness.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to encourage new members to supplement the team. It was disappointing that there was not a 'Press Call' at the end of the Judges tour. This would have undoubtedly created some positive publicity. The group may consider establishing a working relationship with a local newspaper reporter to assist in promoting the 'In Bloom' team.

Menston Silver Rose Award

Introduction

We were met by an enthusiastic team at the village hall where even the sunshine came out to order. In the sunshine everything looked at its best and it was a pleasure to be shown around such a wide and diversified area. The small group are to be commended for the widespread amount of projects undertaken, maintained and fulfilled.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The new revamping of Butterfield Park is to be commended. It is now so much more open with the big trees removed and new planting. Work is on going on the borders, planting and beds and a well thought out planned design presented. New planters have been introduced and a good watering system is in place to some planters. Much thought and hard work had gone in to the Railway Footpath and Gyratory, High Royds was a delight and haven of peace, the recent refurbish a huge success.

Areas for Improvement

More attention is needed in planting schemes and density, dead heading weeding, and choice of plants; perhaps more sustainable plants could be used. Roundabouts and verges if time were permitted by Bradford CC could be a lot neater and cut more often. Some planters still needed repair or replacement in a rolling program and edges of beds could have a little more attention.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Much work has been done in the church yard and it was good to see flower beds planted .Bird boxes were in evidence in Butterfield Park and at the church children were involved in weeding and being shown how to propagate. Litter did not appear to be a problem; the whole area was tidy and neat. Recycling had been given thought with compost bins at the railway garden and a rotating compost bin presented to the local school.

Areas for Improvement

Replacing rotted planters is still needed and existing street furniture needs keeping fresh, If time permits strimming of long grass around the graves at church would benefit.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

It was good to see more members being recruited and the community involved in fund raising .The areas undertaken are so wide that present members and helpers are stretched. The railway area hard work is to be commended particularly suppressing the weed problem .Including children and the school in activities is also very rewarding and should be encouraged.

Areas for Improvement

Perhaps more advertising posters around the area and press coverage would bring the attention of the public to the groups needs and achievements .A display for the judges would also be helpful to see and discuss on the day.

Shipley Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Shipley is located within a semi rural setting in beautiful Airedale, approximately one mile from the World Heritage Site of Saltaire and two and a half miles from Bradford City Centre. Since entering the Yorkshire in Bloom Competition some years ago the town centre manager, colleagues and volunteers have played a vital role in improving Shipley town Centre and its surrounding areas, gradually and methodically tackling problem sites, clearing grot spots and improving the town centre. Much new investment has gone into the valley such as the conversion of a derelict mill and the installation of a new Sculpture Trail and Green Cycle Way which should bring in many more people to the area. New shops are now opening in Shipley Town Centre which increases footfall for the existing businesses.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The continuing high profile work of the Shipley in Bloom group with community and town centre events helps bring together the town's traders which can in turn raise funds to put back into the area. The Shipley Sheep and other good quality planted raised beds and well maintained street furniture encourages shoppers to linger a while in the warmer weather. The Magnificent displays of summer bedding plants at the entrance to Northcliffe Park is to be commended as is the upkeep of the park carried out by the parks manager and his enthusiastic staff. It is difficult to be able to plant and maintain areas of colourful bedding plants in these times. It is however essential to keep patches of seasonal colour throughout all areas to promote a sense of well being for residents and visitors alike. The judges would like to commend the work done by volunteers working on the Shipley Station Butterfly Meadow which is a unique patch of land at the end of the station platform which is home to a rare colony of Common Blue Butterflies and other insects. The Heritage Dye plant Garden was an interesting feature for the visit as was High Crag School and their vegetable growing gardening class.

Areas for Improvement

The completion of the sensory garden At Crowgil Park will be an attraction for the park users with the introduction of scented and tactile planting. The re opening and use of buildings and public facilities in the park could discourage anti social behaviour. The introduction of more business funded hanging baskets, planters and barrier planters would go a long way to brightening up the town, as do the baskets at the lower end of Shipley.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The renovation of the Town Hall and well designed and planted bedding schemes around the building was a delight to see. The recent conversion of the derelict mill into modern living space and the consequent funding of the new sculpture trail and green cycle way will bring life to the area.

Areas for Improvement

Consider designing green energy generating and energy saving lighting to new buildings. Also rain water harvesting facilities for non drinking water use.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

ShIPLEY Town Centre Management are achieving many good things for the town centre with the in bloom group holding regular events. Appreciation should be given to the street cleaning teams who carry out their duties on a regular basis. The Northcliffe allotment society and the Northcliffe Environment Enterprise Team (NEET) Show how the local community is working together.

Areas for Improvement

Endeavour to achieve both private and public sector funding to continue the good work being carried out.

Stamford Bridge Gold Rose Award Category Winner

Introduction

Judges were given a warm welcome by group members and were presented with button holes by two young children. The first stop was the adjacent replica Viking boat. made for the village by students at York College and with some historical information from a "Viking" with staff and shield. This set the scene for an excellent, most enjoyable tour of the village. It is clear this entry is supported by the whole community with the relatively small bloom group having a lot of residents taking responsibility for different areas, baskets and planters. The involvement of young people through the primary school and the young conservers group is very encouraging. There is excellent support from local business and a very impressive display of hanging baskets around the village.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Excellent displays of bedding in beds, planters and baskets with a move towards increased sustainable planting. Residents gardens were well maintained and the 20 plot allotment area was impressive with every plot holder displaying vegetables of a high quality.

Areas for Improvement

Just continue the excellent work you are doing.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The young conservers group is popular and well run. The activities involving setting up toad and frog homes, a hedgehog house, mini beast mansion and special walks such as a dawn chorus event starting out at 4.30am. The emphasis in the village on the Viking heritage and the battle of 1066 has fired up the local community. The work around the old railway line is to be commended, as are the plans for the future. The Weir Caravan Park contributed to the floral displays as well as the natural environment and it was good to hear about the otters. There was no litter, graffiti or dog fouling evident on the tour.

Areas for Improvement

The local authority is currently reviewing the recycling arrangements and any changes will improve a reasonably satisfactory present system.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

It seemed that the whole community was involved with and committed to Stamford Bridge in Bloom, with outstanding results. A well planned development programme 2010 to 2014 will ensure continuity and contains some interesting plans. A full year round programme was presented to the judges for 2013. The primary school was unbelievably impressive with a wide and varied number of pupil groups operating. The gardening group were engaged in planting, conservation and gaining an understanding of wildlife, food production and ground maintenance. The children spoke well and with confidence to the judges.

Areas for Improvement

This primary school must consider entering the young people's category of the Yorkshire in Bloom competition.

Upper & Nether Poppleton Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The two villages are located a few miles from York. There are many facilities including four pubs and a delightful maypole. The 'In Bloom' team are truly dedicated and this was reflected in the colourful displays throughout the villages. The judging route was well planned and the judges were provided with an excellent portfolio.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Some good quality container planting by the 'In Bloom' team. There was an impressive perennial border against the backdrop of the Church wall, a D of E award project. The Tudor garden to the rear of the Tithe Barn was well maintained and sympathetically planted. Many of the private residential gardens were very colourful. The visit to the Community Station project was very interesting.

Areas for Improvement

Kerbsides need to be weed free. You may consider more permanent planting in some of your tubs to replace seasonal planting. A visit to the Brunswick Organic Nursery at Bishopthorpe, York could be beneficial to the Station project team.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The wildlife area near to the beautifully restored Tithe Barn has an abundance of wild flowers and grasses. The Garden Guild is a great initiative and is very popular with over 300 members. The street furniture is well- maintained and placed in good locations. No litter observed - well done!

Areas for Improvement

Continue to maintain wildlife and wildflower areas but also consider seeking advice from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. You may wish to place dog-fouling bags in strategic locations particularly at entrances to public footpaths. The placing of a village map in the location of the Green could be informative and decorative.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

There are so many community initiatives it is not possible to list them all. The Community Railway garden project, sports organisations and the enormous participation of the residents are amongst the highlights.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to develop links with the local community including businesses. Name badges incorporating your 'In Bloom' logo will provide more publicity and awareness. In the future, consider incorporating a visit to the school in the judging route.

Category 2C: Town

Driffield Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

It was good to welcome the “Capital of the Wolds” back to the competition after a year out and it was evident that the experienced and knowledgeable In Bloom Group had not lost any of its enthusiasm in maintaining a very good standard of achievement throughout the town centre. The entry was a pleasure to judge and demonstrated the value of the Group’s close working relationships with both the Town and District Councils.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The 150 hanging baskets providing an assemblage of colour within the main shopping areas of the town. Particular note was taken of the displays at the Nat West and Yorkshire Banks. The introduction of a number of hayracks in the High Street adding even more colour and variety to the town centre. The innovative “Dr Who” themed garden at the junction of Exchange Street and Wansford Road undertaken by Driffield Junior School and planted by the Tidy team. The interesting and well maintained Memorial Gardens and well organised annual activities. The displays within residential gardens, particularly the roses in Beverley Road.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to develop the Station Yard area which is an important gateway to the town. Consider the inclusion of a school visit, allotments and more residential gardens within the judging route. Attention should be given to the maintenance of grass edgings and the renewal of permanent plantings where appropriate particularly the shrub border on the boundary of North Park. Give urgent consideration to the introduction of mixed planting within display beds and containers to provide permanency and sustainability. Although we understand the problems you face with various group doing projects then not maintaining them we would prefer not to be shown weedy beds.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The Donkey Paddock provides a natural green space linking the town with its rural surrounds. The use of non-peat compost in hayracks and other containers. The lack of litter and dog fouling throughout the town was very evident as a result of anti-litter campaigns and the close working relationship with the Town and District Councils. The Town Tidy Team ensures that street furniture and features within the town are well maintained.

Areas for Improvement

Consider the introduction of more wildflower planting and natural areas where there is opportunity to do so. The inclusion of more local heritage features e.g. Navigation and associated historic Mill buildings would greatly enhance the judging route.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

There was clear evidence of continual development and year-round planning of current and proposed projects by the In Bloom Group through digital photographs (slide show) and other display material and the well-presented Judging Brochure. Community awareness is well maintained through a wide range of activities including fundraising, Shop Window Competition, In Bloom Talks, highly visible In Bloom logos on banners and work wear. The numerous self-help funding activities including the "Butty Hut", Plant sales, coffee mornings and other activities in Cass Hall. The sale of Tea towels, notelets etc. The large number of supporting and sponsoring organisations and business.

Areas for Improvement

Although there is clear evidence of working with children through schools the Judges would have liked to visit a school to see how the Group interact with young people. Continue to encourage and maintain all-year-round involvement of community groups and organisations to ensure adequate levels of sponsorship and participation, particularly from local businesses and major industries. This will, in turn, ensure the successful implementation of planned future projects and the continued enhancement of the horticultural and environmental standards being achieved in Driffield. Generally, give careful consideration to future judging routes to ensure that all aspects of the judging criteria are included.

Elloughton cum Brough in Bloom Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Elloughton cum Brough is a large and diverse community in which the local bloom group work with enthusiasm and diligence. There are many fine examples of "blooming up" and community endeavour across the town and this covers a wide age range from toddlers at the local nursery to members of the "Golden Group". It is immediately clear on entering the town that Elloughton cum Brough is well loved and looked after by hard working volunteers who care about their environment and local area.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The planted beds and baskets were very colourful and well maintained. Private residential gardens across the town were of very good quality. Areas of planting under road signs were generally of high quality, colourful and well maintained. The War Memorial on Welton Road was beautifully maintained by Ron. The hanging baskets at the Half Moon and the Ferry Inn were of excellent standard. The judges were delighted to meet Sarah, Jess, Sam and the gardening gang at Petuaria Centre garden. Their gardening work was a delight to see as was the obvious enthusiasm of all involved. The judges were impressed by the endeavour shown by Amanda at the Coronation Copse on Saltgrounds Road. However, try to work with nature not against it. Investigate plants which will thrive in the shade of the trees and you could create a beautiful area full of woodland plants giving all year round interest. The judges commend Val Young for her commitment to the In Bloom group, her knowledge and impressive practical input particularly, but not only, on Welton Road. The borders at Sandfield Drive, the pots at the Police Station and the lovely "Buzz Stop" are all excellent examples of her fine input across the town.

Areas for Improvement

Consider the use of some trailing plants in the pots to soften the edges of the containers.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The judges were delighted to be shown around the WARCS Nature Reserve by our excellent and highly knowledgeable guides. The wonderful mature tree cover provides a myriad of habitats for wildlife in close proximity to residential areas of Elloughton. The terrific work being done by volunteer Bob Craft on the Spindlewood borders is to be commended. The painted bus shelters added bright splashes of colour across the town and the painted bollards were original and unusual.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to try to resolve the problem of localised fly tipping in the woodland. The judges were interested to learn of future plans for a flower meadow extension to the wood and look forward to hearing of progress in the near future. Street furniture appears to be in need of a little attention. Could the Bloom group work with the Town Council to implement a rolling programme of maintenance?

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The visit to Brough Primary School to see the garden project was most welcome. Our guides Lily and Jack were excellent ambassadors and our thanks go to Miss Hayes for her obvious enthusiasm and devotion to her subject. The group do an excellent job of promoting themselves through printed booklets, banners and the scrapbook archive evidencing press coverage. Of particular note is the video being shown in the library of bloom activities. The judges thought this was an excellent idea and one that many groups would do well to consider.

Areas for Improvement

The Bloom group are doing a fabulous job around their community but there are only a small number of volunteers who work very hard to achieve good results. In the long term the group need to beware that they are not spreading themselves too thinly. Concentrate on quality not quantity and spend some time paying attention to detail rather than taking on any more projects which may be unsustainable in the long term with only a small number of volunteers.

Horsforth Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Horsforth has a good bloom group in place with plenty of volunteers. Starting from the Methodist church the judges were shown many examples of how the community has got behind Horsforth. Bucket planters adjoined the lamp posts, barrier boxes gave excellent colour and other mixed planters added colour to areas which at sometime would have looked unkempt and neglected. The children at ducklings nursery had an abundance of growing projects from fruit and veg, bird and bat boxes. Insect

areas. Budding horticulturalists for the future. Good to see businesses getting behind the campaign. A very good entry and one the judges were pleased to visit. Big thank you to everyone involved.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Colourful and interesting frontage to Methodist Chapel. Jubilee Garden in front of Library at top of main street. Bucket planters in high street along with planters along Crabtree Car park Horsforth park. Ducklings infant school, Start them young in Horsforth. Support from Morrison's supermarket who also had hanging baskets up

Areas for Improvement

Need to look at allotment sites; others in area may have been better.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Horsforth burial ground, now a good wildlife haven and educational area. Good clean area free of litter and fly posting exactly what judges and visitors want to see. Wildlife areas in park well maintained barrier boxes and planters good pride in the area. Recycling area at rear of Morrisons well maintained

Areas for Improvement

Continue to improve planters and expand when group ready. Don't take too much on but very colourful entry

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Plenty of good projects to raise money for the bloom initiative in Horsforth. Coffee mornings, plant sales, filling customers bags in Morrisons. Newsletters.

Areas for Improvement

Be aware of time to take judges round, keep tweaking the route, but overall a good entry.

Ilkley Silver Rose Award

Introduction

Ilkley in Bloom (IiB) have been entering in YIB for 30 years and are still making their presence known around the town. A surprisingly small but active team for the size of the Town, work closely with the local authority who do most of the planting and maintenance. Ilkley's floral presence is seen by residents and visitors alike.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Well maintained and planted garden at the Police station. The many Local authority planted and maintained flower beds and hanging baskets

Areas for Improvement

David Lishman shop and Ilkley Bowling club are both excellent but if the group engage more with the local businesses and increase their participation this would greatly lift the liB profile. With local authority having financial restraints, more sustainable planting in the beds would reduce the number and cost of the 'mass bedding schemes' and benefit the horticultural practise. A more creative, imaginative use of the flower beds would lift the entry higher. Consider more structure, Art, or even a theme into the plantings. Perhaps tie in the theme of the 'Moor' and enhance the heritage of the town.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Good level of cleanliness and absence of litter around considering how busy the weekend would have been. Street furniture, along the main streets and parks are of a good standard and cared for. Especially around the bandstand.

Areas for Improvement

Ilkley's pride of place was distinctly lacking any imagination or innovation and has relied on an old format of past procedures. The In Bloom group have a great opportunity to 'Pull in' more on the local heritage, conservation and hard landscaping by presenting this to the public in an enlightening manner. Little evidence was shown of either the group or local authority's engagement with the populous of Ilkley in environmental awareness, so attention to Resource awareness would help the town.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Interacting with the gardening group at Ilkley Grammar School. The Young Gardeners where a delight to meet and to witness their enthusiasm and business acumen was a pleasure. Well done to the staff for this group's interaction. Close working relationship with Local Authority Parks Department liB annual gardening competition.

Areas for Improvement

liB have a great opportunity to gain new members and town support, by forming more engagement and creativity with the community. This would benefit not only liB, but the town's community, and also lead to more fund raising opportunities. Very little evidence of regular communication with the town. Posters, a website, or even a newsletter would increase the group's awareness and endeavours.

Newby & Scalby Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The judges were greeted by a friendly and enthusiastic Newby and Scalby in Bloom team. It was clear to see from the onset that they were a passionate group of people who have a clear pride in their town and a desire to enhance the area rather than change it. The Children's poster competition was good to see as was the way in which the team have been working with five local schools encouraging them to grow potatoes for the annual potato growing competition. The whole town was clean and tidy with many impressive residential gardens.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The judges were impressed with the sympathetic way the team are designing the bedding with environmental factors starting to play a larger part. The residential gardens were a credit to the town. The open space at the beck is well maintained, and is a peaceful area. Proudfoots is really well planted and gives a welcoming entrance to its customers.

Areas for Improvement

The judges encourage the team to continue with their goal to include more perennial planting in their displays, this will reduce the number of hours the volunteers have to put in when planting spring and summer displays. It may be worth considering increasing the use of perennials at your gateway signs. Also the Victorian memorial is a credit to the work already completed at this site, which is difficult in that the tree takes most of the moisture from the soil and makes it difficult for the grass and plants to grow. Shade loving plants may be the best way forward for the planter and consideration of either leaf mulch or wood barking for the area.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The beck area is a lovely peaceful part of the town which is kept to a high natural standard which encourages wildlife to flourish – as demonstrated by the pair of stoats playing in the road! We were pleased to hear how the team lift and look after the polyanthus and begonias out of season using them again the following season. The playground and bus shelter have been greatly improved by the team using the Payback scheme.

Areas for Improvement

We would have liked to have heard more about what composting the team undertakes and a demonstration of where/how the team helps with water harvesting and retention.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The work the team undertake with five schools is commendable and the rewards will be reaped with the future generations understanding the importance of growing and cultivating. The team also has good working links with the businesses and in particular the Rosette Public House. The landlady has been a

great supporter of Newby and Scalby in Bloom allowing them to use the grounds for their first plant sale. We were impressed to hear about the resurrection, by the In Bloom team, of the Annual Produce Fair – this can only increase their profile in their town and benefit the whole community.

Areas for Improvement

The judges would just like to encourage you to continue building on the excellent links you already have with your community. To try encourage more young people to join the in bloom team.

Otley Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The Otley in Bloom team is a well established group which works really hard to not only improve their town but at drawing all the various business and community groups together to become involved in their goal to improve and enhance Otley. The judging day was hot and sunny and whilst the team were disappointed with not being able to see the judges in spring they demonstrated their work in an excellent portfolio and display. It is clear to see this is an all year round endeavour which is benefiting the whole of Otley.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The judges were impressed with the way in which the team is working towards the use of more permanent planting and the recycling of the annual plants which are being looked after at the allotments. The park was looking good, though there were a few gaps; nature had taken its toll on some of the planting due to this dry season. The use of vegetable beds in the park was innovative. We also were impressed with the team's newly created nectar bed at Wharfedale Park. Residential gardens were impressive and it was good to see how many of the businesses have planted their own areas to a high standard.

Areas for Improvement

We encourage the team to continue with the permanent planting of the large 'Instaplanta' tubs; consider the use of perennial geraniums. There are numerous varieties that will give you different heights and colours and save on the amount of work the team is involved with for the replanting of summer and spring bedding.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The nectar bed at Wharfedale Park and the use of vegetables in a few of the beds is creative. The town was clean, litter free and with no evidence of graffiti, dog fouling or fly-posting.

Areas for Improvement

Consider using more permanent planting at your gateways.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The team is strong and well organised. It was good to see that they have managed to encourage new members. The work at Whartons School is impressive and a credit to the team members who regularly attend at the school and encourage them to plant and be environmentally aware

Areas for Improvement

Continue your work in the community, hopefully to encourage more people to join, especially from the younger generation.

Pocklington Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The judges were made very welcome and given a good enlightening tour of the town on a warm sunny day. The small and enthusiastic team work very hard with other organisations including East Riding of Yorkshire Council. There were some attractive flower beds, planters and baskets. Burnby Hall Gardens are a wonderful asset to the town and Pocklington School, with its ancient trees, contributes to the heritage and environmental aspect of the competition

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

There were many good interesting areas of horticulture, including the WI bed, the memorial Bed and the residents' gardens looked after by Ann. Burnby Hall Gardens with their renowned collection of water lilies provide a wonderful facility to be enjoyed by everyone who visits. Pocklington School with its ancient trees and very well maintained grounds which include a statue of William Wilberforce. The planting of 500 trees to commemorate the school's 500 years in 2014 is an excellent project

Areas for Improvement

There were some good examples of businesses having good floral displays but more needs to be done in this area within the town. Continue to develop sustainable planting and ensure all areas are well maintained

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The changes in the recycling system with the beneficial reduction in ground fill from 34.000 to 14000 tons. The streets and street furniture were clean and well presented. The production of green waste at the allotments. The stumpery and wild life area at Burnby Hall The infant school did a lot to conserve wild life and the environment.

Areas for Improvement

The judges felt that there is a need for more evidence of sustainable planting and development of wild life areas. Continue to support re-cycling and the reduced impact of the environment

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

There were some good examples of working with community groups and East Riding of Yorkshire Council. The plant stall held at Burnby Hall.

Areas for Improvement

There were some very good posters promoting the Yorkshire in Bloom Judging but it would be good to see more evidence of publicity of the In Bloom Group throughout the year. This will help to raise the profile and hopefully attract more members to the group. Continue to look for more sponsorship from businesses and residents within the town to further enhance the entry. A more comprehensive portfolio would be of benefit in the future. It does not count in the marking but is a very useful "aide memoire" to the judges and all those supporting the "In Bloom" initiative.

Rothwell Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Being in the mining area of West Yorkshire and the agricultural heartland of rhubarb growing the image of Rothwell may not be foremost in many people's mind, but to visit this area will quickly dispel the thoughts of old mining village with run down miners cottages and scrub unused farmland. A surprising quality exists here and is undoubtedly foremost in the minds of the In Bloom group that showed the judges round on a sunny day. Local residents are spoiled for choice as the area has quality floral displays, clean and tidy streets, litter free pasture lands and local parks to welcome anyone young or old.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

A well presented quality display of seasonal bedding augmented by strategic planting of perennial varieties to give a broader flowering period throughout the year and help reduce labour and costs but still give a very good display. A good variety of sponsored planters, barrels, timber boxes and self watering tubs are at every turn and add to a bright well looked after town feeling that the group encourage people to become involved with from all walks, schools, residential areas, churches and the Rothwell Juniors in the free car park area. The roadside verges, roundabouts and open space areas were well maintained and again litter free and give many areas for locals to sit and ponder. The gardens in St Marys church grounds were looking fine and is a work in progress project so much to do here and will enhance the whole site when completed. The replanting of many shrub areas around the town shows the commitment to improving the whole area and close liaison with Leeds CC has made the cooperation system work very well and the results can be seen in improved growth and removal of the membrane will help development.

Areas for Improvement

While many town centre shops were displaying In Bloom notices little was shown of the main larger business's around the town and what impact these have with the groups and how much involvement they have and to meet representative would be good. The group have a gardens competition running and it would be good to have the judges see some of the residential gardens on either the spring or summer route and see the quality and variety of gardens present. Also a visit to the allotments on either the spring or summer. The trees at Margaret's Garden need replacing and a careful choice is needed as the site is somewhat restricted and large trees would be problematic, consult Leeds CC tree unit for advice.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The management of the Rothwell Pasture is very impressive and guided by Elaine from Leeds CC Conservation Section shows what can be done to provide a peaceful recreation area for all. The stream was well maintained and had well managed banks to either side giving plenty of habitats along the full length. The quality of maintenance of the larger expanse was also well planned giving mown walking areas and the signage at Gillett Bridge was well presented. Marsh St recycling areas was visited and shows that the towns' folk are committed to the task and even have a food recycling area; the waste is then used by local framers for compost. Many other recycling sites are dotted around the area to allow easier visits by townsfolk. The Rothwell History Society have done a good job on providing information on the various aspect of the town such as the canal locks, castle, stocks and maypole which all adds to the character of the town and is an interest for visitors.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to ensure all the areas around the pasture are clean and tidy to deter people falling into bad habits. More signage of the tracks and walkways could be provided a certain spots around the site letting people know where to investigate further. Good housekeeping has ensured a clean and tidy town and this is an important part of the group's activity and should be continued in association with the Local Council. The Margaret's Garden is a fine tribute to the benefactor and it may be prudent to have an interpretation sign giving people who don't know the reason behind the garden and the effect this has had on the group and subsequently the town. Continue to manage the street furniture, some is in need of TLC and a planned programme of annual maintenance could be set up to ensure it does not fall into disrepair.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

A well produced portfolio for the judges shows the intent of the group and highlights the people who are involved with the group either in person or groups such as Rothwell Juniors, the Church Gardeners, the Working Men's Club, The Junior Football Team and importantly Leeds CC. The plan shown in the portfolio indicates that some forward thinking is going on and this helps to focus attention to those task that need undertaking. The benefactor has quite certainly given a head start to the group and the other support received by sponsorship in kind is also important as it show that local shops and businesses are interested in the town and the local people.

Areas for Improvement

The group may need to take a look inside the set up and see what the future holds as it may be necessary to expand the group and broaden the mix of people involved to ensure continuity for the town and the In Bloomers. Publicity is essential for the group to highlight to the towns folk what they are doing and where other people can be of help. Local press coverage is essential and building on the one shown in the update information handed out is the press coverage needed. The Haigh Road School garden was a pleasure to see and it is important that these children and the next grade are involved as much as possible in helping and contributing to the group's activities so they become part of the community as they may be the next generation of In Bloomers

Skipton Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The Skipton in Bloom group is a hard working organisation with a clear vision of what they want to achieve and how they want to involve as many local groups and individuals in enhancing their local environment and promoting the area as a tourist destination.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The well laid out superb grounds of NYCC Steeping Stones II at the entrance to Airedale Park. The Narrowboat planters and barrel clusters in various areas of the town. The ingenious array of colourful features at Skipton Auto Services. The attractive and well designed grounds of Holy Trinity Church maintained by volunteers. The Diamond Jubilee Community Garden (phases 1 and 2) set in an area of housing and adjacent to busy streets was a gem and was an ongoing joint project between Skipton in Bloom and Craven College. Several very good residential gardens. The floral displays at the Castle Inn and Emporio Italia were outstanding.

Areas for Improvement

Though some sites we visited were most interesting and to a high standard, care should be taken to make sure the route chosen enhances the visit and does not take up too much of the allocated time. Try to limit time spent at each venue to gain maximum impact. We bypassed one or two business premises which would have been worth visiting (e.g. grounds of Skipton Building Society). The proposal for the 'Herbs by the Kerbs' project sounds most interesting and will no doubt be a great improvement to the designated area. Consider some tree planting in certain strategic areas. The proposed added floral features in several areas will enhance the town. Evaluate the choice of containers to gain maximum value. (Hanging baskets/ barrier baskets/ barrel clusters. Encourage more business premises to enhance their premises.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Though we didn't have time to visit Skipton Castle woods the information we were given indicated well managed wildlife and natural habitats within this ancient woodland, with added access facilities and educational resources. The redesigning of maintenance programs in Craven College grounds bringing

about a more diverse range of plant species. The new range of Finger Post directional signs in various areas of the town. Utilizing local stone for the new projects to build seats, walls etc.

Areas for Improvement

Suggest that we might have been shown the Castle and grounds as part of the heritage element.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The involvement of many groups and organisations (too many to mention) in promoting the enhancing the environment of their town. The Skipton in Bloom banners in many areas of the town. The cooperation and working with Craven College to design and construct features enhancing the areas and providing an educational resource for students. This is a very busy working group organizing events and working parties. Press coverage and promotional material throughout the year. Fundraising and applying for grants throughout the year and gaining support from local businesses and the Town Council. The involvement of Skipton Business Improvement District (BID) has made a marked difference.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to develop close links with the town's businesses to promote Skipton as a tourist destination. Develop school's involvement which is vital for the education of young people.

Todmorden Gold Rose Award Category Winner

Introduction

We were met by a very enthusiastic group who were passionate about their town and how it looked for residents and visitors. The tour and portfolio was well thought out to provide examples of their projects and how it fitted in to the judging criteria. The group had been involved in numerous improvements throughout the town which was alive with colour from barrier baskets and 60 businesses sponsored hanging baskets which were colour coordinated and themed throughout the town. The group showed examples of schemes which they have replanted and refurbished to provide additional interest and sustainment. The use of colour mixed with herb planting was very well done and has been appreciated by the local community. The involvement of the schools within the town and the group helping other communities to spread the in bloom message has to be commended. A well balanced entry achieved by a hard working local group back up by local business support.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The judges were impressed by the choice of plant material and the impact the hanging baskets and barrier baskets. The Garden competition is well supported with numerous entries and it was good to see examples as part of our tour around the town. Quality of plants and successful re-sourcing of plants. The Peace Garden was very impressive and in full bloom at the time of our visit the use of perennial planting at busy road junctions was very effective and sustainable. Town centre shopping area.

Areas for Improvement

Is there an allotment society, if so develop links, include in tour. Consider whether some of the earlier projects are ready for refreshing e.g. now that plants are mature do they need moving/pruning/removing, could new plants be included to add further interest. Would the Local Authority be willing to support the Group by advising on new designs and plant choice where new beds are created or existing beds refreshed? In future try to get the children from Castle Hill School to meet the judges and show them the school gardening project. This approach would have enhanced the visit. Have a map of the town available on the day or in your portfolio with all the projects which the group have carried out even if they are not part of the judging tour. This would demonstrate the depth and diversity of work carried out by the group.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The visit to Centre Vale Park and we the commend groups knowledge and celebration of local heritage and of the Towns benefactors – The Fieldens. The groups desire to be involved in local initiatives and support projects such as the Green Route. The group have developed numerous planting schemes for wildlife and bees. The group have carried out many litter picks and clean up days throughout the town; this commitment by the volunteers should be recorded so that the value of work can be used as match funding for any external grant applications. The town was litter free during our visit and the group were vigilant in tackling problem areas around the town centre.

Areas for Improvement

Further demonstration of what is being done to improve biodiversity and natural habitat conservation. Consider taking advice on sustainable planting from the Local Authority. It would have been useful to have met representatives from Incredible Edibles so we could have had a better understanding of how their future plans fit in with in Bloom.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Continuity and development of the Group extremely good. Fund raising and support excellent, good range of support from significant grants and donations through help in kind, to shops and residents adopting small area for upkeep and/or watering duties. The way the In Bloom Group works together with such a wide range of the other voluntary groups in the Town for the common good of Todmorden

Areas for Improvement

Recommend developing a media plan and it would have been good to have had press coverage of the judging day. Consider creating Todmorden in Bloom signs for planters etc, perhaps a logo and/or poster could be designed in partnership with local schools. Logging and recording volunteer hours would be beneficial and can be used as match funding when applying for grants. Look at ways to celebrate your many achievements!

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

Beverley Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

A well put together route showing the best of Beverley, it was obvious the amount of work has been put in since last year and how many groups had been involved. The group is enthusiastic and looking forward with innovative schemes, adding new projects particularly championing the move to encourage insect pollinators. Influenced by Incredible Edible at Todmorden the input by the allotment groups highlights the growing of vegetables to the public with the troughs outside Minster Towers, the herb bed by Tesco and the Field to Table Allotments and the open days must encourage people to grow their own and an inspiration to all. Maybe other visits to Bloom groups could be made to spark ideas and opportunities. The future for Beverley in Bloom is bright and we look forward to watching Beverley climb to the highest level very soon

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The tubs and troughs at Mariner's Court were an inspiration and must give a huge amount of pleasure to the residents and visitors. The area should maybe consider becoming an Its Your Neighbourhood. The improvements to Coronation Gardens has made a real difference and it will be good to see the final planting completed. The changes in the Minster Grounds offer an opportunity to change the style of planting and maintenance and create habitats for insect pollinators. Good baskets on the Fire Brigade, at the Tiger Inn, Royal Standard, the beauty salon and the barrier baskets created by Planting up Sunday around the town

Areas for Improvement

Whilst the replica of the Syntan complements the heritage area, maybe more could be made of the flowerbed adding a mooring or river bank with some permanent planting to give some height. Newbiggin Corner would be a great area for a college group to redesign, keeping some of the mature planting and enhancing the area and also might consider as an Its Your Neighbourhood. There is opportunity for the Bloom group to liaise with East Riding District Council to reassess the floral areas and pick the high priority areas. Some areas could have some permanent planting added whilst keeping the number of bedding plants the same or some changed over to shrubs or perennials.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The bee bank at Kitchen allotments was an excellent project maybe some labelling for the plants would be a good addition for the visitors to the allotments. The transition of planting for pollinating insects at the railway station is appreciated. The heritage trail and art trail were an excellent addition for the visitor

Areas for Improvement

For future judging some more emphasis needs to be placed on conservation, biodiversity and recycling. Consider some mulch on some of the beds to help keep in moisture and reduce the weeds

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The “Planting up Sunday” is an excellent initiative and obviously very successful attracting 7 new members. Whilst it is outlined in the portfolio it would be good to meet some youth groups or visit a school to see how young people get involved. The approach of having a separate Plant Selection subcommittee has reaped benefits with the emphasis on insect friendly plants perhaps a leaflet promoting this style of plants would be useful. The work at “From Field to Table” has been an outstanding development and can only go from strength to strength. Excellent sponsorship from the Co-op for the tiered planter

Areas for Improvement

A detailed route, along with the plan would be useful to the judges which would help orientate them on the tour

Knaresborough Gold Rose Award Category Winner

Introduction

Knaresborough is an attractive market town with a wealth of historic links. It is set in a dramatic location on elevated rock overlooking the River Nidd. The 'In Bloom' team, although relatively small, are very dedicated and work exceedingly hard to maintain the appearance of the Town with positive effect.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Some very well presented private gardens were observed. Throughout the Town there were colourful, well-maintained hanging baskets and planters. The Friends of Bebra Gardens have created some impressive displays with thoughtful and imaginative planting.

Areas for Improvement

Weeds growing around the litter bins in the centre of town were conspicuous. Perhaps encourage more businesses on the main thoroughfares to provide floral displays.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The Aspin Pond project is impressive and has a dedicated Friends Group. The Barker & Stonehouse Eco store has many sustainable features and is a fine example of reducing carbon footprint. The street furniture was mostly well maintained throughout the Town.

Areas for Improvement

A lot of roadside weed in evidence at the St. James Retail Park. Consider more sustainable, permanent planting in the Town displays

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Utilising a regular market stall for fund raising is commendable. Excellent established links with the local authorities, Friends Groups and 'In Bloom' teams working together.

Areas for Improvement

Poor standards of horticulture with an abundance of weed at Aspin School. Perhaps establish greater links with the School as advice and encouragement are much needed.

Pontefract Silver Rose Award

Introduction

The town was a lively and busy place on a market day, with many places of interest including the central Beastfair, castle and Pontefract Park with its racecourse. The participation in environmental improvements around the town made by a number of diverse organisations and groups was clearly evident, and has had a positive impact upon the town.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The success of the "Coal Bed" with its colourful wild flowers was a good introduction to the diversity of plant types used in plant display sites around the town. The hanging baskets in the central area and particularly on some business premises on the Beastfair were noteworthy and deserve mention. Credit should be given to the successful planting and establishment of the permanent planting and container display at the bus station, which brings colour and interest all year round. The interpretation boards and signage at Bridge Street and the Castle set a high standard, which would ideally be duplicated, at other sites in Pontefract.

Areas for Improvement

Additional floral and more sustainable plant displays particularly in the town's central area by local businesses would add further interest to the town's entry.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The wildlife and habitat developments at Pontefract Park are on a scale not often seen in a public park and are to be commended and encouraged. The town has retained a number of historic features of which the castle is predominant. With significant support from the active friends group it is a popular site. With some minor exceptions the town was free of litter and graffiti and was a credit to the community.

Areas for Improvement

The few pieces of litter and cigarette butts seen at key stops on the route let down the efforts made elsewhere. More information concerning the towns recycling practices could have been presented using information leaflets and news articles.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The visit to Lark Hill School and meeting the school children, showed how developing interest and practical involvement in the environment at an early age encourages learning and understanding. The support of the businesses has been hard won, and although not all is a monetary contribution and the levels are limited, it is appreciated that maintaining the current support and striving to increase it can be a daunting challenge. Keep up the good work.

Areas for Improvement

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

Pudsey Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

A first time visit by both judges to Pudsey and we found it an enjoyable. Pudsey has many features which are being planted and maintained by the local community. Good to see mixture of formal and informal planting around Pudsey. Pudsey Lowtown Primary school, the allotments and Pudsey Park were all outstanding but took nothing away from the efforts of this group who work hard all year round to enhance the area. Well done and thank you for an enjoyable day.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Appropriately planted barrier boxes positioned around bus terminus and centre of Pudsey. Planting and preservation of tripe dressing baths. Sparrow park for its restoration of beds and colourful herbaceous borders. Pudsey Lowtown Primary School, Excellent presentation by children. Worth an entry on its own. Allotment site one of best examples judges have visited. Every plot maintained

Areas for Improvement

Develop overgrown areas behind leisure centre. Funding secured and clearance started by volunteers. Hard work but will pay dividends in future. Re consider planting of large planters at front of leisure centre to give more colour in keeping with rest of entry.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Wildlife areas in Pudsey Park. Pudsey Lowtown Primary School, Wildlife garden had everything for all forms of wildlife. A good clean entry, judges saw no litter or dog fouling.

Areas for Improvement

Show recycling areas in Pudsey centre

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Active Bloom group expanding with new members, with fundraising activities throughout the year. Involvement with school groups in area especially Pudsey Lowtown Primary school. Sponsorship of barrier boxes by local businesses. Signage for Pudsey in Bloom initiatives

Areas for Improvement

Continue to push the bloom campaign in Pudsey and encourage other group to come on board. Publicise bloom campaign on notice boards around area.

Category 3: Large Town (35-100K)

Halifax Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Halifax was a joy to judge! The town has many interesting areas; lovely historical buildings and well used and beautifully maintained parks and open spaces. Halifax in Bloom is supported by many community groups and businesses, but particular mention should go to Fred Wade Ltd for their support not only this year, but in previous years too.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

Colourful and bright floral displays throughout the town. Excellent use of perennial planting throughout. New grass cutting arrangements are proving successful, with slightly longer grass but still very neat and tidy.

Areas for Improvement

Halifax can be very proud of the standards achieved, so keep working to maintain them. Keep developing the perennial planting schemes that are working so well.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Shibden Hall has a wide range of habitats and is very well maintained. The whole town was very clean throughout - well done! All beds were well mulched and new hanging baskets and barrier planters all have reservoirs, both helping to reduce the use of and to conserve water. There is evidently a sense of pride throughout the town.

Areas for Improvement

The redevelopment of the Piece Hall is an exciting project that will further enhance the town centre.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Many different groups take advantage of the wide range of facilities available: the schools using Shibden Hall and Manor Heath Park; businesses sponsoring planters and Lloyds Bank employees helping to develop the footpath from Shibden Hall to Beacon Hill, as well as friends groups and the Rotary Club working to improve specific areas. The outdoor gym equipment in Manor Heath park is a good idea and well used. Shibden Hall has a wide variety of activities aimed at all sections of the community, including pond-dipping for adults! Inspired! Ravenscliffe School has some great projects and is a hive of activity.

Areas for Improvement

A presentation or display boards detailing the work of more of the community group activities would be a useful addition to the judge's tour.

Harrogate Gold Rose Award Category Winner

Introduction

Harrogate has embraced all opportunities to create good visual displays using planting and features sympathetic to the area. The town was very colourful, clean and well maintained and the in Bloom team are to be commended. The well prepared route demonstrated the high standards that are achieved in horticulture and community involvement.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

We saw both formal and informal planting schemes of a very good standard. The parks. The Valley Gardens, Crescent Gardens and Harlow Hill allotments were stunning and other areas were empathetically planted with the users in mind.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to uphold the standard of planting and maintenance of the nature reserves. In terms of bloom visits it is helpful if the volunteers can promote the scale of the work they do and the educational work they do.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The nectar bars, litter fairies, the renovation and refurbishing in the Valley Gardens are all positive factors. The town has featured its heritage sites and the picture frame has become a tourist attraction.

Areas for Improvement

Some of the noticeboards and signage would benefit from being spruced up this very noticeable in the Valley gardens. Work with the Friends of Valley Gardens to complete the Pump House and add so much more to the gardens. Continue to plan and when possible implement development plans for the Valley gardens.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The groups involved with in Bloom are many and diverse. The town council is very much involved with the in Bloom team and it is clear that good communication exists across the various groups and institutions.

Areas for Improvement

There is an opportunity to maximise funding and support from local businesses with the advent of the Tour de France. This will also present a number of challenges in terms of the numbers of visitors who will be in the planted area of the town. We are sure that all sectors who are interested in Harrogate will continue to work together with excellent results.

Keighley Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The layout of this historic town affords a wealth of planting opportunities. Parts of the town are being renovated and the in Bloom group have introduced many new planting ideas, including herbs and vegetables among the flowers in the town centre.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

There was evidence of good formal and informal planting throughout the town including the Town Hall Square and War Memorial, the rose gardens at the Knowle Chapel of Rest and some residential gardens. Airedale Shopping Centre displayed attractive hanging baskets and the introduction of more sustainable planting and herbs and vegetables in the council beds are welcome additions.

Areas for Improvement

Consideration could be give to bolder planting schemes which would have more impact.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

There are plenty of examples of wildlife gardens, recycling and composting. The War Memorial and Shopping Centre were very well maintained and the streets were clean. The new frontage to the indoor market enhanced the building.

Areas for Improvement

Some of the seating and notice boards could benefit from freshening up. As the old arcade and other renovating works are being undertaken, perhaps some artwork referring to the heritage of Keighley could be included.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Diverse groups of the community are actively involved including schools, residents, older people, and people with disabilities. Funding and support has been found and continues to be resourced.

Areas for Improvement

Although the activities, projects and successes of the various groups was well publicised in their own areas, it would be useful to have this information displayed in common areas such as the Shopping Centre and the Church Green.

Category 4: City

Kingston-upon-Hull Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

A comprehensive tour of the city and meeting a number of community and organisational representatives, staff and service users was an exhausting but enjoyable introduction to a city with a wide portfolio of features, facilities and green spaces. The residents and visitor to the city will not be disappointed with the quality and diversity of interests available, especially the number of superb colourful city centre floral displays.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The number of good quality and colourful floral displays seen city wide, from seasonal planting to perennials and shrubs. Queens Gardens again being the best example of seasonal bedding. Some good quality and well maintained retail and business premises were visited. Some of those seen when passing on the tour were a credit to the owning organisations, which clearly feel that a well kept environment has a positive impact on their business. The range and diversity of uses the community organisations and residents put the allotment sites to. Exemplified at the Pickering Orchard Allotments and Newlands Allotment site along with the Bakersville Allotment activities which deserve even more support for the achievements made. Hull university is a credit with well considered and variety of planting providing a campus appreciated by staff and students.

Areas for Improvement

The accepted programme of shrub and rose beds removal from the highways roadside and central reservation areas, has left many areas with poor displays, which need urgent removal or maintenance. Consideration should be given to advancing the programme to avoid these sites detracting from better quality displays. Further encouragement of business premises to have displays, even in hard times.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Raising the awareness levels and participation of residents citywide, to the recycling initiatives, conservation and sustainability issues is to be highly commended. With limited exceptions each site seen and visited throughout the tour was free of litter and graffiti, including a number of the remote and less frequently maintained sites. A wonderful collaboration between users, volunteers, residents and staff. Local heritage has been incorporated well and Pop up shops utilise vacant premises to good effect.

Areas for Improvement

The wildlife area at the Pickering Orchard site would benefit from more interpretation signage to help the younger visitor to better understand what is there. More schools could benefit from better use of the many wildlife areas as outdoor study sites.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The Hull in Bloom competition continues to promote the profile of flora in the urban landscape, to both individuals and business and community organisations. The enthusiasm with which the community volunteers we met embraced their own particular project, and their acceptance that their own initiatives could deliver both short term and long term sustained improvements to their environment. It was good to see that the university embraced encouraging students to be more involved and with plans to increase this in future.

Areas for Improvement

Although being given a lot of detail during the tour, it would still have been appropriate to have the 15-minute presentation during a suitable break point. Evidence of a greater level of publicity of the cities participation in the Yorkshire in Bloom competition could have been made to the judges. It is pity that sponsored roundabouts being charged business rates could deter future sponsors, is this a little short sighted?

Leeds Gold Rose Award Category Winner

Introduction

Leeds is a city going forward in leaps and bounds and is now the largest centre in the UK outside London for legal, business and financial services with a population around 750,000. It has many open spaces and the quality, maintenance and diversity of these is outstanding for a working city. The importance of "In Bloom's" role in the overall strategy is evident throughout and further supported by a variety of banners in prominent places.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The quality of the bedding and maintenance of the open spaces was outstanding. Around the Civic Hall the edible flower beds, resulting from a competition held over the winter period, involving the public and part of the Feed Leeds campaign created much interest as did the flower beds designed by local school children - 1000+ entries here from 33 schools. The winners received prizes and the school an award of £300 towards a future project. The Mandella garden was excellent again with the children involved in the walk to freedom section. The natural feel being achieved at the LGI with the Courtyard Garden and the Knot garden replacing the previous bedding were again very good. At St. George's crypt the enthusiasm and work of Julian was inspirational. Park Square has high footfall but no litter and grassed areas and beds were of high quality and the baskets and planters by local businesses were excellent. Excellent floral tubs and planting throughout the city centre. The upgrading of the Merrion Street garden and St John's church to give an area for relaxation in the city centre and the wild life area at the latter to give a city centre facility for local schools and groups. The involvement of public houses in their own competition and Scarborough Hotel was particularly noteworthy. The work with Metro can only improve the environment further. In the outlying areas there were excellent planters/baskets at Barwick, Garforth, Swillington, Scholes and Woodlesford and the work of Keith at Thorpe Park was very good.

Roundhay Park was very well maintained and the area of the Monet/Alhambra and Chelsea gardens was exceptional.

Areas for Improvement

Look forward to seeing the development of Dortmund Square as a Piazza with further planting and the developments at St John's Church as an event area. Keep up the good work the overall ambience and general quality in all areas left little to be desired.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

Victoria Quarter shows great pride with bay tree planters and total lack of litter or graffiti and the efforts of John to create green areas are to be applauded. Victoria Quays has created a tranquil area where you would not believe you were in the centre of the city. Planting of old Yorkshire apple trees at Woodlesford Lock shows the heritage in this area of horticulture and good liaison with YWA. The wildlife areas being developed at The Maltings and at Hawthorne Farm. Rob is a great asset at the latter and his enthusiasm and friendly nature can only encourage more schools/groups to this area and this is a definite educational asset for local people - look after the Great Crested Newts!!! No evidence of graffiti, dog fouling and very little litter at any time or anywhere during the day - in a city the size of Leeds that is quite an achievement showing great pride of place.

Areas for Improvement

Again the future plans for further projects with YWA at other sites and the developments at Hawthorne Farm and The Maltings.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

Design a flower bed competition had 1000+ entries from 33 local schools. The Leeds in Bloom calendar competition involved both children and adults and must have made many people more aware of the work of In Bloom groups and hopefully lead to them getting more involved on the practical side and the use of the winning pictures around the Headrow will again raise profiles as well as a sense of achievement. Leeds in Bloom Community Areas being non competitive is an ideal introduction to In Bloom. There were good hand-outs to publicise Leeds in Bloom giving details of how to become involved and also business competitions. Children constructing bird boxes/insect houses at The Maltings and the emphasis on their involvement here to give them a pride of place. At Garforth very good community involvement the group also working with schools, brownies, boy scouts and girl guides and monthly meetings held and newsletter circulated. 52 In Bloom groups within the Leeds area shows the great extent of community involvement. Work by the Friends of Roundhay Park, Tree Trail, Walk Back in Time leaflets and newsletter excellent and also the Roundhay Environment Action Project.

Areas for Improvement

The very good work with schools can only increase the awareness of the next generation and is to be applauded as is the community involvement but obviously needs to be maintained and further planned for to ensure ongoing growth. The support of business community needs to be nurtured for benefit of all.

Category 4a NEW City Centre Pilot

Please note the judging criteria and marking sheet is different to our regular judging sheet, marks are determined on the following criteria; Community, Maintenance and Environment. The time allocated is up to a maximum of 1 ½ hours and the area judged is limited to a 500 yard radius of the town/city centre.

Barnsley City Centre Gold Rose Award

Areas of commendation

1. Community The Churchfields Redevelopment has been achieved largely due to the efforts of the Barnsley Central Residents Association Determination. In 2008 they had a funding bid turned down by Wren, but due to their hard work in 2009 they were awarded a grant of £15,608. Members of Council supported the initiative, and as a result of joint action the park has been greatly improved and now attracts much higher useage.
2. The heritage of Barnsley is seen to be important to the borough, and is supported by the Lottery fund. Experience Barnsley is a major project, using parts of the town Hall to create a hands on Museum and Achieves Centre.
3. An important Environmental aspect is the way the Market area Alhambra Shopping Centre and adjacent underpasses are managed. The area projects a feeling of safety and openness, and is well used by a wide variety of people being a major pedestrian traffic route – it is clean and free from any feeling of aggression.
4. Throughout the Town Centre many floral displays, and well maintained grass areas, contribute to a positive ambiance, to the benefit of all concerned. There is a good level of sponsorship and public support.

Areas for consideration

Generally very clean, but some litter on the inside edges of the car park. Mesh railings outside the town Hall need replacing to match the high standard of all the other works in the redeveloped town Hall area.

Category 5A: Coastal Resort A

Filey Gold Rose Award

Introduction

A wonderful sunny day by the sea in a wonderfully kept pretty town. The dedicated team continue to strive to make Filey a wonderful place to live and visit. The community spirit shone through the overall entry and everyone involved should be proud of the outcome of the judging. A very commendable entry and very worthy of their Gold Medal.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The bedding out in Crescent Gardens was of a high standard making for an attractive area for visitors to sit take in the views and enjoy whoever is performing in the band stand. The use of well chosen and appropriate permanent planting in the beds further along Crescent gardens not only reduces the cost of bedding out each year but in the judge's opinion adds interest. The Veg Bed is an interesting additional feature. The gardens of St Johns Church were a haven of peace and tranquillity, well maintained by a dedicated group of volunteers who should all be commended. . Muston Road Allotments were of a high quality and very well managed. The floral display outside the Victoria Court restaurant were of a high standard, they clearly appreciate that flowers and tidy gardens encourages business, keep up the good work. The quality of the hanging baskets on the ice cream shop opposite the paddling pool attracted our eye as we are sure it does of all their customers.

Areas for Improvement

Although the permanent planting along Crescent Gardens was very good we felt a little more care should be taken to weed the borders before showing the judges. The same can be said for the Dahlias and Hydrangea borders in North Cliff Gardens. Although they were of great interest they were again let down by the weeds. It was suggested by the judges that the Sycamore in St Johns garden be removed to allow the newly planted tree to fill the space.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The dams, Filey's hidden gem a wonderful well managed natural habitat home to numerous rare species. The judges were very impressed with the work FBOG do with youth groups and schools. The work with Community payback team is really working well. The work they are doing in painting railing and various other projects are really improving the experience of visiting the town for visitors and locals. For such busy tourist town there was very little litter and no graffiti, everyone involved should be congratulated. The many feature beds in Filey all with innovative and unusual sculpture all add to the experience of people living in and visiting the town. Local heritage aspects were evident throughout the tour.

Areas for Improvement

It may have been of use to have met and talked to the areas recycling officer maybe at the recycling area behind the bus station. Ensure that there is a management plan for street furniture and it's kept

up to date. Consider using Eco board instead of ply wood for the construction of the planned train at Filey Station.

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. We felt that all community groups around the town were doing an amazing job and they should be commended for all their efforts. The wishing well in Crescent Gardens is a great way of raising funds for Filey in Bloom. Very good Facebook page keeping everyone up to date.

Areas for Improvement

The Judges felt that it would have been beneficial to have either visited a school or met School children. Filey in Bloom should maybe consider in investing in more banners publicising themselves and the work they do around the town to be displayed in prominent places. Maybe a few more posters could be put up in shop and business windows around the town to say when the judging was taking place.

Hornsea Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Hornsea is a delightful seaside town where there is a trebling of the population during the summer holiday season. The many challenges this brings are ably met by the well-established Hornsea in Bloom group, who have introduced a number of colourful wildflower displays in the town to supplement the wide variety of seasonal and sustainable planting. The group have a sound working relationship with a wide section of the organisations in Hornsea, which has proven itself with a town, which was a real pleasure to visit, well done.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The variety of colourful floral display around the town was impressive, as was the high quality of a number of the hanging baskets seen, especially at the Edenfield Cemetery site. A number of private householders had also provided noteworthy displays such as the unforgettable roses at the "Corner House in Mill Lane. The grounds of Hornsea Freeport receive accolades each year for its splendid displays and high standards of maintenance, and this year is no exception with our visit there to end an enjoyable tour of Hornsea.

Areas for Improvement

The border at the Floral Hall should ideally be planted with sustainable plants to match the success achieved at the Sunken Garden. Continue to develop the adoption of horticultural features by residents; businesses and organisations wherever this is practical.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The cleanliness of the town was impressive, particularly during what was the busy summer period. The visit to the Hornsea Mere highlighted the wide variety of wildlife that can be found so close to the town centre. The plot holders at the Atwick Road allotment site are to be congratulated for showing what a successful community recycling initiative can achieve.

Areas for Improvement

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The Hornsea in Bloom group was established twelve years ago and has been consistently and incrementally, improving and adding a number of features to enhance the town for which they deserve to be recognised. The many opportunities taken to raise and generate support and funds for the activities of the in bloom group, particularly from the business sector in Hornsea.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to promote a wider awareness of the in bloom groups activities to increase volunteer numbers.

Whitby in Bloom Gold Rose Award Category Winner

Introduction

The Abbey looked stunning in the hot sunshine, looking down on the many hidden gems in the town below! The In Bloom group certainly gave the judges plenty to get their teeth into!! Whitby has many features both old and new which all combine to make this a stunning entry.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The many floral displays and sustainable/permanent planting schemes throughout the route including Ruswarp, Glen Esk caravan park (potential entry in its own right),Artefacts, window display, Marys house on Clarks Yard, Sanders Yard, The Duke of York pub, Sandside, Pannett Park , Marton court and Bob's planters and the many roundabouts along the route. The sustainable planting scheme at Whitehall landing and many well maintained residential gardens along the route. The creation and improvement of the Green Lane open space, providing a much needed area for local children to play, and the tree planting of native species as a shelter belt

Areas for Improvement

Attention to weeds in the paving at the entrance to Ruswarp station. The plans for the sunken gardens at West Cliff will enhance this entry in the future.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The newly designate nature reserve at Whitehall landings and the work being carried out to develop a footpath link between Ruswarp & Whitby around the mouth of the river Esk. The work being carried out at Stakesby School by staff and pupils, and the woodland wildlife corridor at Waterstead Lane and involvement with Airy Hill School. The Street scene was set... welcoming, clean and tidy! Even down to the repainted post boxes.

Areas for Improvement

The completion of the plans for the nature reserve at Whitehall landing and the circular path will add to this entry. The ideas for the Artillery shell to be placed in the second sunken garden on West Cliff will add interest to the restoration project.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The excellent flower bed competition with the winning designs by Kacey, Daniel, Isla and Alicia, being planted in the Crescent Gardens. The many and varied links with the community that the group has is to be commended. Links with the local schools, the Team at Whitehall Landings, The Ruswarp "Super Girls" the Friends of Pannet Park to name just a few. The relationship with the local press, Whitby Gazette and their window display. The support from the Town Council and SCC Parks Department. Due to there not being a spring visit this year, the information sent to us outlining works across the year and spring portfolio, gave a good flavour of what can be seen and what's going on in the town. Funding opportunities are sort at every turn, and business sponsorship is good across the town.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to try and secure funding/sponsorship from local hotels and B+B's, as the work of the In Bloom group is helping to create a welcoming place for tourists.

Category 5B: Coastal Resort B

Scarborough in Bloom Silver Gilt Rose Award Category Winner

Introduction

Scarborough's strength is its sense of community and on a rather overcast day the community of Scarborough was out in force to show Yorkshire in bloom the vast array and diverse means they have been working together over the last year. From large parks to small recreation grounds, schools to the small community gardening projects we felt the civic pride shining through the community that brightens up the day.

Section A: Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement

The flower beds designed by the school children in the valley gardens. The renovation works and green space improvements taking place at Manor/Dean road cemetery alongside Community Payback have to be commended. The residential front gardens in and around old town were of very good quality and a credit to the residents. The flower beds at Peasholm Park well designed and in particular keeping with tradition, the Dalia border edging the shrubbery. The many feature beds around the town that are mainly planted sustainably to further enhance the annual bedding. It is good to see in the portfolio the Scarborough are committed their annual best kept garden competition. It was good to see Friends of Seamer village maintaining the village recreation ground to a good standard and the plans to campaign for village green status.

Areas for Improvement

Some of the maintenance standards on council maintained sites that were shown to the judges differed around Scarborough and consideration should be given to the route to exclude unmaintained shrub beds etc. It would have been nice to walk through the town centre as stated on the route to view the planters, baskets etc.

Section B: Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement

The work done at Dean/Manor road cemeteries to open up the secret Garden alongside community payback and the friends group were helping to preserve the heritage of this fishing town. The large majority of the street furniture was very well maintained and of special interest was the sculptures donated by Mrs M Robinson on the foreshore. The way the soil/ stone was recycled at Dean/Manor road cemeteries demonstrated just one of the excellent conservation practices on site. Evidence of the extensive spring flower trail around the outer town gave the judges a good overview of the town's heritage. The work done by the friends of Peasholm park to compliment the Parks Staff by maintaining standards within Peasholm and applying for funding where ever possible..

Areas for Improvement

Care should be taken to plan the judging route so as not to include litter, weeds or graffiti on the tour. Consideration could be given to including Yorkshire in bloom posters in some of the notice boards along the route to raise profile of the campaign.

Section C: Community Participation

Areas of Achievement

The judges were very impressed with the range and diversity of the seemingly endless In Bloom groups in Scarborough. The funding over the years that the group have been awarded and the way its benefits other groups along the east coast has to be commended. The staggering amount of offenders' time used to create planters/ boats/repair head stones/paint street furniture/ general clearance work are just some of a never ending list that Roger and Sheila help coordinate along the east coast. The vast array of volunteers willing to give up their time to improve not only their green space but that of their neighbours working alongside over agencies to raise funds and get grants was very good to see.

Areas for Improvement

The work done alongside community payback though excellent could incurred extra costs if they go to a Trust, plans should be made to gain assurances or to raise funds to cover any short fall. Carry on with the refurbishment of the Dean/Manor road cemetery and when areas are declared safe consider inviting local schools to research the history of some of the people laid to rest.