

Yorkshire in Bloom Spring 2011 Judges Comments

Category 1A Small Village

Bradfield

Introduction

The outstanding weather complimented what has to be an outstanding part of the Yorkshire countryside. The group were very well organised and had a visit planned down to the last daffodil, of which there were plenty.

The area is well maintained in all detail and has to be a credit to all involved in making sure that all who see Bradfield, residents and visitors alike, can not help but be impressed.

The group has a good following of helpers and locals who will make every effort to ensure the priority is to present the village at its best year round. The judges were particularly impressed with the boundary stones and the community involvement in their design.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The detailing of plant mix was evident in the tubs and planters showing a swing to some permanent planting being used to good effect. While not extensive the range of seasonal floral display was of high quality and well maintained. The general standard around the village was high and working with the Parish and City Councils has produced the right results.

Areas for Improvement:

Continue with selective permanent planting in tubs and planters to help reduce the cost of seasonal bedding. While not many business' around the area continue pressure on those not fully supporting the effort. Consider the Jane Street courtyard for a future project in cleaning up and replanting as a resident meeting place. Consider using pebbles or slate as artistic edging to compliment the beds where winter salting is a problem.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The work on the Trespass Bridge has been significant in regenerating this busy area of the Ibbotson's Field. The planting of the fruit orchard has to be a future plus for the village and the new hedge will work well with the bee hives and woodland area. The village was clear of litter and graffiti with bins around in good condition and clean. The retention of the stocks, church stile and the possible addition of the telephone box will show intention of local heritage.

Areas for Improvement:

Continue the restoration of the river walling and bank in Ibbotson's Field to make sure this area is safe. Consider a management plan, possibly by school children, of the orchard to ensure it has an identity in the overall plan of the village. Look into prospect that the woodland adjacent to the orchard could have possibilities as a nature project for future work and to compliment the orchard project. Try to have the church grounds on the summer visit and continue the tractor tyre recycling.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The group have been busy over the last year with many projects, bridge openings, willow weaving and bulb planting to name a few. The work with the school children on planting the orchard hedge, helping Holly, will be a benefit for both the orchard and bee hives. The schedule provided shows the groups commitment to continued support the year round, and to future project still in the pipeline.

Areas for Improvement:

With the uncertain future of grants and funding from Local Authority and Government departments it is important to plan ahead to ensure major projects and schemes can be undertaken. Continue to have children from schools being involved in projects to ensure they have a future ownership of the village. Use the “In Bloom” judging days to publicise the groups activities through local press and possible web sites

Clayton

Introduction

On entering the village the verges were planted with brightly coloured Daffodils which flowed throughout the village. The small compact layout of the village contained a number of community maintained features. The village had an unusual feature in that the village church and cemetery is situated one mile outside the settlement in isolation surrounded by open farmland. Village history indicated that the original site of the village was moved away from the church and burial ground as a result of the Black Death

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The Church grounds were a sea of colour with spring bulbs planted around the church building. The mature woodland falling away towards a small stream under planted with bluebells and natural planting provided additional interest. The millennium Green was well maintained with a range of interesting plant types which provides year round interest. The spring floral planting in containers around the village and local war memorial provided additional colour and complimented the village architecture.

Areas for Improvement:

Consider sustainable planting around the village name signs to make the village more welcoming.

There are a number of potential sites and open spaces which could be planted or developed in the future. Consider getting the village to take part in a garden trail to add additional floral colour and interest in the village in Bloom campaign

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The Village pond area was well maintained and contains habitats for local wildlife. The wooden covered litter bins around the village were of a unique design and fitted in well with the surrounding green space. The overall cleanliness of the village and Lack of litter and dog fouling during the tour.

The church and burial grounds were of local historic significance and the building was actively in use.

Areas for Improvement:

We would suggest that the villages need to consider if there is a need for some form of community recycling facility in the village? The group should establish closer links with the local farms as they have a major impact to the village. We would suggest that the parish council talks with the local council to get support and assistance with the village entry in terms of mechanical sweeping and replacement of some of the public rights of way signage replacement

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

There were a number of good examples of the local community taking responsibility for feature maintenance within the village. The church member's determination towards the up keep and operation of the village church. The village's determination to keep the village shop and historical features going

Areas for Improvement:

We would suggest that the millennium green would make an ideal location for an addition village notice board and use the green as a focal point for village activities. We would suggest that a village in bloom group is established supported by the Parish council to develop the entry and further enhance the village features.

Esholt

Introduction

The small village of Esholt has to cope with fame, (Emmerdale) and the popular heritage Farm. This results in a population of 200 hosting over 15,000 visitors every year, with limited facilities. The village has two very well maintained allotment sites and well maintained open space. The spirit of In Bloom is shown by members helping in maintenance of planters around houses occupied by people with limited mobility.. Greenwoods haulage sets an example by maintaining its depot to a high standard and sweeping the adjacent highway. The battle against litter is constant but on the day of our visit there was a total absence of any litter.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The organic allotments sites complete with composting bins are well used and productive. The method of working with the local authority to maintain and develop them in an appropriate manner for the village is a good example of how it should be done. The rector's car park and the other five new gardens. The children's posters and gardening activities

Areas for Improvement:

To see if the bulb planting destroyed by cable work at High View can be replaced. Continue to work with the new operators of the Woolpack (a good and positive start has been made)

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

An overall awareness of environmental issues and re cycling levels. Awareness of local heritage and the importance of caring out work in sympathy and character appropriate to the village. In spite of the number of visitors the village was litter free.

Areas for Improvement:

Draw attention to the amount of work that is actually going on in the village. Highlight the location of the adjacent woodland and its importance for bio diversity

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The children's posters and the way they had been located to the relevant designer. Children undertaking garden maintenance in the village. Greenwoods haulage its depot and community interest.

Areas for Improvement:

There is clearly a high level of participation which seems to be well embedded and should provide a sound base for the future. Continue to work with new tenants and house holders to keep the displays and plantings that contribute to the character of the village.

Ledston

Introduction

A delightful pretty village with long well kept verges and lots of daffodils. The immaculate gardens at every house make this village a delight to visit. The very small In Bloom group is to be praised for the amount of effort and work shown in this entry.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

Plants in all tubs and displays were of good quality and showed good maintenance. Every garden a delight –we would like to see a photo of the 'tulip' garden when they are all in flower! For such a small group—usually just two workers the amount of work done on extending the verge borders up towards the Hall is to be much commended. Verges are immaculate –showing great care and attention

Areas for Improvement:

Difficult to mark for section A4 as there are really no village businesses. Look forward to seeing school in the summer

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

Long verge at entrance to village being left as wild life area shows good management – it will look lovely when bluebells are out—maybe another photo!? The feature bed around the village pump. An immaculate village with no litter The litter pick day with skips for the villagers was a good idea and brings out the village spirit . Maintenance of all tubs and seats could not be faulted

Areas for Improvement:

Could we see some evidence of recycling?

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

Wild verge and extra work at boundary stone at far end of village show on going projects as does the work on sides of road up to Hall but difficult to see how all can be sustained with only so few workers

Areas for Improvement:

Maybe a recruiting campaign is called for? We look forward to visiting school-maybe children could do posters? Would any press coverage help to publicise Bloom group?

Mill Bank

Introduction

A small village in Calderdale, built on a steep gradient. Once an industrial village with 5 mills, now a conservation area with a school and residential premises only. The last pub/bistro closed in autumn 2010 leaving the village with no commercial premises.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The fantastic involvement and enthusiasm of the children at the school who are clearly an integral part of the entry. To view their joy when we discovered their 'experiment' had germinated was delightful. The new planting of the orchard and the soft fruit planting, and the beech hedge. The range and individuality of the planting and planters at individual properties. The shared veg and herb beds

Areas for Improvement:

Continue to highlight areas that could benefit additional planting and ensure that it is in keeping with the surroundings. Develop and monitor the bee and butterfly garden at the top of the village, and consider a survey of species that are attracted to it?

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

Clear evidence of recycling despite issues with landscape not suiting wheelie bins and recycling boxes. Many compost bins and water butts are evident. Obvious pride in local heritage, including booklet written to explain this to the children. Whilst the past is not being forgotten it still has the feel of a modern village. A very good balance between past and future. Management of stream banks and paths are superb, as all work enhances without making it too groomed. Again excellent balance.

Areas for Improvement:

Decision about BT red phone box is needed. Some minor maintenance of some seats and benches required, but this has already been noted as an action by the group. Consider an alternative to the bamboo canes around the soft fruit area, concerns over safety given the incline of the ground and the proximity to the play area.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The recruitment and retention of new active members. The newsletters , facebook group, Calendars and CD. The forthcoming garden art festival organisation. The close relationship with the school, and the success with the Accent Housing and residents in agreeing a way forward for the wheelie bin/ rubbish issue on Bank View.

Areas for Improvement:

We look forward to seeing what innovative ideas you continue to have to keep the community engaged with the In-bloom campaign and overall village community spirit.

Muston

Introduction

Spring time in Muston was a delight. A wonderful display of bulbs and spring displays were to a high standard. The river of Sillas on the green and the church yard were outstanding. The dedicated committee continue to strive forward in making Muston a great place to live and visit and are very keen to retain the rural integrity of the village.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

Wonderful displays of spring bulbs. The residential and community gardens were to a high standard. The church grounds were outstanding and the open space was maintained to a high standard.

Areas for Improvement:

Continue to strive to harness the business side of the competition which will greatly enhance the overall efforts. Continue to identify appropriate horticultural projects to supplement the loss of the spring colour in key areas of the village, e.g. wild flower drifts/herbaceous perennials – the grass bank adjacent to the Chains (in conjunction with the land owner) also around the seating and bird feeder area next to Town End Pond.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The local environment was to a high standard, especially the targeting of dog fouling and the provision of 'doggie bags' available in key areas. Elements of local heritage were evident during the visit. Management of street furniture to be commended.

Areas for Improvement:

Identify new projects. Give consideration to producing some interpretation boards.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

Very strong and dedicated committee and community who work tirelessly throughout the year are to be commended. The youth projects are a key part of the village's delivery as is the community participation/all year round involvement which is second to none. Fundraising initiatives i.e. Strawberry Teas, Thai Supper and Going to Pot etc.

Areas for Improvement:

Consideration to be given to reviewing the marketing and publicity of the competition and the introduction of a photo opportunity on judging day – an ideal opportunity in July to promote the group in conjunction with the Scarecrow Festival.

Wold Newton

Introduction

The daffodils on the verges and the large village green provided a lovely spring feel to the whole village and that coupled with the escorted tour with Sarah and 6 year old Oliver as our guide made for a very enjoyable and informative visit. Thank you.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The central area of the village with the well-maintained green and lots of colourful daffodils on verges at the entrances. There were several good private gardens. Efforts by members of the community and support from the local garden centre with the provision of plants. Numerous floral features, window boxes, troughs, hay racks throughout the village. Particular mention for the work of the school and the youngsters, and teachers in developing the various features in the schools grounds, veg beds, wildlife areas, floral maze, and willow sculptures.

Areas for Improvement:

The judges look forward to seeing the repairs to the WI bed that had been damaged by the harsh winter. Though there were numerous colourful containers, consideration might be given to fewer larger units, which would have a bigger impact and with the resultant larger volume of compost could reduce the frequency of watering. This principle could also improve the visual effect at the Anvil Arms

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The variety of wildlife and garden features within the school grounds and the enthusiasm and knowledge of the children who showed us round. The grounds of the churchyard with wildflower areas with wildlife features and bird boxes. The clearing of the pond and the addition of the new floating nesting deck. The street furniture and bus shelter was generally well maintained

Areas for Improvement:

The access to and from the bridge by the pond is obviously a concern and the judges look forward to hearing and seeing a solution in order to allow access when wet.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The gardening and environmental projects being developed and carried out at the school by a wide age range of children is to be applauded. The Newsletter highlighted several events taking place during the year with the purpose of encouraging the 'Bloom' effort. Support by the local nursery in providing bedding plants.

Areas for Improvement:

Though Portfolios are not an essential element of the judging criteria the judges would encourage the village to prepare a simple document with photos depicting the various projects and competitions featured in the newsletter. It would have been good to see photographic evidence of dredging the pond and the 'Potato in a bucket competition' along with all the planting activities

Ecclesfield

Introduction

A young entry in the competition, the dedicated and enthusiastic In Bloom Group is concentrating its efforts within the Ecclesfield Conservation Area and is making a difference that is clearly recognised by residents and visitors. A number of improvement projects are at various stages of development, including a Community Garden, which will all add further interest in the future to this developing entry.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The Spring bulb and flowering displays in the churchyard, Priory Garden and in the horse trough and Jeffcock fountain on the Church Green. Residential gardens on Priory Road, the Basket displays at The Stocks Public House and the clearance work undertaken on the Sheffield Homes flats frontage on High Street. The considerable efforts in undertaking the improvements to create a usable open space at Ladycroft Meadow. The maintenance standards achieved within the churchyard considering the difficulties of the sloping ground and large number of headstones. The contribution towards the planning and development of the Community Garden to be constructed immediately adjacent the Conservation Area in Ecclefield Park.

Areas for Improvement:

Although the two new plant containers on Church Street provide additional colour and interest consideration might be given to an alternative design making use of the whole area. Replanting of the beds of the flats on High Street with sustainable planting should be a priority and we look forward to seeing the improvements to The Square on our summer visit. Encourage more businesses to provide floral displays on or adjacent their premises, particularly The Black Bull due to its prominent situation.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The creation of a wildlife area by the local Brownie group in a corner of the churchyard. The whole area was generally clean and tidy with little evidence of litter and dog fouling. The landscaping of the previously vacant land on St Mary's Lane (Ladycroft Meadow) and the contribution made by the Brownies and other volunteers. The use of interesting features such as the horse trough and Jeffcock fountain to enhance the displays on the Church Green.

Areas for Improvement:

Consider approaching Sheffield City Council's Ranger service to maximise the potential of the woodland linking Ecclesfield Park with the new open space at Ladycroft Meadow. Expand the wildlife area in the churchyard to generate more interest and reduce grass cutting and consider similar use for the steeply sloping area on Town End Road. There was little evidence of recycling within the Conservation area. Continue with the plans to enhance the gravestone of Alexander John Scott, Chaplain to Lord Nelson on board HMS Victory. The provision of an interpretation board to include a map of the conservation area and local historical information possibly located on

Church Green would be a valuable addition for visitors and local people together with a plaque on the hearse house.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

Good evidence of all-year-round planning and involvement by the In Bloom Group, evidenced by the portfolio and through discussion. Participation by local groups/clubs, schoolchildren and individuals demonstrating good support for the competition. Very good generation of awareness through the In Bloom website, newsletter, press articles, cards and house posters. Good support from business sponsors and the wide range of local fundraising activities undertaken by the In Bloom Group throughout the year including raffles, bric a-brac stalls, coffee mornings and the very successful expanding range of Ecclesfield in Bloom cards.

Areas for Improvement:

Consider providing a visual display on achievements and proposals as part of an initial presentation to the Judges. Maintain close contact with supporting organisations and local businesses in terms of practical support and sponsorship.

Grassington

Introduction

Grassington is a new entry, but has been planning and working towards this entry since 2009 - a very well worked out process, on which they are to be congratulated. They already have a team of about 30 workers, something many larger communities would love to have. Their portfolio is very clear, well illustrated and comprehensive - it reflects well what we saw and heard about on the day. They are keen to ensure that they retain the village's natural and traditional atmosphere, and are working to ensure that daffodils and similar plant material are kept within the urban boundaries. An attractive village enhanced, not spoilt, by their entry into YinB.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

Appropriate plantings of naturalised bulbs, and new tree planting. Congregational churchyard neat and attractive. Plans to introduce more permanent plantings. The school is linked to the Skipton Butterfly Project, and help and advice is given, and bulbs have been given to the school. Open public spaces are well maintained.

Areas for Improvement:

It is hoped even more shops, hotels and other premises will participate. We hope that the proposed means of preventing damage to roadside grassed areas will be effective.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The arrangement with the National Park and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust over where cultivated plants/bulbs will be used, to preserve the natural environment, is a very positive move. It is good to see all the old drystone walls and the narrow alleyways so well preserved and well maintained - the

old charm of a Dales village is clearly valued. No litter, graffiti and very little to detract. The carved trunk sheep seat is excellent.

Areas for Improvement:

Just a few people not yet on board, but we hope they also will soon work with you to create an even better entry.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

There is a good feeling of community involvement, including the school, traders and residents. A newsletter is published twice a year and there is a year round programme of events.

Areas for Improvement:

Build on your present ideas, you are on the right track, and you will gradually find new ventures will arise naturally

Kirkby Malzeard

Introduction

Arriving in bad weather we were met by a warm welcome from the in Bloom Group. The impressive floral display along the Main Street, gardens, planters and window boxes, were attractive and evidence of everyone's efforts in the community. The Judge's were very impressed by the cleanliness throughout the village tour.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The floral display at West End. All areas from private gardens, businesses and open spaces were well maintained and attractive, demonstrating community participation.

Areas for Improvement:

Introduce sustainable planting to enhance areas as achieved in front of the Pinfold. The Rose Garden would benefit from a facelift.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The overall appearance of the village was of a very high pristine standard. The history of the village is being compiled, and will benefit local heritage.

Areas for Improvement:

Are there any areas other than the school, for a wild life area to be created?

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The involvement of the Kirkby Malzeard Primary School! Their wild life garden; the vegetable garden; attractive low maintenance entrance and their Kirkby in Bloom posters.

Areas for Improvement:

Other than raffles, look at ways of increasing funding. E.g., gardeners

question time, pie and pea supper, quiz nights etc. Introduce a project e.g., allotments for the village.

Newmillerdam

Introduction

What a first time entry, Where has Newmillardam being hiding all this time. A well organised committee and volunteers all keen to show the judges what Newmillardam is all about and rightly so. Both judges impressed by the efforts put in by this group which can only go well for the future and we look forward to visiting again in the summer. Not your usual floral entry but very attractive and picturesque with something going on at every corner.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

Good Residential gardens throughout. Planting of native daffs along verges.

Planting of roadside verge. Country park and arboretum.

Areas for Improvement:

Visit more residential areas on route. Judges could see but not visited. Businesses on board giving further floralisation to area. Think about some planters in certain prominent areas. Not necessarily planted up with bedding plants there are other alternatives

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

Good clean entry, Lack of litter and graffiti. Work being carried out to conserve local village green. Woodland areas, conservation work and educational development. Good use of timber taken from woods and making seats around woodland.

Areas for Improvement:

Street furniture, stain. Make sure all in keeping with area. Nothing major. Good clean entry as it should be cannot ask for more. Planting of woodland shrubs around car park leading up to arboretum.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

Good support and fundraising. Pleased to see community effort throughout village. Good records of achievement and evidence of improvements

Areas for Improvement:

As you are on this one. Notices informing residents of competition

Redbourne

Introduction

Redbourne is an attractive and welcoming small village with a strong sense of the residents respecting their heritage and making improvements in a way that is complimentary to that heritage.

The village is beautifully maintained, in the main through the hard work of the villagers and the local gardening group. They are to be commended for their work to develop a culture where everyone can contribute to Redbourne in Bloom and where 'everyone does their bit'.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

We would like to commend Redbourne *for their many vibrant and attractive flower beds and boxes positioned throughout* the village. The quality of the plants and the planting itself was excellent and tastefully in keeping with the character of the village. The quiet area was lovely and was indeed a peaceful and tranquil haven perfect for those moments to quietly enjoy the beauty of area.

Areas for Improvement:

Perhaps the gardening group could encourage the pub to improve the hanging basket planting to provide colour for the summer. The judges look forward to seeing the plans to move towards more sustainable planting come to fruition.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The hard work of local residents in maintaining the grounds of St Andrew's Church is worthy of note and provides a fitting setting for a beautiful building of historic significance. Local environmental quality was excellent, not a piece of litter in sight, well done to the volunteers who are refreshing the railings and street furniture with a timely coat of paint.

Areas for Improvement:

We would like to hear more about Redbourne's plans to promote and encourage general recycling.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The involvement of the local community and the 'can do' attitude towards both general maintenance and projects to improve the village is exemplary. We were also most impressed by your creative attitude towards fund raising.

Areas for Improvement:

Perhaps you could consider promoting your 'Bloom' work a little more widely through the use of the local media and strategically placed publicity materials.

Spofforth

Introduction

On a perfect sunny morning, it was a delight to visit and judge Spofforth – a village where daffodils, tulips and polyanthus in particular seem to thrive. The In Bloom team were proud to commence the tour at the eastern approach to the village, with its elegant new sign. The following route taken,

more than highlighted the community achievement, in recovering from a long cold winter. Many of the volunteers were on hand to welcome and talk to the judges. The local contractor who maintains the lawns and grass areas, the children and all who regularly litter pick are to be congratulated on such a high standard of overall tidiness. Among the many 'gems' seen, the judges were impressed by the Ginny Green Holes New Wildlife Area and Playground; the Millennium Garden; and talking to Meghan and Chloe at the Spofforth Primary School's children's garden. The sign on the Castle Field wall reads – 'for the lasting benefit of the community' – which sums up all that is being achieved at Spofforth.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

In particular, a high standard of all grass areas, by the local contractor. Very neat colourful residential gardens; and in East Park Road. To be commended are All Saints Church, the Millennium Garden, the private gardens shown to the judges, and the appearance of the Castle Field.

Areas for Improvement:

Time allowing, in the Summer Judging, the judges would like to see more of residential gardens

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

Care and maintenance of tubs and planters, with a reduced usage of the bowser. A complete absence of litter, weeds and graffiti. Avoidance of herbicides. The 'Niffs and Butts' scheme.

Areas for Improvement:

In the summer, the judges would like to be shown the recycling depot and learn more about the 'Niffs and Butts'.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

A very evident community participation, with a large and willing group of planters and waterers throughout the year. Mainly 'in house' fund raising with local events. An impressive list of sponsors. An encouraging involvement with school children, with their school garden, weekly gardening club, and enthusiastic litter picking.

Areas for Improvement:

Does Spofforth get the press coverage it deserves?

Upper Hopton

Introduction

We had an enjoyable visit to the attractive village of Upper Hopton. The "In Bloom" efforts form an integral part of the aims of the Upper Hopton Community Association. There is an impressive array of talented local residents, who have helped to enhance the village over the past few years in many different ways. The village was awash with glorious spring daffodils and attractive pockets of spring bedding. The knowledge and experience of the In Bloom group is there for all to see. We look forward to our return in summer.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

Good visual impact across the village. The village has embraced all opportunities to create displays using planting and features sympathetic to the area. The mini daffodils in the churchyard were a joy. The poplar trees at the rear were an interesting feature. The residential gardens on the Cheviot Way area were most pleasing. The Old Chapel garden of Dr Tomlinson was particularly commendable.

Areas for Improvement:

The bedding was good overall. However, it is worth monitoring the beds for any gaps and keeping a few plants in reserve to fill the gaps if needed. The group are bravely attempting to plant the retaining wall at Croft House. We would like to suggest slightly more varied planting in this difficult area with easy growing alpines and this will establish over time. Some of the more permanent beds would benefit from the addition of a few extra perennials with spring interest.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The Wildlife garden area looked very good in spite of the early time of year. It was nice to see the hedgehog house. The dry stone walling, done by a volunteer is a credit to him. The village was very clean and tidy. Well done.

Areas for Improvement:

It will further enhance the churchyard when the community payback team clear the brambles on the unused area. Is there scope to introduce more waterbutts in the churchyard and at other suitable points throughout the village?

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

There is an impressive number of individuals and various groups involved. They should be congratulated on their active and successful participation. It is clear the village has a sustainable body of enthusiastic volunteers who care. There is evidence of good communication with the council and of regular meetings and excellent co-ordination between all groups in the village. The village holds many fundraising activities and secures on-going business sponsorship. Hopton in Bloom is publicised in the village and on the web, as well as the photographic competition and the impressive calendar.

Areas for Improvement:

The level of community involvement of people of all ages should be maintained to ensure the standard of this entry continues to develop. Continue with your excellent fundraising and profile raising work that you are doing. Aim to build up a good working relationship with the pub over time as done previously.

Wawne

Introduction

Wawne is a small rural farming village that gives the visitor a friendly and inviting welcome. The community flowerbeds are well maintained and the private gardens are impressive. The area is

clean and tidy and offers a wide range of facilities. There is an enthusiastic 'In Bloom' Group and the campaign is well supported by both the local community and local convenience store. The village should be congratulated for its' efforts.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The judges liked the sponsored barrel initiative and the variety of plants that had been chosen for the seasonal displays. They also liked the use of milk churns at the front of the Post Office and the butcher's bike at the front of the Village Store to carry on the farming theme throughout the village. The cut flower border in the churchyard shows innovation and the judges are looking forward to seeing how this has developed in the summer. The residential gardens were generally good and Byre Cottage and Gate Lodge were particularly nice. Also Stonecarr Court looked neat and tidy. The judges particularly liked the border planting along the barn wall on Meux Road, and thought that the display of seasonal bulbs throughout the village was stunning. They also liked the half moon beds that are looked after by local residents on Church Crescent and would like to congratulate them for their continued hard work. The allotment site and church frontage were very well maintained and a special mention should go to Margaret Brammer and the churchyard maintenance team.

Areas for Improvement:

The Village Hall forecourt seemed to be a little stark, and would benefit from some additional soft landscaping. The cutting of the grass verges was very poor and although the judges were aware that it is the local authority who are responsible for grounds maintenance, it may be worth the In-Bloom group contacting the local maintenance officer to see if the standards could be raised. The grass verges along the main street seemed to be suffering from vehicles running over them and creating unsightly ruts. The judges would like to suggest that the group consider installing some appropriate bollards to prevent this type of damage continuing in the future.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The judges were impressed with the use of locally sourced plants, particularly swapping perennial plants within the village. The judges liked the idea of using the churchyard as an area for conservation and wildlife. The log piles and the bird feeding stations demonstrated the village's commitment to biodiversity. The judges also liked the idea of using logs to give height in the flower beds as well as doubling up as beetle banks. The water harvesting from the church roof, to supply the allotments, is to be commended. The farming theme was considered to be the village's unique selling point with the displaying of old farming implements in the flower beds and the use of a tractor tyre as a herb planter.

Areas for Improvement:

The judges noticed that there was a distinct absence of seating within the village. It may be worth considering investing in some benches in the future, particularly near to the phone box, and in places that have natural views over the surrounding countryside.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The judges liked the cut out planters near the Primary School, and felt that by getting the young people involved, it would help to create a sense of pride within the village. The bulb planting along the bridleway looked very pretty. The judges felt that the Lifestylers had done an excellent job. The

sale of tussie-mussies, wreaths and pomanders is a really good example of the groups ability to raise funds, and the judges felt that these activities also had the added value of bringing local people together and raise further awareness of the In- Bloom campaign.

Areas for Improvement:

The judges would like to see more evidence of business involvement. Maybe explore the possibility of promoting the In Bloom campaign more on the Web. To actively engage more with young people, particularly teenagers.

Category 1C – Large Village

Barwick in Elmet

Introduction

The daffodil verges along with the planted hornbeams make for an eye catching approach to the village. An enthusiastic In Bloom group gave a very warm welcome on a lovely sunny day. Jubilee Gardens with its magnificent archway entrance was an unexpected pleasure as was the quirky Franks Patch!

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

Attractive and tidy centre with cenotaph and maypole. Colourful beds throughout entry. All Saints church grounds exceptionally well maintained. Small gapsite road edges well planted. Residential gardens very good and varied. Business support –financially and with displays good –Black Swan looked colourful. Huge amount of work involved with caring for Village hall car park-well done. Verges and green spaces well tended—the swathes of daffodils enhance area especially liked swathes of smaller February Gold daffs. Leeds Council are to be commended for grass cutting maintenance and street cleansing forming a partnership with Bloom group

Areas for Improvement:

Continue to move to more sustainable planting where possible and perhaps try more variety of spring planting

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The Boyle and Jubilee Gardens show wide variety of habitats and a great understanding of conservation and Frank must be Mr Biodiversity!! A different style of recycling at the Boyle too! Composting ,mulching and resource management well demonstrated. Local heritage an integral part of the whole entry. Street furniture and lighting well maintained.

Areas for Improvement:

Looking forward to seeing wild flowers at Bowling Green in summer

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

Regular work parties and an enthusiastic group show commitment and dedication to the bloom initiative that has obviously changed and improved the village. Sponsor signs clear, signs for judging dates and excellent display in Village Store window make the community aware of the activities. Open Gardens and other fund raising events show community involvement and all year round commitment. Well funded and sustainable

Areas for Improvement:

Could more youth involvement be shown ? Have you considered a website? maybe the school or youth groups could help with it. Would a press call of judges visit raise your profile

Bramham

Introduction

It was a lovely sunny morning with a welcoming host of daffodils showing off an attractive village. The first impressions were of a colourful display of very neat beds at Bowcliffe corner-lovely! The churchyard was exceptionally interesting and the war memorial was eye catching with lovely planters completely in character. An enthusiastic group of Bloomers to welcome us who show great pride in their village

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

Bowcliffe corner. Cenotaph and Village Pump-excellent variety of planting. Cattle Ramp gardens – good mix of planting. Old Peoples Shelter- a little haven on the main street. Good business involvement and good use of small gap sites –esp. liked longer borders near garage corner. All Saints church yard was excellent with colourful entrance. All verges well maintained by Leeds council with obvious extra work from committee.

Areas for Improvement:

Possibly try to vary the spring planting although the polys did give good colour. Possibly increase long verges when able and continue to encourage business participation.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The encouragement of wildlife in church grounds. Recycling bottle bank is very smart now! Cattle Ramp is a unique feature-could we see the book of walks? All signage of sponsorship was very good--clear and in good condition. Good to see where problems occur-such as collapsed wall you have overcome them.

Areas for Improvement:

More evidence of recycling initiatives would be good to see. Hopefully the access problem to the Wildlife area will be overcome-it looked very interesting. Some extra tidying and sweeping of war memorial area would improve this area.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

Securing the funding for the new park at Lyndon Ave is going to give a good new development to Bramham. A committed group of volunteers –as everywhere in the country it would be good to have more-keep up the recruiting drive! Children's Poster competition was very good .

Areas for Improvement:

Could we see more evidence of other sectors of the community that help you –possibly meet some? and maybe have a display of your photos? Would a press call-even an 'internal' one help to raise your profile?

Burncross

Introduction

Since its formation in 2006, the dedicated and enthusiastic Burncross Action Team has made a clear impression on the village through its in bloom activities. The organisational abilities and extent of support from public and private sectors are impressive as is the on-going forward planning and fundraising activities.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The quality and variety of the plants in beds and containers and the introduction of more sustainable planting particularly at the village gateways. The high standards achieved in many residential gardens and their sympathetic treatment associated with their rural surroundings. We look forward to seeing the results of the proposed front gardens competition on our summer visit. The floral displays associated with the Acorn Inn and surrounding area. The contribution made towards the planning and organisation of the refurbishment of the recreation ground.

Areas for Improvement:

Consideration might be given to extending the bulb and other plantings at the gateways. To minimise the unsightly appearance of the metal scaffold boards surrounding the seat at the Hall Wood Road gateway consider replacing with wood or raise the grass level in front. The early completion of some road verges should be sought and increased maintenance of some grassed areas.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The high-level bird boxes and the on-going management tasks undertaken in Foxfield Spring Wood and the creation of a natural water feature in the design of the new recreation ground to conserve moisture and extend the range of planting and interesting features. The composting, water storage facilities use of scaffolding boards for planters and dressing of old stone to create the boundary stones to the village are excellent examples of resource management and are to be commended. The cleaning and repainting of the previously neglected historical mileage posts. The high standard of cleanliness and maintenance of both public and private areas throughout the village.

Areas for Improvement:

Introduction of Interpretation boards in woodland should be considered

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

Clear evidence of all-year-round planning and involvement by the In Bloom Group, particularly evidenced by the excellent oral presentation and portfolio. The well presented visual display of achievements throughout the year and proposed future development of the recreation ground. Participation by other local organisations, schoolchildren and individuals demonstrating good support for the competition. Good generation of awareness through the Burncross Action Team newsletter, press releases and the monthly work days. The wide range of funding opportunities being pursued from grant-making bodies, public sector bodies and local resources through year-round fundraising activities, sponsorship and practical help in kind.

Areas for Improvement:

Maintain and where possible develop current levels of community participation. Possibly consider a dedicated web site for the In Bloom Group.

Cawood

Introduction

Cawood is a village of around 1200 people situated on the west bank of the River Ouse between York and Selby. It has a rich heritage with Cawood Castle a former home of the Archbishop of York and it has links to Cardinal Wolsey.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

Good Spring colour in planters. Excellent relationship with Grangeside Nurseries. Development of area adjacent to swing bridge

Areas for Improvement:

Since Selby Council now becoming less involved could a rota be set up for cutting the grass in the closed burial ground. Judges to see best kept commercial premises at summer judging together with school children's planting competition and village container competition.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

Purchase of Castle Garth and management of this with information pack and boards and involvement of English Nature in this project. Churchyard being managed for wildlife and again involvement of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. Village litter free and no graffiti. Very sympathetic development of village. Recycling raising money for village hall and school.

Areas for Improvement:

Some of street furniture would benefit from being given a facelift. Continue development of Castle Garth with English Nature. Judges would like to see evidence of recycling in the village and pond areas on the Castle Garth – are schools involved in these areas?

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

Platform for school to dip in pond on Garth. Future plans for closed cemetery leading to more sustainable planting. Good involvement with thriving In Bloom group. School gardening group and school and brownies helping with planting. Development of allotments.

Areas for Improvement:

Development of school gardening group

Cayton

Introduction

The high standards of displays seen all around the village of Cayton is a testament to the hard work and commitment over a number of years, of the dedicated members of the Cayton in Bloom group. There were many floral displays at strategic locations seen throughout the village, some memorable features such as the Mill Wheel and boat and a large number of well-maintained private gardens. The unexpected challenges from 2010 seem only to have stirred the group and the community to even greater levels of activity and achievement. The judges look forward to a welcome return in the summer.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The increasing numbers of perennial planting areas being established around the village giving all year round appeal are to be commended. The cultivation standards seen in a number of private gardens following such a severe winter were a pleasure to see. A well done to all involved. The Mill Wheel, Boat and Hay Cart features added originality and colour to the route. A lot of effort but worth the rewards it adds to the entry.

Areas for Improvement:

Early replacement of plants lost from displays due to the recent severe winter conditions.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

Establishing and maintaining the “Bird Garden” to its current standard is to be congratulated. The whole community are to be praised for ensuring the village was presented free of litter, graffiti and dog fouling. Well-maintained street furniture comes from a cohesive effort on behalf of a number of organisations. In Cayton this is working well and is a fine example how it should be done.

Areas for Improvement:

Opportunity is available to develop a wildlife walk through the St John the Baptist church grounds. More evidence of water recycling initiatives should be included in the summer judging route.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The Cayton in Bloom group are well organised, activities involve the wider community; they are enthusiastic and get results. A really well done team effort. The level of sponsorship and donation from the local businesses and generation of funding is its own success story and is to be congratulated.

Areas for Improvement:

The organisation of the Cayton in Bloom group is very good, it may be opportune to develop a junior section with their own small funding target and project and representation with the senior group.

Great Preston and Little Preston

Introduction

The Parish of Great and Little Preston comprises two small villages and in the past has been surrounded by deep coal mining and more recently open coast mining which has given the opportunity to create a lake and wildlife area. The road through Great Preston is a busy link road to the M1 which creates its own difficulties.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The area around Bowers Row Mission Church and Grounds and the replanted bed next to the Cricket Ground.

Areas for Improvement:

The beds on the road very of Whitehouse Lane and Goody Cross Lane.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The wildlife area next to the Parish Hall with bird boxes, the recycling of soil from around the Parish Hall and the community litter picking where all to be commended.

Areas for Improvement:

There was little sign of water harvesting and composting also there was graffiti on the old school and vacant prefabricated housing.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The commitment to ongoing development and the sustainability of the local in bloom initiative.

Areas for Improvement:

Clearly building on the good relationship between the local school and the in bloom group, particularly as the school does seem to be having a new garden provided by the BTCV

Grenoside

Introduction

With a view across much of South Yorkshire and stretching into West Yorkshire Grenoside sits only 2/3 miles from Sheffield. Residents are rightly proud of their history and have enhanced and revealed many interesting features. Many thousands must pass the Grenoside War Memorial on the main road to Sheffield every day, it truly is a fitting tribute. Mixed with the new open space that is Grenoside Green and other new developments Grenoside is a lovely village to visit and we look forward to returning in the summer.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

Whole Village had a “good feel” factor with all areas well maintained a free from litter. Some very good examples of front house gardens.

Areas for Improvement:

Consider more impact at prominent points in Village. Accepting problems in Brewery trade consider assisting pubs by adopting certain features. Earlier removal of old bedding material.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

Very well maintained woodland with supporting leaflets. Interesting Village heritage boards. Absence of litter.

Areas for Improvement:

Endeavour to persuade or seek permission to tidy perimeter areas around old school which is awaiting development.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

Much evidence of local group involvement. Annual plant sale is very successful. Community centre focal point of vibrant Village life. Good leaflet promoting judging day.

Areas for Improvement:

The need to involve the local pubs however this is achieved is an important goal for 2011.

Helmsley

Introduction

Although it was raining at the start of our visit, Helmsley's natural beauty shone through all the same. Helmsley in Bloom have obviously worked extremely hard presenting it at its best. It was clear to see why Helmsley in Bloom are consistently. The daffodils along the streamside were stunning and all the planting throughout the town was of the best quality and very appropriate to its surroundings. The support from local business and the community as a whole was very evident to see and all are to be congratulated in their hard work. The judges look forward to our visit in the summer and to see the school allotment at its best.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

There was good support from many the businesses with floral displays, hayracks and tubs which gives the whole town an attractive appearance. The involvement of the local school at the allotment plot and the interpretation sign. The colourful displays of daffodils along the stream sides creates a stunning display for the visitors and residents. Good choice of planting at the "shady corners" and good to have the interpretation to list the plants used. Interesting to see the use of alpines used in the troughs. Well tended residential areas along the route particularly near Elmslac Road and Chapel Close.

Areas for Improvement:

Continue to encourage businesses to participate in the Bloom campaign as there are still a few who don't seem to be able to see the benefits.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The group receives good support from the Duncombe Park Estate to conserve the local wildlife. Excellent interpretation signs at the old Railway working in partnership with the school. The recycling officer from Ryedale Council was very informative about all aspects of recycling. The cleanliness of the whole town even after a busy weekend.

Areas for Improvement:

Consider interpretation signs for the car park to explain some of the bird life to the visitors in the picnic area. The area may also be enhanced by a chainsaw carving or sculpture, all of which could be funded through an “Awards for All” bid. A leaflet or interpretation signs or possibly guided walks about Duncombe Park Estate explaining the different habitats within the estate, the diversity of species and the maintenance regimes to conserve the species could increase the visitor experience. Consider a guided walk leaflet for the visitors explaining the history of Helmsley and incorporating the floral displays around the town. It will be interesting to hear about the plans to develop the Old Railway site further. It maybe useful to meet a representative from Ryedale Council to discuss the Councils responsibilities.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The judges were pleased to see the banner and posters around the town announcing judging. The business sponsorship of the barrels and tubs. It is good to see the schools getting involved with Bloom projects maybe they could consider becoming an Eco school. The good community involvement which is galvanised by the Bloom group

Areas for Improvement:

The group need to continue to work at getting media coverage and it would be useful to see more evidence of press coverage or publicity either on the day or within the portfolio. Consider adding a little more detail to explain each site on the route and keeping it separate from the portfolio would be easier for the judges to use. The judges felt it was disappointing that the Best Kept Gardens competition wasn't continuing this year – maybe certificates of appreciation from the group could be given out to contributors. The judges understand the group feels there is a need to revitalise the group and maybe there is the possibility of getting more young people involved such as the Scouts, Guides or Brownies to help with new projects. Consider ways of publicising the group possibly using a shop window, library etc to showcase some of the projects the Bloom group is involved in with before and after photographs. It might be useful to include a plan of Helmsley with the route marked on within the portfolio .

Hook

Introduction

The approach to the village was very well planted with daffodils in full bloom. On arrival group members were very welcoming with displays of leaflets and photographs. Overall the village had lots of Spring flowers on the river bank, verges, businesses and some very qualitative private gardens. The school plays a very active part within the village and should be commended for all its outstanding achievements. It has to be borne in mind that Hook has overcome a lot of obstacles since its establishment in 2008 and the committee, parish council and villagers should be congratulated for their efforts.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The group's allotment is excellent with donated greenhouses, water butts and compost bins. There are lots of plants being grown on for use in the village and for sale to raise funds. Advice given to some other allotment holders is commendable. Some wonderful private gardens with many outstanding magnolia trees. The new landscaping at the play park was progressing well. Hope the new Open Garden competition is a success.

Areas for Improvement:

Long stretches of High Street have houses on the edge of the pavement with no verge or front gardens. However there are some places in the village where additional planters can be introduced and business premises could be encouraged to support this aspect of the entry. It is recognised that there are some problems with the local authority granting permission for the introduction of the brick planters. It is hoped that this can be resolved to enable the commencement of the work prior to Summer judging in July.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The work at Hook Primary school is very impressive. Trees have been planted and groups of pupils have created a wildlife area, planted up raised beds and learnt about conservation and healthy eating. Some of the pupils gave the judges an excellent tour demonstrating good knowledge and communication skills. It was good to see the river and its landscape as part of the local heritage.

Areas for Improvement:

The pieces of land on High Street with private owners and awaiting development are an eyesore and detract from the efforts of the bloom group and helpers. It is recognised this is a difficult problem to deal with but perhaps another plea to the owners might bear results as a couple of sites could become wild life areas which would enhance the entry. Look forward to seeing the completion of the street furniture maintenance programme on our return in July.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The bloom group are very enthusiastic about what they do and pass that on to the local community. The regular fundraising table top monthly sales are a year round feature with fruit, vegetables and plants sold from stalls and house fronts at appropriate times. The work with the school and other village groups makes the combined efforts cohesive and enhances the overall village experience. This fairly new bloom group has everything in place for a long and successful future. The gardening classes are to be commended along with the promotional banners. Good in Bloom promotional material evident during the visit.

Areas for Improvement:

Continue to try and get the waste ground cleared up and to get your local authority to agree to some of the work you want to do in the village.

Hutton Cranswick

Introduction

The Hutton Cranswick in Bloom team are an extremely hard working and committed group who are community focussed and very environmentally aware. They work with all elements of the

community to improve their lovely village and there is a feel of welcome and community when you walk around the area. We were pleased to see the village was clean and litter free. The planting schemes are sympathetic to their village and there is a clear pride for its history. There is much support for this entry and we look forward to visiting again in the summer.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The planting of 105 trees from the Woodlands Trust creating further wildlife areas. Gatehouse Lake has been carefully thought out, the notice boards are informative and highlight the fish that can be found in the lake. Centenary Wood creates a natural habitat for wildlife, the information boards are excellent and the continual planting of bluebells and violets as well as other wildflowers only helps to improve this area. The scree sedum bed at the Railway Station.

Areas for Improvement:

Consider moving towards more sustainable planting in your looked after areas such as at the Railway Station and in tubs/baskets.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The large number of bird and bat boxes in the village and the wildlife awareness notice boards and information that can be found. The Church is a peaceful area and the carved cross from a fallen tree seems to naturally fit in. The Sun Clock was an innovative millennium project and hopefully will protect the green space it is set on. The village pond has been improved and we enjoyed seeing the old tractors that had been decorated with plants and brought out for judging day. The village was litter free.

Areas for Improvement:

We would have liked to have seen evidence of composting and water collection. We noticed dog fouling in the Centenary Woods, consider publicising further the need for dog owners to take care and clean up after their animals. The litterbin by the pond would benefit from being repainted as well as the telephone box. You may be able to negotiate with BT to paint the box yourselves and see if they would supply the paint for you.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The scout area at Centenary Woods and the bird boxes they have been responsible for putting up there. The new logo and sales of tea towels, bags, cards and aprons is a good way of fund raising. It was lovely to meet the nursery children and see their mother's day cards made to look like flowers. It was also good to see the 'in Bloom' team working with local shop keepers and colour coding baskets to the shops colours e.g. the Spar shop.

Areas for Improvement:

We know you are already looking to remove the tree guards in Centenary Wood, however we would suggest this is now a priority. The school was still displaying the Morrison's Voucher scheme which finished quite some time ago. It would be good to see how successful they were and what the school managed to get for their vouchers.

Ingleton

Introduction

Ingleton is a village on a difficult sloping site, but with many interesting features. It has some difficulties to overcome, including the need for improvements to the central car park. Nevertheless it has the potential to become a really good entry. Good to see the coverage of Ingleton in Bloom in the village newsletter, and also the open gardens event.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

There are some attractive private gardens, but we would have liked to see a few more, representing different types – e.g., are there any modern estates? There were some small floral baskets, e.g., at the toilets, and some shops also contributed, and bulbs had been planted by the Ingleton in Bloom Group, and other people.

Areas for Improvement:

The village has many little 'corners' which could be brightened up, perhaps with one or two individuals being responsible for looking after each one. Hopefully in the summer more shops will be able to display hanging baskets, etc.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

Bat and bird boxes have been put up near the river - we look forward to hearing if they have been used. Wild flower seeds have been sown and some of the seats have been cleaned by local residents. Regular litter picking and general tidying up also takes place.

Areas for Improvement:

One notice board has no cover and notices pinned on it were flapping in the wind. Unfortunately the mosaic in the Millennium Garden was slightly damaged. Carry on with plans to clean out the popular outdoor swimming pool. Would it be possible to place a display in the empty shop window for the summer - perhaps a picture done by the school?

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

It sounds as if a good number of people are involved in litter picking, gardening and tidying up, and regular jumble sales are held to make money.

Areas for Improvement:

Next time it would be good to meet more people at the places where they are involved, or perhaps at the end of the tour. Could certain people take on responsibility for particular aspects e.g., involving the school, the development of the portfolio (a paper copy would be appreciated), liaison with the Councils, etc?

Micklefield

Introduction

The lovely boundary stones to this village with carvings of mining and farming scenes show the interesting and proud heritage of Micklefield. Micklefield in Bloom is a small group dedicated to

improving their village and has obviously made a big difference to their community in a relatively few years. Keep up the good work and you will find more people will come to help you, success breeds success!

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The semi permanent planting along the side of the school path is excellent. The school mums must really appreciate this splash of colour. The church grounds are very well maintained and yet keep areas for wild life. The new planters at Churchville Community hall look really good but even though all the planters throughout the village are 'old style' they are exceptionally well maintained and look fresh against the plants. There were several good residential gardens and the garden in front of the school was colourful. As it extends it will become a real feature. The barrels on the verge between Old and New Micklefield are lovely. Good permanent planting in Miners Mews bed. Grass cutting good throughout area especially at Vandicourt quarry with good play area

Areas for Improvement:

Be careful not to over stretch the resources-both financial and physical with too many new planting schemes. Continue to tidy, replant and extend bed along school path

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

SSSI site at quarry is a surprise and very interesting-will we see the other SSSI site in summer? Boundary stones and well show heritage Will it ever be possible to have stones repainted? Street furniture maintenance is good

Areas for Improvement:

How about a bird box project at SSSI site? Keep on with litter campaigns and dog fouling initiatives-eventually you will win! Try a Wash Day for litter bins and street signs –maybe with the Youth club?

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The Community Pay Back Scheme gives great backing-keep up the good work –obviously a worthy group. Posters in houses and lovely banners really good publicity. Continue to work with other groups i.e., History Group and Horticultural Society

Areas for Improvement:

Funding is obviously difficult-try to search out funding sources. Will be good to see school children in summer. Would a press call or 'internal' photos help with publicity? Continue to encourage Youth group to help

Osgodby

Introduction

There were many points of interest along a well-planned route. An enthusiastic and committed Osgodby in Bloom group have achieved much in a few short years. The colourful planted troughs at the Poachers Barn, the roadside border next to the Parish Notice board, the boat on the very well

maintained Village Green, all showing a pride of place and involvement with community improvement. A very “well done” to all involved.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

All round presentation for the whole of Osgodby was good and deserves special mention. Overcoming the challenges and establishing the perennial bed outside the Community Centre has been a great success. Carnival Field was a pleasant green expanse, well presented and constantly improving. A credit to the in bloom group for ensuring its steady development.

Areas for Improvement:

Removal of the long dead hanging baskets at the Poachers Barn extension.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

Excellent care and maintenance of street furniture, seating and tubs, a good group effort. The village was very clean and tidy, virtually litter free and clear of dog fouling. It was a real pleasure to visit and credit to everyone. Full marks to the children carrying out the regular litter picks each week. Very impressive commitment shown at such a young age. The village entrance signs are a significant success, a permanent reminder of the in bloom groups activities and involvement with the improvement of Osgodby.

Areas for Improvement:

Explore the opportunity to develop a numbered nature trail at Carnival Field. Potentially a project where local children could be involved. A log seat and insect/bug hotels sited near the wildlife pond would further develop this wildlife garden.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The number of in bloom posters seen through out the village clearly shows the profile the group has achieved within the community, well done. The generation of funding through various sponsors, the “bonfire event” and Christmas Fayre is to be applauded.

Areas for Improvement:

Recruiting even more active members to the group will help support the widening number of developing projects being embarked upon.

Ripponden

Introduction

Ripponden lies in a narrow valley in the Calderdale area of Sowerby Bridge. With the valley being so narrow it leaves very little flat land suitable for gardening. This terrain makes enhancement of the area and production of plants and flowers very difficult. Because of these problems the judges would like to congratulate the Parish Council and the ‘In Bloom’ group for the way in which they work in order to enhance the area in which they live.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

Ripponden J&I school are to be commended for their excellent work in the garden areas. The children were a delight to talk to and exhibited an in depth knowledge of the subject. Well Done!

Areas for Improvement:

Develop an action plan as to what needs to be planted, pruned, or removed to ensure that all areas planted areas are maintained to a suitable standard.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

Conservation and bio diversity areas were well addresses, particularly within the area of the woodland car park. It was pleasing to see a good range of woodland flowers within the under storey and many creative and innovative ideas were discussed with the IN Bloom Group.

Areas for Improvement:

It was noted that the hillside at the back of the bowling green had been cleared of some of the trees. New planting in this area must be undertaken quite quickly in order to prevent problems with erosion. The soil looks as though it may be acidic, so careful choices will have to be made when replanting.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

It was pleasing to see so many areas where some villagers were working for the benefit of the others. The commitment in some parts of the village was first rate with plenty of co-operation. The school came out extremely well, particularly with their project 'Food for Life partnership'. It was also pleasing to learn that the Parish Council had encouraged the school and donated £200 towards the project. A wise investment.

Areas for Improvement:

It would seem that there had been a breakdown of consultation and cooperation between some groups in the community and this requires attention. The idea of Yorkshire in Bloom is for people to work together in order to improve and enhance the environment in which they all live. This can only be done completely successfully if all the participation groups are prepared to work together towards the one goal for the benefit of the community.

Scholes

Introduction

Scholes has a strong sense of community and an enthusiastic In Bloom team which continue to make improvements across the village. Visitors are greeted by a colourful spring display which lets you know you've arrived, and gives a good impression of what's to come.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The quality of maintenance and colour at the War Memorial and the Coronation Tree. The colourful spring displays through out the village, including the boundary stones. Lyndhurst Rd and the SIB bed near the school. The sustainable planting schemes within the Sports ground and the new

Japanese Garden at Manor House. The church & chapel grounds and the planters at the library. The many well maintained gardens and public spaces across the route. The seasonal bedding display against the naturalised banking at the Avenue.

Areas for Improvement:

A little attention to weeding in the sports ground car park.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The naturalised bulbs at Manor House wild flower garden. The composting areas across the village and at the Sports ground. The use of the allotment site for recycling last years plants. The wildlife areas and composting facilities at the school. The use of recycled items at the sports ground, and habitat piles, bird and bug boxes. The area at the Buffers on The approached and the local connection to the railway yard. The quality of street cleansing, lack of litter and graffiti, the renovation of the play area and standard of the heritage lamp posts on the main street

Areas for Improvement:

Consider a revamp of the notice boards, and continue to sustain the good work being carried out around the village

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The support from all members of the community, the WI and individuals maintaining small areas along the route. Continued sponsorship by local business's. The involvement with the scout group at Manor House gardens with their "Out in the Wild" project and the enthusiasm of Staff and children at Scholes primary school. The involvement of the Community payback team with projects at Manor house. The colourful banner at the Church, thanking Scholes in Bloom.

Areas for Improvement:

Continue to support and encourage local business's - such as the Barley Corn Inn and their contribution with the window boxes. Continue to encourage where ever possible the contributions made by children and young people in the area. For the excellent work to continue and with the aim of being more 'inclusive' consider advertising for additional members to join SiB, rather than volunteers. The standard of the village suggests that the community, as a whole, is signed up to the cause. They may simply follow where the SiB group leads.

Thornton

Introduction

Thornton village has a rural feel, a rich diversity of residential and business buildings which add to the unique atmosphere of the place. The heritage of the railway development and Bronte connections has been preserved which together with the large number of planted daffodils add to the character of the village.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The planted Railway Heritage area has an unexpected quality. Kipping Gardens was a wonderful hub for the village, well presented and cared for

Areas for Improvement:

It would be nice to see Alan and Hedrow court areas on the tour to confirm photographic evidence

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

St James graveyard provided a peaceful wildlife area.

Areas for Improvement:

The tree planted area with trees donated from the RHS is exciting as is the link with the school and the woodland. Would be good to see more evidence of this.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The weekly meeting of volunteers at St James community graveyard and the BBQ's in summer at the site are a reflection of Thorntons community spirit. The Co Op initiative funding project is credit to the hard work of the group and is certainly improving the area. Support by local businesses such as Keelham Farm, Ebors and Adrian who fixes the hanging basket brackets

Areas for Improvement:

It would be nice to see more evidence of involvement by the younger generation.

Wilberfoss

Introduction

Wilberfoss is a village of around 1800 people situated on the 1079 road between York and Hull. It has a lovely old Church with separate font in the Churchyard. It was nice to meet members of Wilberfoss in bloom and see the hard work and commitment that they obviously have. We are looking forward to our return visit to see Wilberfoss in her summer glory.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

Wilberfoss is a very tidy and clean village. The judges enjoyed seeing the colourful display of flowers in front of the village shop. The allotments were well tended and maintained

Areas for Improvement:

We look forward to seeing the area opposite the Church becoming a wildflower meadow. Some of the green areas in the village may benefit from planting different varieties of spring bulbs to extend the season. Would it be possible to plant some trailing plants in the containers to soften the overall look.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

Effort has been made to keep village litter and graffiti free. There was very little evidence of dog fouling. The hard landscape around the war memorial was well maintained. Wilberfoss should be proud of its heritage shown in the village mosaic and at the unusual open air font in the churchyard.

Areas for Improvement:

Larger flower beds in some of the green areas would improve the appearance by creating broader impact. The planted grasses on the site of the village blacksmiths shop were nicely maintained but lacked some colour and impact.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

Judges were impressed with the following; The bloom group working together to raise funds – Coffee Morning etc. The work with the school children with Gardening. Producing flyers to encourage new members to join the bloom group. It was nice to see volunteers advertising Wilberfoss in bloom on the back of the high vis jackets.

Areas for Improvement:

Make a diary of your future plans and try to involve the local community. Consider a best kept gardens competition to further interest in the bloom campaign.

Ardsley

Introduction

Ardsley is an attractive and well maintained community in no small part due to an active and hard working Residents Association. Their capacity and tenacity is evident in the way that they have tackled improvements to their community in a structured and well planned way. It was pleasing to see their enthusiasm and commitment to improvements balanced with a desire to protect and respect their local heritage.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

We wish to commend the entry on the new planters; they are well positioned and carefully planted with an attractive combination of perennial and annual plants. Spring bulb planting forms a striking feature through the heart of Ardsley and provides an excellent first impression of the community. It is of good quality and there are clear plans for development.

Areas for Improvement:

It would be pleasing to see more horticultural features; perhaps the group could explore the possibility of re-using Council bedding stock? We are keen to see both the plans for the park come to fruition and the trans-pennine trail improvements that were mentioned at the spring judging.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

We were impressed by the voluntary work that has been undertaken in the churchyard and by the sympathetic way that the community's heritage is being uncovered, researched and preserved. The sustainable planting in the park is of good quality and complements the ongoing improvements. Pacer's field is to be commended as is the turning of an overgrown and unloved corner into a herb garden, we look forward to seeing them develop. Overall the entry is clean and well maintained with good community involvement.

Areas for Improvement:

The planned interpretation board for Pacers field should enhance the area and help visitors to understand its value as a natural habitat. We would like to know more about recycling initiatives in the area and how the group contributes to improving local environmental quality.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The signs, notice and interpretation boards were attractive and well maintained. Ardsley in Bloom is very well promoted locally with the use of plentiful, well positioned posters and links with the local media. Fund raising and community support is impressive.

Areas for Improvement:

We would suggest developing stronger links with the Local Authority's maintenance services to enlist their support. A 10/15 minute overview of the route and entry at the beginning of the tour would help us to understand more about your work and plans. We would also suggest that the

people that are introduced to us have a clear brief from you about what you would like them to say to us.

Beeston

Introduction

Beeston is at the heart of Leeds City Urban conurbation and the community is dominated by the busy road network. The small enthusiastic in Bloom group have put together a good quality portfolio and Spring judging route. We were met throughout the tour by group members who were involved in a range of projects across the area. St Marys Church grounds maintained by volunteers was very good as was Private industrial landscaping and spring planting at Evens at Millshaw industrial site. The group need to plan the route with more care and have a trial run to ensure that they are aware of the Strengths' of each site visited and to identify the un expected.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

We liked the spring colourful planters along Dewsbury Road and the enthusiasm of the Allotment holders at Clearfield allotments and the raised allotment bed and plots which were suitable for the disabled. Spring bulb and planting in the grounds of Private Companies in and around the White Rose Shopping Centre were colourful. The groups efforts in Cross flats park with the sustainable themes beds were impressive in the spring providing interested and range of colourful plant species.

Areas for Improvement:

It would be pleasing to see a marker stone and strong horticultural planting at the entrances to the urban community to create a good impression to visitors. The group should seek to explore the possibility of re-using Council bedding stock as there is a large number of primula and other herbaceous bedding plants which can be re used throughout the area. We are keen to see the plans for St Anthony's School wild life garden come to fruition as the building blocks of an interesting area are in place with good quality planting and maintenance will provide a valuable future teaching resource. Further work is required to develop at Garden competition which reaches out to the wider community and give the entry more quality residential gardens to show to future judges.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

We were impressed by the voluntary work that has been undertaken in the churchyard and by the sympathetic way that the community's heritage is being researched and preserved. The areas of sustainable planting throughout the judging route were of good quality and complement the ongoing improvements. The new Planting area along Dewsbury Road will further enhance the entry.

Areas for Improvement:

The planned improvement to the tree bases will improve the entry. We would like the group to expand the use of the logo throughout the area and involve more young people in future projects. We would like to know more about recycling initiatives in the area and how the group contributes to improving local environmental quality.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The Hanging baskets signs were good and the flowers were colourful at the time of the judging. The in bloom members were very enthusiastic and proud of their local area. There were pockets of support from the local community which if expanded could achieve a step change within the area.

Areas for Improvement:

We would suggest developing stronger links with the different cross sections of the local community to enlist their support to Beeston in Bloom. A 10/15 minute overview of the route and entry at the beginning of the tour would help us to understand more about your work and future plans. We would also suggest that the people that are introduced to us have a clear brief to share out the work within the group and to allow them to make a greater contribution to the judging day. We look forward to seeing the development of a number of the groups plans on our return summer judging visit.

Birstall

Introduction

As a new group the efforts of Birstall's bloom committee are to be commended. The group although small have taken a lot on in their first year but need to concentrate there efforts on the centre of Birstall and work out as projects are completed. Links across the area are very good especially with the local schools, library and Rotary club members who do a lot for the group. The group have a long way to go but improvements to the village can be clearly seen. The work of the bloom group will only enhance this work. Birstall has a lot to offer and with some assistance form Yorkshire in Bloom judges and the local community can only prosper.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

New landscaping of market square in keeping with surrounding areas. Bulb planting around village in grass verges. Private residential gardens. School gardens in very confined spaces.

Areas for Improvement:

Landscaping around toilets in central area by library. Grot spot pockets identified along route-potential for improvements dependant on ownership. More businesses on board with planting outside particularly in Market Square. Room for more planters in prominent positions.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

Good use of street furniture in market square. Good local heritage in area

Areas for Improvement:

Reduce areas of litter and vegetation in hard landscaped areas. Demonstrate re cycling around village. Show judges wildlife areas or develop wildflower pockets

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

Good support and fundraising. Group support school and the children's efforts which is excellent. Pleased to see community effort throughout village. Support of local council. Bloom banners designed by local schools. Support through local library excellent showing what Birstall has to offer.

Areas for Improvement:

More community involvement. Local business involvement. Posters in shops advertising judging day, do your bit.

Bramhope

Introduction

Bramhope is a leafy village in the suburbs of Leeds which has some interesting historical features. The Bramhope In Bloom group are an enthusiastic fledgling group that is already making floral and conservational improvements to their village. The many other local groups which Bramhope In Bloom are connected with, will make the in bloom campaign sustainable for the future generations.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The fox and Hounds had some very good spring colour in their baskets and tubs. Craven house had a very good mixed planting and was full of spring colour. The various barrels around the village which were full of early spring bulbs. The new beds at the Opticians were a good addition to the village and it was a please to see the spring bulbs along the road side. The Hollies at old lane terrace had some good spring displays. It was good to see the Lay-by area outside the cemetery replanted with the help of the scouts.

Areas for Improvement:

In summer it would be good to see the cross area with some more floral enhancements to further complement the centre of the village. Along the route it would be good to visit and meet the owner of a floral /sustainable garden (this could help the group meet some more of the criteria). The Memorial garden could be further enhanced for summer with some floral displays in planters.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The planters at the Parade that have been revitalised by cladding them in Wood to improve their appearance and replanted by the group has to be commended. The continued ongoing work of imaginative environmental work within Bramhope primary School has to be commended. The ongoing development work at the 'Old Well' that is flanked by sustainable planting and has had funding from the parish council shows good partnership working.

Areas for Improvement:

Along the route we would like to be included an allotment or similar in a residential garden. Carry on with plans for the interpretation board at the Old Well site. Whilst recycling both domestic and communal waste was being undertaken, it needs to be pointed out to the judges more readily.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The sponsorship collected for friends of Bramhope in bloom via a leaflet drop to local residents. The village notice boards in bloom display, plus the many in bloom posters displayed along the route in windows and on gate posts. The local papers interest towards the in bloom campaign at Bramhope can only raise the profile of the group.

Areas for Improvement:

Continue to involve the local Scout group in future projects as part of their badge work. Work on attracting funding for some in bloom gateway information signs/banners to raise the groups profile. Continue to work with the parish council and Leeds city council, to attract future funding and support.

Calverley

Introduction

Calverley is a town with a lot of character and about 20,000 population which all seemed to be involved in Calverley in Bloom in some way or another. There is a very enthusiastic in Bloom Committee with strong support from business and the community. The stone entrance wall with Town names should be there for all to see for many years to come.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The gardens and the community commitment at Brookleigh sheltered Housing and many of the residential gardens, the park was also of a high standard.

Areas for Improvement:

May be that some of the businesses and pubs could do a little more.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

There was no evidence of fly-posting or graffiti and the conservation and biodiversity were of a high standard.

Areas for Improvement:

There were a number of areas suffering from dog fouling and some areas had higher levels of litter and maybe more could be made of the recycling and water harvesting.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

There is no doubt that the in bloom initiative in Calverley has strong business and community support and that there is a long term view for the future development such as the proposals for the wetland area within the town.

Areas for Improvement:

While there is a very strong business support for the in bloom initiative, possibly more businesses could be persuaded to become involved which would be helpful in the long term but it is appreciated that this can be difficult.

Elland

Introduction

We were greeted by an enthusiastic and friendly group on a damp April Fool's morning. The Elland & District Partnership have entered the full "In Bloom" competition for the first time. They plan to form a sub-group that will focus on future "In Bloom" efforts. This will help move the town even further forward. Elland has several exciting on going projects that will progress further given time. Once such project is Riverside Park, which has already made great strides in just 12 months. It was pleasing to see the keen horticultural strides being made at The Old Earth Primary School. We look forward to our return visit in summer.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

We enjoyed visiting the lovely gardens of two local residents, both different, both immaculately tended. The bulbs planted by children and staff at Old Earth school made a cheerful show and we were impressed by the enthusiasm of the children and their school council. The peaceful and well tended grounds of Overgate Hospice provided an oasis of calm for residents. Riverside Park is a wonderful asset for the people of Elland and we were pleased to see striking sweeps of bulb planting both here and at Thorn Edge Park. We were interested to hear about the many ongoing projects to develop the park.

Areas for Improvement:

At Old Earth school; an overgrown patch of land amongst the school buildings would make an ideal spot for a garden of plants attractive to insects, perhaps buddleia might be considered. We look forward to seeing the front garden of the hospice when building work has been completed, and to speaking to staff there about their invaluable work in the garden. Approach some retailers to encourage all year round colour along the High St, with hanging baskets or containers. The area around the Century Dying Company, at Riverside Park might be a suitable site for a collection of dying plants, thus drawing on the heritage and history of the area, with perhaps some information boards to inform the public. The new planting at Thorn Edge Park will make a colourful gateway top the site as it matures

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

At Old Earth School, an overgrown patch of land amongst the school buildings would make an ideal spot for a garden of plants attractive to insects, perhaps buddleia might be considered. We look forward to seeing the front garden of the hospice when building work has been completed, and to speaking to staff there about their invaluable work in the garden. Approach some retailers to encourage all year round colours along the High St, with hanging baskets or containers. The area around the Century Dying Company, at Riverside Park might be a suitable site for a collection of dying plants, thus drawing on the heritage and history of the area, with perhaps some information boards to inform the public. The new planting at Thorn Edge Park will make a colourful gateway top the site as it matures.

Areas for Improvement:

Both parks have mature trees, which are suitable perhaps for more bird and bat boxes. It might be possible to designate areas of both parks where the grass could be left long, thus both encouraging wildlife and cutting down on mowing costs. Perhaps a butterfly bed might be developed near the school buildings or in one of the parks. It would be interesting to hear more of the local heritage of Elland as part of the summer route.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The on-going support of the Rotary Club and sponsors such as Marshalls, Suma Foods and Barclays bank, has been of great value to the community and bode well for the long term future of the group. The group are to be congratulated on the funds they have attracted from the lottery.

Areas for Improvement:

Perhaps it would be a good idea to further develop the identity of the Bloom group itself and to designate clear roles for the various members of the group. Consider some use of posters and selective banners to promote the In Bloom concept and inform residents and retailers when the judging dates are. We saw some lovely residential gardens. To help further establish the identity of the group and perhaps gain some new volunteers, a local gardening competition would be a good idea in the summer months. We would really enjoy the opportunity of speaking with the children at Old Earth school about their gardening projects in the summer. Perhaps the local paper could be of even greater help in publicising the groups good work. A website would be another good way of making people aware and further raising the profile of the group.

Hillsborough

Introduction

Hillsborough provided many surprises. From the Walled Garden tended by many different groups to the quiet of Holme Lane which stands literally only yards from a major road. The vibrant shopping area will face fresh floral challenges this year but with a small but active group of volunteers we feel confident they will rise to the challenge. The people of Hillsborough are rightly proud of the area and we look forward to returning in the summer.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

Friends of Community Park. The Park is a major focal point for all ages and is very well used. The “walled garden” and its associated training facilities. The development of Morrison’s Supermarket and Garrison Hotel on the former Barracks site is a major attraction to the area.

Areas for Improvement:

More structured route to show judges housing and other public areas. Maintenance of park benches. More regular removal of old notices from information boards. Try and involve businesses, possibly experimenting with a few premises with small window displays. Seek competitive quotes for floral features.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

Wild garden at Park. Holme Lane Open Space. Whole shopping area very clean and free from litter. Good recycling at Morrison`s and Bus Station.

Areas for Improvement:

Consider providing a interpretive board at Holme Lane, possibly including before and after pictures etc. Continue good work as above.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

Funding for new Forum Office. Pride in shops / business areas (the main shopping area was vibrant with a real sense of well being).

Areas for Improvement:

Higher profile for leaflets/notices/posters. Consider different ways of promoting floral features while bearing in mind restrictions along the High Street.

Holbeck

Introduction

Holbeck`s first entry into YIB for several years and already a very active In Bloom Committee. There are lots of ideas for the future development of horticulture in Holbeck and it would have been good to hear from a range of group members during our visit.

The group is very proactive in forging strong partnerships with local businesses, which is very commendable, particularly in the current economic climate.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

Colourful planters, especially adjacent to the viaduct and around Saint Matthew`s Church. Top of Tilburys. Clean up around the old shrub beds. Nationwide Security`s new beds. Holbeck Moor Road beds very colourful.

Areas for Improvement:

Grass verges outside the Community Centre were in a poor condition. School beds had dead plants and weeds present. New planting in the Nationwide beds was of poor quality. Residential gardens do not appear to have entered into the spirit of YIB as yet, though I am assured this will change for the summer due to a new competition run by the group. Allotments in the portfolio were not shown to the judges and we would like to see them in the summer. Evidence of Japanese Knotweed.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

Ingram School Wildlife Area. Wildflower meadows - the YIB judges will be excited to see progress during the summer.

Areas for Improvement:

Dog fouling was a problem in several grassed areas. Graffiti, especially near the Community Centre. One idea might be to do more to highlight the work of Matthew Murray, a local pioneer of the Industrial Revolution. A garden in his memory?

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

Partnerships with Leeds Ahead, Deloitte and Halifax Sharing Ltd. Engagement with Ingram School. YIB banners in evidence. Judges keen to see the Holbeck in Bloom Summer Competition entries. A proactive In Bloom Committee ready to take Holbeck forward

Areas for Improvement:

Residential area untidy and of poor quality – new competition should help to improve this. Include any press coverage in the portfolio.

Kippax

Introduction

Kippax is an old established village from around 1320 surrounded by green belt, several farms, 2No site of special scientific interest, there is strong support for the environment and particularly for the local in Bloom Group.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The display built around the coal mining tub and Gibson Lane allotment garden developed for the visually and mentally impaired.

Areas for Improvement:

Although local businesses are contributing to the local in bloom initiative to try and persuade them to contribute more and involve those businesses that are not already involved.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The Bat Boxes at Butt Hill, the Coal Tub at Gibson Lane but in particular the poster presentation around the village and the press coverage achieved.

Areas for Improvement:

Maybe more could be done to achieve more water recycling and composting.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

There appears to be significant community involvement, business support and City Council backing for Kippax in Bloom. The year round schedules of events seemed strong.

Areas for Improvement:

It was not clear how much fundraising was being carried out and if Kippax in Bloom's financial position into the future was secured. A statement in the presentation pack may be useful in clarifying this issue.

Owlthorpe

Introduction

A very well constructed portfolio showed the intent of this group to fully catalogue their work over the last twelve months and their future workload. Their commitment to the Owlthorpe project has to be commended as it is a massive undertaking that has been ongoing for the last 3-4 years. The extent of community involvement is impressive as is the input from the Local Authority, Police, Sheffield Landscape Trust and other sponsoring bodies involved. The quality of work is to a high standard and covers a variety of tasks from dry stone walling, hedge laying and planting to cattle grazing plans and extensive tree planting.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The "In Bloom" is present in many well planted flower tubs and naturalised daffodil plantings around the area which brighten up the lives of so many residents. The Rainbow Forge School Project, Eco Warriors and veg planter scheme is well organised and expanding. The introduction of signage taking on board last years judges comments.

Areas for Improvement:

Where practicable introduce a select number of floral tubs/planters that can add colour to the heart of the area using permanent planting as well as seasonal bedding. Continue the work with the Tram Authority on planting the large trees by Donetsk tram stop and improving the verge. The contact with the Crystal Peaks Shopping Centre needs to be maintained as this could be a future source of funding or other type of help.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The Owlthorpe Coppice has to be well recognised, as planting 500 trees of such a specialist mix is no mean feat. The litter picking rota that identifies and separates, at collection time, the various types of litter for recycling. The restoration of many meters of dry stone walling and the input from local groups and Trust staff in undertaking such a project.

Areas for Improvement:

Try to establish historical records and maps of the site to ensure that a true conservation plan can be drawn up to mirror farming and mining eras of the area. Monitor and record the Grassland Grazing project to ensure correct management of the fields are maintained as cattle graze to help wildflower restoration. Continue to keep the access roads, roundabouts and verges well maintained as this is an important entry point for the area. Develop the Owlthorpe Heritage Nature Trail further with the possibility of interpretation signage at vantage points with the help of the Rights of Way people.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The increase in numbers of volunteers has been a tremendous boost to the forum and will help sustain the impetus for the group's longevity. The bug hunting and bird and insect boxes project with the local schools will help to get the children involved at a young age and give them a sense of ownership. The publication of the Events & Activities schedule shows year round achievements and is a record for future grant and support claims, as well as press portfolio that has been well kept.

Areas for Improvement:

Ensure that the schools keep accurate records of their achievements with the bird and bug boxes as this will give a good insight into the changes that may occur during the conservation projects. An awareness of the present climate regarding availability of funding, grants and other help and assistance from such as Local Authority, Government and Private Sector sponsorship may have an effect on the group's activities in later years.

Sowerby Bridge

Introduction

We were given an extremely hospitable welcome to Sowerby Bridge and really enjoyed meeting so many of the people who work tirelessly for their town. It was pleasing to see people with many different interests supporting the Bloom initiative.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

Businesses around the canal side, Temujin, Aveda and others had striking pots, window boxes and tubs with colourful and healthy plants. The Bloom group had provided brackets to get local businesses started with hanging baskets, which was a good idea. The large magnolia tree in full blossom in front of the church brought a touch of spring into the heart of the town. The planting at St Patrick's church showed the pride the parishioners obviously feel for it. We were very impressed to hear that the plants had all been provided by the parishioners from their own gardens. The colours were pleasing and use of bulbs around the trees was a good idea. The planting in Bolton Brow Gardens was sustainable and the plants were bursting with health. There was a good variety of planting and the use of contrasting clipped and unclipped shrubs was very striking. The clipped shrubs were immaculate and the smooth rounded shapes of them alongside the new growth a variety of perennials made an interesting contrast of texture. Where natural stone, low cliffs backed the cultivated area the variety of textures and a wide range of greens was very pleasing. In all the park areas the grass was in very good condition and immaculately edged. The area planted with a sweep of colourful spring bedding made a striking contrast with the overall green feel of the park areas at this time of year. We enjoyed seeing well tended gardens in Willow Hall Lane, Bairstow Mount, Willowdene Avenue, Willowfield Drive, Pye Nest Road and in lots of other areas through the town. The planting area commemorating those killed in a tragic accident in the town must be a joy to people waiting at the nearby bus stop.

Areas for Improvement:

Perhaps further bulb planting in the canal area might add even more spring colour. Since so many businesses are putting striking planting outside their premises, perhaps trades people through the town might be interested in a competition for the best display, which the Bloom group might

organise. It might be a good idea to have more tubs and barrels of bloom to add spring colour around the town, perhaps near the sculpture and to add spring colour in the park areas.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

We enjoyed seeing the canal and its surroundings which are such an important part of the heritage of the town. The sculpture of a man and child working the lock gate was very appropriate to the area and again the choice of smooth metal contrasted well with the old stone work of the area. The area with plenty of native species growing round it must be an important corridor for wildlife. The whole area was clean and well cared for, as was the rest of the town. Visitors must enjoy using the information board provided near the canal. The hard landscaping by the lock gates and around the canal area spoke strongly of the heritage of Sowerby Bridge. Some businesses in the area had chosen planters of shiny or dull metal and the contrast of this texture with the mellow old stonework was interesting. All round the town we saw a real effort to ensure the beds were thoroughly mulched with wood chip, obviously this will be a great help in retaining moisture. Calderdale Council are making a tremendous effort to encourage household recycling and it was pleasing to hear of the increase which has resulted from their efforts. Planting of insect friendly buddleia at the area near the town bus stop provides a mid town oasis for wildlife.

Areas for Improvement:

Perhaps further information boards might be useful to give people information on wildlife along the canal side and perhaps a small board by the lock gate sculpture with information on the art work itself and the activity it shows. Perhaps areas could be found along the canal to develop habitat piles and to provide more bird and bat boxes, Perhaps insect homes could be provided around the memorial bed. It might be possible to find spaces for bird and bat boxes in the park areas. Perhaps the wasteland along side Tuel Lane lock, prior to any development, could benefit from, for example, a few wild primroses and teasels without too much money being invested.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The Bloom group had worked with a local artist Tara Dixon to produce a colourful and pleasing poster which could stand the group in good stead for a long time. We were pleased to see that so many of the businesses around the canal area supported the Bloom initiative by planting lots of pots and tubs outside their premises. The members of the congregation at St Patrick's church had made a tremendous effort to create a lovely setting for their church. We were pleased to hear that the Mongolian restaurant encourages staff to get involved with bloom group activities. Regular press coverage from the Courier must be of great benefit to the group and it was good to hear of the groups efforts in spreading information about their work through personal contact and word of mouth. Involving the probation service in Bloom projects is a good idea.

Areas for Improvement:

It would be a good idea to encourage more of the businesses in town to become involved, perhaps some of those interested might be invited to attend some of the informal meetings of the Bloom group. Some of the group might attend the local business forum.

Starbeck

Introduction

A good Portfolio set the scene for a stimulating visit to Starbeck. A very windy afternoon did not distract from what was a good entry. From the start, it is the community involvement that impresses. Starbeck in Bloom's objective to improve their surroundings and to make Starbeck 'a better place in which to live' has certainly been achieved. The introduction at Taylors/Bettys Orangery to Pirate Captain Rummage's exchanging 'trash for treasure', gives a meaningful message to all. From start to finish, the judges were shown many excellent floral features and imaginative ideas. Among them all, one of the most memorable stops was to HANDPRINTS – a special needs art group. Meeting the members of Starbeck in Bloom and the comprehensive photographic stand at the Methodist Church completed the judging route.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

Extensive bulb planting, the 3 boundary wheels planting, the Starbeck blue planters, the secret garden at Springwater School, the Forest Lane gardens, Betty's and Taylors factory car parks – to name only a few.

Areas for Improvement:

The judges hope to see a few more residential gardens in their summer visit.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The success of Pirate Captain Rummage and his recycling campaign, Stonefall Recycling Centre, the extensive mulching even using recycled tyres, the emphasis of Starbeck's railway history, the comprehensive litter picks by both young and old, the Dog Warden service and the encouraging of dog walkers to pick up litter on every walk – etc.

Areas for Improvement:

Young people are encouraged to regularly litter pick, and the judges would like to talk to cubs and guides in the summer visit, if possible.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The Starbeck in Bloom website, and the recently added Facebook, encourage both young and older people. Banners, signage, the community notice board, and publicity boards all further promote the success and work being done by Starbeck in Bloom.

Areas for Improvement:

Perhaps more visible posters advertising Judging Day.

Stocksbridge

Introduction

Stocksbridge was certainly at its best on a glorious sunny Spring day. The decline of the steel works has had a big impact on the valley and the In Bloom group have enthusiastically improved the area

over the last six years. The north facing valley with the desiccating winds is a challenge well met by their efficient organisation. At the presentation at the start of the day each member of the group showed their commitment to their project. The enthusiasm the group met from the local residents and dignitaries was obvious and wide ranging.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The grounds at St John's church set the scene with colourful mixes of bulbs and permanent planting. Good use was made of recycled bulbs in the beds at Heywood Lane. June is to be commended for the range of superbly healthy plants at Helliwell Court and creating a rockery in a difficult to maintain area near the steps. The residential gardens were a credit to their owners showing a variety of planting schemes. The naturalised planting at Royd Green has been particularly successful in brightening up a green area.

Areas for Improvement:

Some of the concrete planters and tubs would benefit from planting with perennial trailing plants. In the Town Centre bare walls could be enhanced with trellising and by planting with climbing plants about a foot in front of the wall and encouraging them to climb up. It will be interesting to see the progress Doris has made with Living Streets project and the Trefoil Guild with The triangle.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

A lot of effort has been spent to ensure the route was litter and weed free. The group have engaged with exciting projects at Fox Glen woods, the Clock Tower Gardens and Hollin Busk Living streets. The planters and beds are gradually being replanted with perennial plants and shrubs which will be more easily sustainable.

Areas for Improvement:

Some of the street furniture was looking a little tired. The group may be able to persuade the owners of the empty shops to display photos of local interest or posters designed by school children. Likewise the owners of premises in the business park could be encouraged to join the project to enhance the area. The local community and visitors alike may be more able appreciate the hidden treasures of Fox Glen Woods if Interpretation boards were placed at each entrance to the Woods. More water harvesting and composting are to be encouraged.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The Helliwell Court patio has been completed to a high specification and continues to be enhanced with sympathetic planting. There was evidence of several ongoing projects in collaboration with the local council, Sheffield council and the Steel Valley project together with plenty of evidence of sponsorship of tubs by local businesses. The press coverage of the 50 Best Blooming awards is excellent and the ripple effect this produces must be beneficial both to the group and local community. Ruby's contribution and support of the In Bloom project is fondly remembered with a planter.

Areas for Improvement:

Continue to encourage the school children in their planting schemes both at school and outside the library and their film making. There may be other groups such as brownies, scouts and guides which could assist with wildlife projects.

Addingham

Introduction

This is a well honed entry, clearly following advice given by previous judges. The village is now well organised, with various people taking responsibility for specific areas - and it works well! They now have a good team of helpers who work closely with the Local Authority staff. The portfolio closely follows the grading criteria, which is so helpful. Not only is the village enhanced with good plantings, but is clean, and is aware of its wider environment.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The plantings are now designed to provide year round interest; the grounds at High House Mews are outstanding. The churchyard displays of daffodils are also very good. There are now 3 allotment areas, with many people showing a real interest in growing their own food. The welcome bed, which had been damaged has been relocated and rebuilt by one of the residents.

Areas for Improvement:

Continue the work started at the 'Old Cottage Gardens', where 3 tiny cottages were demolished in the 1960s.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The team have recently renovated 'Britain's first Council House', which dates from the 17th century! Well done. The wild life area, previously a waste tip with much broken glass, is now becoming well established with many young trees and wild flowers.

Areas for Improvement:

We look forward to seeing how the Marchup Ghyll Nature Reserve develops in the future.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

A good number of workers with a range of skills, including 4 new ones - it was good to meet people at various sites, and at lunch. Various competitions are held in the village, some of them supported by the traders and others. So good to see the children playing their part - they have won prizes at the village show, and sold surplus vegetables to the local pubs!

Areas for Improvement:

Well done, continue making progress on the areas you are involved with.

Bishopthorpe

Introduction

Bishopthorpe is a first time entry which needs help and guidance within the competition. Unfortunately the marks do not show the true picture in this small but picturesque village. However

judges can only judge what they are shown. Only visited the Main Street. DE to liaise with Bishopthorpe before summer judging.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

Library garden and planters. Marcia public house planters. Link with Brunswick centre – garden centre plants.

Areas for Improvement:

Expand route driving and walking. Develop link with Brunswick centre. Encourage other public houses and shops to put out displays. Inform villagers of competition. Replace or stain existing planter (need rejuvenating)

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The woodland area at Bishopthorpe Palace.

Areas for Improvement:

Make sure weeds removed from pathways and channels. Stain seats and carry out repairs. Develop area around Library. Show recycling on route.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

See if you can get the local school on board

Areas for Improvement:

Use notice boards around village to make people aware of competition and when judging taking place.

Haworth

Introduction

Haworth maintains a high standard for both the visitor and resident alike. The churchyard reflects the tranquillity and beauty of the place and the school is a flagship example for the region, worthy of the number of awards it has received. Renovation in the park and development of the area of the upper car park are very positive contributions

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The maintenance of the park was outstanding, with facilities kept in excellent condition. The parsonage museum is well looked after with appropriate planting.

Areas for Improvement:

It was good to see some sustainable planting in containers and this should be encouraged more to include the half barrel containers located at several points round Haworth

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The green ethos of the school is outstanding and a credit to staff, pupils and parents. Litter free streets and pride of place

Areas for Improvement:

To possibly involve the Old Weaving shed as this heritage building is as locally important as the Bronte's and railway.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The community contact point is an excellent example of a focus point bring people together and displaying their achievements

Areas for Improvement:

There are interesting developments on the main street and this presents an opportunity to involve all shops in the In Bloom campaign even if just to display posters which could be designed by the school children. More information about year round involvement would be nice to see.

Holmfirth

Introduction

We had an enjoyable afternoon judging Holmfirth, despite the constant threat of rain. This attractive tourist town, has its own unique identity. It is made famous as “Last of The Summer Wine” country and is situated in the delightful Holme Valley. The entry is largely dependent of the sterling efforts of several people in particular Tara, who has impressive enthusiasm and determination. We would like to see a larger group of helpers, to share the work around, to help move the entry forward over the longer term.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

It is pleasing to see the introduction of an organised colour scheme for bedding during 2011. The Greenfield Rd daffodil display and the spring bedding at the Community Fire Station and Civic Centre were all good. Evidence of hanging baskets and corners of streets used for planting opportunities. The Holmeside Gardens area is very pleasant. The Daisy Lane Courtyard had a lovely tasteful display of pots and containers.

Areas for Improvement:

The sensory garden in Holmeside Gardens is a well used walkthrough and could benefit from rejuvenation. More colours needed in parts of the town, though we appreciate this is difficult with the current financial tightening. It would be to see more retail involvement with in Bloom during spring, where possible.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

It is pleasing to see the investment by the Council in new benches at several points in the town centre. There are good recycling facilities at the Co-op supermarket in the town centre. Good signage and fingerposts at strategic points in the town.

Areas for Improvement:

We saw little evidence of any schemes to encourage wildlife. Consider erecting bird and bat boxes in the parks etc. There was some evidence of graffiti and litter at various points on the route. Consider asking the Kirklees cleansing team to attend prior to judging to assist with your efforts. It would be nice to see more of the local heritage side of the town in the summer, to further enhance the entry. The character of the town could be portrayed in the hard landscaping. Some of the tubs, signage and benches would benefit from a clean up and staining.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

There is a good link with Kirkless Council who largely support the Bloom efforts. It is pleasing to note the work done by the Rotary club at the sensory garden area. The Tidy trader initiative is a good idea that encompasses business in the town.

Areas for Improvement:

We would like to see a dedicated voluntary group set up, to run the In Bloom side of things, to help the co-ordinator share the workload around and move forward. The local schools make posters to publicise the competition, but nothing was in evidence yet.. Communication could be improved through a website or notices in the local press to advise the public what is currently happening, planning and projects for the future and requesting volunteers to attend a meeting or form their own groups. Notices of when judging day is, requesting help with tidying up, could be distributed prior to judging. External funding and sponsorship would be a possibility for a new group, to tackle some of the ongoing issues, in the current tough financial climate.

Hunmanby

Introduction

Following on from the tremendous success in 2010, where Hunmanby achieved a Silver Gilt award in the National Britain in Bloom Competition, the team's dedication and commitment to their village is second to none. The spring floral displays were outstanding as were the drifts of daffodils and other spring bulb which adorn Hunmanby. One outstanding aspect of judging this entry is that all age groups are reflected in the competition and localised teams taking on board areas of responsibility. We look forward to revisiting again in the summer.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The wonderful impact and choice of spring annuals. The standard of cultivation and choice of new planting. Some wonderful examples of residential and community gardens. The church was a true reflection of spring time. The business areas are to be complimented for enhancing the entry. The Community Pay Back Team are to be commended for their efforts at the railway station. The green space is maintained to a high standard and the whole village was litter free. Allotments take-up is gaining momentum & well managed with plenty of room for expansion.

Areas for Improvement:

Continue to review the criteria against the village's assets. Encourage the business sector where possible. Continue to identify areas of open space where other sustainable planting/wild flower drifts could be incorporated to reflect the loss of the spring colour in readiness for the summer season.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The conservation areas are maturing well and the introduction of owl boxes is to be commended. Aspects of local heritage are embedded within the itinerary. The environmental quality is outstanding across the board.

Areas for Improvement:

Interpretation could be considered in key aspects of the conservation/wildlife areas. The rolling out of the maintenance of the street furniture will greatly enhance the entry.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

Ongoing projects are to be commended. The education aspect of the entry across all age groups, especially young people, is outstanding. The all year round involvement/fund raising is very good.

Areas for Improvement:

Always be on the lookout for funding opportunities. Try to resurrect the Young Bloomers Group who has played a valiant role in the past.

Menston

Introduction

The layout of Menston provides a number of opportunities for In Bloom activities. It is pleasing to see that the In bloom group exploits these as much as possible to the benefit of the whole community. Securing agreement to take over a derelict area of rail track land has been an achievement that is now starting to show promise for the future. Clearing the site has involved a lot of work and patience in dealing with horse tail. The village school has a large land holding and is in the centre of the village, the group have developed positive links with the school. These include vegetable gardening, conservation and seasonal displays.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The school participation in Horticulture and conservation is well done and continues to develop. The mechanised bulb planting programme has achieved positive and impressive results. Development plans for Butterfields Park demonstrate a large project being undertaken with skill and commitment in a well planned manner.

Areas for Improvement:

The wild flower area may need a higher standard of management to achieve the desired results; consideration could be given to using annual "wildflower2 planting. Monitor the playground development to ensure completion.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

Re use of materials the use of free cycle to obtain items for projects. The school project on conservation and gardening. The development of High –royd Chapel as a significant feature for the village.

Areas for Improvement:

Continue the project for hedge planting at Butterfield park. Monitor the wildflower area to see if it developed according to plan.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The number of gardening vouchers collected at the school. The effort of gardeners at both churches that contribute so much to the village environment. The total lack of litter in the village. The work with the children's home.

Areas for Improvement:

Ensure that judges get a picture of the annual work programme to highlight the commitment and effort the group puts in. Outline funding achievements. When relevant highlight the contribution of other groups such as the voluntary maintenance at the cricket club.

Messingham

Introduction

Messingham has seen some major housing development around the edges of the traditional village areas in recent years which have substantially increased the local population and it is working hard to develop a local sense of civic pride within the area. We were impressed by the improvements to local sporting and play facilities and the work undertaken to improve the local churchyard. We feel that care should be taken to avoid urbanising these areas with in appropriate security fencing and a more sympathetic approach should be taken to build on the areas local historic characters of the area.

We were shown Messingham hidden gem the Nature Reserve and site of special scientific interest managed by the Lincs Wild Life Trust which was spectacular in the warm spring sunshine.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

We liked the spring colourful Bulb plantings through out the area The allotments and the management approach using surplus land on short term farming tenancies to keep the area well managed. The use of smaller start allotments for new tenants was a good idea. The lawns and planting around the central Coop store and the maintenance of the entrance signs by volunteers. There we some colourful private gardens throughout the tour The garden completion was very interesting entering all the village and them identifying the best gardens is a unique approach to stimulate wide community participation.

Areas for Improvement:

There were a number of local community beds and planted areas which required a much more dense planting approach to maximise the floral effect. We would have liked to meet some of the

community volunteers during our tour. The war memorial required some additional weeding to maximise the floral effect at the time of our visit we look forward to a closer inspection during our summer tour.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

We were impressed by the Local nature reserve and the development of the many lakes and water courses throughout the site. The abundance of wild life and nature conservation which was taking place on the site. The areas of planting on Knightsbridge road were of good quality and complement other improvements outline on the tour.

Areas for Improvement:

We would like to see Messingham develop a local historic identity and use this to safe guard a number of local heritage features within the area. This may give the entry a catalyst to stimulate greater involvement from the local community to maximise the areas potential within the competition and make this a great place to live. We would like to know more about recycling initiatives in the area and how local people contributes to improving local environmental quality of the area.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The garden competition and other range of events taking place around the local area. The few volunteers whom we met were very enthusiastic and proud of their local area. There were pockets of support from the local community which if expanded could achieve a step change within the area. The parish magazine was a very effective way of communicating activities within the local area and the take up was well supported by the number of sales. The overview given at the beginning of the tour helped us to understand more about your work and future plans for the area.

Areas for Improvement:

A portfolio would have complimented our visit with a detailed route to ensure all judging criteria were covered. We would also suggest that in the summer we meet with the wildlife trust to further explore the work at the nature reserve. We would also like to see any work or project carried out with young people or local schools. We look forward to seeing further developments around the area on our return summer judging visit.

ShIPLEY

Introduction

ShIPLEY demonstrates how In Bloom provides the focus to improve and maintain the environment. They have also managed to involve a wide range of people and organisations in support. Funding has been achieved in a number of ways. A project of note is the signs and public seats. They have been renewed and more importantly there is a maintenance programme in place. ShIPLEY has demonstrated true achievements and benefits for the community by using In Bloom as a catalyst. The work of High Craggs Junior school is worthy of note. Not only in the school grounds, but by developing High Craggs Junior Street reps the cleaning and greening is taken out into the community by a future generation.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

Good quality bedding displays in Northcliffe park. The polyanthuses were in full flower with good quality plants. The action taken to replant the town centre planters after recent vandalism. The Northcliffe Environmental enterprise Project. Northcliffe allotments and its association

Areas for Improvement:

Continue to develop the project to re-plant the sensory garden. Highlight to the judges one or two of the excellent private gardens that we passed on route which have an impact on the street scene.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

Very high standard of litter clearance and control across the whole of the area visited. The use of a vacant shop as an art display centre, providing space for local artists and employment opportunities. The work being carried out by High Cragg school. The maintenance standards of the street furniture. The green NHS centre.

Areas for Improvement:

Highlight the work carried out by the friends of parks and Bradford Environmental Education Service and the work in Northcliffe wood. The work will improve bi-diversity and interest in the area. Should costs become a bigger issue consider the use of perennial planting in some areas to reduce the dependence on bedding plants, this needs to be balanced and realistic to locations.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

A good range of involvement and participation from commercial and private operators. The Victoria Mill development. The NEET project. Northcliffe Allotments.

Areas for Improvement:

Could more schools be involved possibly through art or photography displaying the work in the art shop? Ensure you highlight the number and range of support that In Bloom gets in Shipley.

Stamford Bridge

Introduction

Stamford Bridge is an historical village managing to live with the presence of the busy A166 York to the Yorkshire coast trunk road featuring the main public crossing of the River Derwent. The judges were greeted by an enthusiastic 'In Bloom Group' which had set up a public exhibition and morning coffee event. The photographic display demonstrated the considerable efforts of the group over the past year. The tour was interspersed with opportunities to meet key personnel involved with the entry and a finale involving an ambush by the local Vikings.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The green spaces were in abundance and well managed. The judges were particularly impressed with the adaptation of the former railway route with a strong emphasis of enhancing its environment.

Areas for Improvement:

As for many entries spring seems to offer a limited amount of colour and ingenuity on the part of the business community. A lack of attention to detail such as weeding, sweeping and general tidiness let down the entry.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The emphasis on wildlife and conservation areas is impressive in particular the mini-beast trail including the toad and frog hotels. The legend boards are also a great resource.

Areas for Improvement:

Formalisation and consolidation of the well used riverside path from the railway embankment to the town. Further development of the former railway station area.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The project involving children constructing bird boxes and the monitoring of feeding areas within the churchyard plus the development of a wild flower grassed area is impressive. The Parish Council are to be congratulated for its initiative of presenting 'Young Volunteer' badges to recognise the efforts of local children.

Areas for Improvement:

More support from the business hub of the village will help to enhance the entry.

Swillington

Introduction

From the entrance into the area, the landmark church, the public open spaces and residential areas it is obvious that Swillington In Bloom is making an impact on this community.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

Permanent planting at the Church, Dairy crest foods, the Green, Primrose Hill Community Centre and St Mary's Avenue and quality of maintenance on open spaces along Wakefield Rd and the splash of colour at Old Georges Roundabout. The mass of daffodils and seasonal colour across the area from the entrance wheels, to residential gardens. The floral contribution from local business's such as the Trailer Centre, Room 8 and Pamper & Polish and well maintained grounds at the Holiday Inn. The many residents gardens, including those at Hill Crest estate, Primrose Hill bungalows and homes along Swillington Lane. The Parish allotment site is a credit to the tenants, and the topiary hedge at the site on Swillington Lane is unusual to say the least.

Areas for Improvement:

Continue to maintain the high quality of maintenance across the community. Encourage local school children to get involved with SiB's projects. The planting of early-flowering bulbs i.e. crocuses would add colour and variety to the Green.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The involvement and advice from Yorkshire wildlife trust and the RSPB within the church grounds. The use of spring water at the allotment site and the composting area at the Church. The use of locally sourced mulch for the perennial beds. The use of the mining wheels on the gate ways into the town. The work carried out by the Lengthsman and the Group to keep the area spotless.

Areas for Improvement:

Consider giving the village notice boards a little TLC and the bench at St Mary's Ave planting area. Consider the use of habitat piles within the churchyard to increase places for wildlife. The introduction of interpretation boards to describe what you can see in the church yard will be of benefit. Consider cleaning the "Save our Children" sign on Swillington Lane. An additional litter pick of the hedge bottoms in the housing estate near to the allotments would tie up a very high standard of street cleansing.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The sponsorship and support from local businesses. The knock on effect at Primrose Hill bungalows after the perennial bed had been planted. The involvement of the brownies and cubs with "In Bloom" initiatives. Support via the Parish news letter and Local Ward Councillors. The new banners and signs around the route publicising Yorkshire in Bloom and the Swillington judging day.

Areas for Improvement:

Continue to nurture the Primary school to get involved in green initiatives both in school and in the community.

Brighouse

Introduction

We were warmly welcomed by the group and were impressed at once by their enthusiasm and pride in the town. We were delighted to hear of the close cooperation between all the groups working towards the well-being of Brighouse, including the 3Bs, Calderdale Safer, Greener Cleaner, the British Lions and others.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

We were impressed to hear of the numbers of trees that are planned to be planted around the area and with the massed planting of bulbs. We could certainly see the impressive impact that bulb planting has given to roadside verges throughout the town. We were impressed with the planting at Thornton Square and the good sustainable planting around Wellington Arcade. The allotments at Waterloo Road were very well tended indeed, clean, tidy and a credit to the allotment team. We saw lots of well tended residential gardens on Bonegate and in other areas of the town. The green wall at St Peggs mill, created by Evoco was amazing and we would like to commend Evoco for this impressive feature which has impact year round. The memorial park at Bailiff Bridge was a delight to visit, with its bright beds of bulbs. We were impressed by the effort that had been made to keep the grass on site in really good condition. The planting was sustainable and well thought out and well mulched. The formal planting area at Wellholme Park had tremendous impact and the blaze of healthy and well tended spring planting, which formed a mass of colour were a delight to see. We congratulate the park on its green flag status. We especially noticed also the lovely spring planting outside the Council offices. The use of fastigate hornbeam, provided by Trevor Cornwall, complimented well the planting around it.

Areas for Improvement:

At Sunny Bank, perhaps the group or Pennine 2000 might be able to find time to help the residents cultivate the soil in the rose bed areas of the site. It was a shame Pennine had been unable to mow the grass but we are sure it will look lovely in summer. Perhaps it might be a good idea for Evoco to provide an information board on their railings to tell passers by all about their wall. The hard winter had obviously hit some to the planting around the town and we look forward to seeing all the beds again in summer.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The canal-side area is of great importance to the heritage of the town and it was nice to see it brightened by daffodils. We were delighted to see the effort the residents of Sunny Bank are making to conserve water and carry out composting. The use of recycled railway sleepers at the rear of the property was a good idea. The hard landscaping on the roundabout in the town sponsored by Brighouse and Rastrick brass band was dramatic and well-designed, an eye catching feature. We were impressed by the organisation for tending and watering the green wall at St Peggs mill. The use of

mulch at sites like the memorial park at Bailiff Bridge will help to conserve water. The stream and woodland area at Bailiff Bridge brings the countryside into the heart of the residential area and is a haven for wildlife. It was lovely to hear that there are brown trout in the stream. We were very impressed with the efforts that are being made to conserve and enhance this area with its heritage and wildlife. The memorial park was clean, tidy and beautifully maintained and the hard landscaping, including the shelter really complimented the planting. The site is to be congratulated on achieving Green Flag status. We were pleased to see the many bird boxes on site.

Areas for Improvement:

Perhaps the planters and seating around the canal and in other areas would benefit from cleaning and staining. The canal is a beautiful area and perhaps the group might organise work parties to prevent the build up of litter in the canal after winter or busy periods. We were impressed with the work to conserve water (20,000litre capacity!) at the allotment site. Since the town has a woollen heritage perhaps plants associated with the industry could be used as a heritage bed. Perhaps the memorial park at Bailiff Bridge might consider adding bat boxes and insect houses to the bird boxes already on site and perhaps the woodland area might be a site for log and leaf piles etc to encourage even more wildlife.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

We were interested to hear that Rastrick High School hope to design a flower bed for the town. The communal bed at the canal basin is obviously well used and valued by many people and has a role in providing a focal point for the canal community. We really enjoyed meeting the residents at Sunny Bank; they are obviously making a great effort to enhance the estate and to provide pleasant seating areas. We were interested to hear of their plans to plant wild flowers. The allotments are a really thriving community project and we were interested to hear about the onsite shop. We were tremendously impressed by the Park at Bailiff Bridge and the amount of work which supporters of the park have given to provide a beautiful, peaceful and well tended oasis for local residents. The work which has been done to attract grants and contributions by business in the area has gone far in making all of this possible. This was all the more impressive when we heard how it had been rescued from its former neglected state by dedicated local people. No wonder it is such a popular place for residents and visitors to meet for the many community events which take place there. We were pleased to hear of the help the group get from the Brighthouse Echo.

Areas for Improvement:

Perhaps it might be a good idea to develop a campaign of posters, banners and even a website to make residents even more aware of the wonderful work carried out by the group and to get lots of them actively involved in regular work parties, all year round. Perhaps the local schools might get involved in a poster competition on behalf of the group. We were pleased to hear of the garden competition organised by the group but perhaps if the categories remained the same each year residents and businesses alike might be inspired to really build on the quality of their planting. Perhaps the Brighthouse Echo might provide regular coverage of all the good work to keep residents informed and to make them feel that they can really get involved in all that is going on

Driffield

Introduction

Driffield is a busy market town with a real sense of identity and community. The judges were pleased to meet so many of the 'in Bloom' team as well as members of the community including the Town Crier. There are many areas that the team have worked hard at improving, in particular the Station Yard Sidings and at the station itself. The team are keen to keep the identity and history of the town in their work and this shows.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The Judges were impressed with the amount of work and good planting that had taken place at the Station Yard sidings and on the station itself. The planting shows how the team are looking to more sustainable plants rather than annuals that will cut down on the amount of work involved and is more environmental. The heather bed at Shepcote and the planting at the business opposite transform this industrial area. The colour coding of plants with businesses colours.

Areas for Improvement:

The judges would have liked to see what the schools have been doing. Look to increase further permanent plantings, especially on the High Street. It would have been nice to have seen church yard/grounds. It is pleasing to hear how Lidl's supports the 'in Bloom' campaign. Perhaps someone from the group could help them tidy and plant the entrance to their shop. It would have been good to have met the grounds man at the cricket club.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The pond at Little Driffield is a natural wildlife habitat. The hayracks are well looked after and contain water-retaining mediums. The number of bird and bat boxes that have been placed around the area.

Areas for Improvement:

The judges would have like to have seen more wildlife areas, perhaps being able to stop at the pond in Little Driffield. The benches in the Memorial Gardens would benefit from varnishing, we know the team are aware of this and that they may work with the local authority to ensure this work is completed. The planter at the Pinfold would benefit from being painted.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

There is a good core group of 20 in the team with others who help and volunteer. The website contains some good information about the team and what it is about. They have also uploaded photographs and put a write up about their work on the Yorkshire in Bloom website. The judges were impressed with the teams fleeces and logo. The team have many fund raising activities such as quiz nights. They are involved with many community groups within the town and it was good to hear how the scouts and guides have been involved. The team have a regular column in the local newspaper which helps advertise what they are doing and have achieved so far.

Areas for Improvement:

There was very little evidence of the Yorkshire in Bloom entry into the competition by way of posters and advertising in windows. Consider creating a flyer for shopkeepers to place in their windows and

to put on notice boards within the town. It would have been good to see the local school and we hope this will be achieved in the summer.

Elloughton cum Brough

Introduction

Elloughton Cum Brough is made up of two villages and has a very active and successful 'In Bloom' group which promotes high standards of horticultural excellence and inspires pride within the local community. The group are very enthusiastic and have worked well to improve public areas whilst encouraging local residents to improve their gardens. Elloughton Cum Brough is a good entry to the In Bloom Campaign and continue to go from strength to strength.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

On entering the Village via the Stockbridge Roundabout it was noted that the Spring bulbs were very impressive. Also the Floral features at Humber Crescent are worthy of a special mention due to all the hard work that has been put in by Val Young. In addition the Judges liked the proposals for the improvements to the Brough Crossroads ie: mixing sustainable planting with seasonal bedding and they liked the floral displays around the Cenotaph which looked very pretty. Private gardens were tidy and well maintained especially near the Golf Course on Sands Lane. The work carried out by the scouts on the shrub beds at Centurion Way was very good, and the judges particularly liked the proposal to erect a mosaic on the wall of the electricity sub-station.

Areas for Improvement:

The planter/entrance feature donated by Persimon Homes on Welton Road could do with higher planting as the seasonal bedding did seem to be a little lost. At the Brough Crossroads one of the grass verges near the Pelican crossing is suffering from wear as a desire line has been created. It may be worth trying to redesign the floral feature to stop this problem in the future. The judges were a little disappointed to see that the Post Office was not displaying any floral feature, even though they supported the group by displaying posters in their shop window. The beds to the front of the Pub at Elloughton Crossroads had a little weed growth around the walls, as did the wooden box planter near the parade of shops at Brough crossroads.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The woodland area at Spindlewood was a superb example of the villages commitment to conservation and wildlife. The judges were particularly impressed with the working relationship demonstrated between the In-Bloom Group and the Wolds & Riverbank Countryside Society. The judges liked the interpretation of local heritage by theming features to reflect the Roman history of the area. The judges felt that the local environmental quality was very good, there was a distinctly clean and tidy feel to the villages. Again a special mention needs to be passed on to Bryan Revell who had cleaned the Highway bollards at the junction of Centurion Way. The judges felt that the In-bloom group should be commended on the murals on the bus shelters. These are a unique selling point for Elloughton Cum Brough and raise awareness annually for worthy causes. They showcase local art within the landscape, whilst instilling a sense of pride within the community.

Areas for Improvement:

The judges felt that in terms of resource management the In Bloom group did not explain sufficiently how they were minimising the demand placed on the natural resources of the area.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The judges felt that community participation in Elloughton Cum Brough was outstanding. The National Tree Planting Weekend with the Brownies and Guides is a shining example of working together. Another shining example of involving the community and raising awareness is the work which is currently underway with the year 6 pupils at Welton Primary School, who are designing 4 mosaic plaques for the Centurion Way site. The judges would like to thank the pupils for their presentation and look forward to seeing the finished plaques. The highway advertising banner at the Brough crossroads was of excellent design and quality and the presence of the barrel organ was welcoming for the judges. The judges would like to commend the innovation for raising funds. The 'Naked Bloomers' Calendar demonstrates an individual if not intimate insight in to the life of an Elloughton Cum Brough In Bloomer...!!! The judges are looking forward to seeing next year's calendar...!!!

Areas for Improvement:

It would be nice to encourage East Yorkshire Bus Company to become involved in future campaigns. Maybe explore the possibility of promoting the In Bloom campaign more on the Web. The judges would have like to have received a copy of the portfolio prior to the judging day to familiarise themselves with the area. and finally.....maybe the Naked Bloomers Calendar could be enlarged and used for the bus shelter murals next year...!!!

Garforth

Introduction

On your visit to Garforth you are greeted by a very enthusiastic In Bloom group, whom are very keen to show you how well the entry has developed over the last couple of years. Some of which includes high quality planting schemes which catch the attention of residents, visitors alike and complements the panoramic views from this pleasurable town.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The well manicured shrub beds at St Mary's church. The mixed planting schemes by the gapping goose public house which were full of colour, especially Adams bed. Cliff top park had some very good maintained mixed planting area's. The new landscaped corner garden plot at fairburn drive which was full of colour and a credit to Lynne. Watering done by the in bloom group around the town

Areas for Improvement:

It would be nice to include some allotment gardens along the summer route. Carry on with the development work to encourage green lane school's nature graden. Carry on with the links with Garforth Cliffe top Park and possibly include it more into the route as residential housing.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The litter bins at green lane school that have been recycled from a local/national firm and art work/decorated by the pupils. The bird boxes that was present at both green lane school and the

Gascoigne site. Recycling policy from Leeds met was a good and comprehensive doorstep service. It was good to see a local contractor supplying free woodchip to suppress weeds in shrub beds.

Areas for Improvement:

Encourage green lane school to continue the development of the nature area. Continue to develop the wild flower area along Selby road. Encourage Leeds city council to clean street furniture prior to visit. It would be good to have time to see/or meet someone from the library to talk about the buildings green credentials. Consider using a wetting agent like (washing up liquid) to conserve water whilst watering the beds or mulch during the winter to help the ground conserve water

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The number of sponsored planters along the route. The display/advertising of Garforth in bloom on the walled area at the garden centre. The many posters displayed in household windows on the route was impressive. The numerous banners around the town. The Garforth In Bloom news letter

Areas for Improvement:

Continue to use community Payback on relevant schemes as support in kind, hopefully with the ongoing works at Gascoigne gardens, which we look forward to visiting in the summer. Continue to involve the scouts and the guilds with in bloom. Continue to build with the successful friends of Garforth donation scheme

Haxby

Introduction

Another worthy new entry to the Yorkshire in Bloom competition. Judges were shown the busy main street through Haxby which had everything the competition requires but by visiting other areas of the village this entry will only improve. Judges shown both the old and new areas of Haxby which are now merging and bloom continuing along the main street. Spring colour was an absolute delight on the day and a lot of effort has gone into this entry.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

Good planting of daffs along verges along main street. Private gardens very good quality planting. Planters and baskets outside memorial hall of good quality. Good use of planters along route. Entrance into village from Wiggington very good spring display.

Areas for Improvement:

Expand route to show more private gardens. Continue to develop areas being improved along route and encourage other community groups to get involved.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

Good clean entry, Lack of litter and graffiti. Village pond a delight and well looked after. Good evidence of pride taken in village.

Areas for Improvement:

Stain timber benches around village to improve their look. Need to show judges evidence of recycling especially in residential areas. Expand the route and evidence may be just around the corner.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

Group engaging with the community and it shows. Evidence of projects clear to see and progress made. Fund raising and initiatives on going.

Areas for Improvement:

No evidence of young people being involved. Garden projects. Fuchsia competition in summer organised with schools. Publicise judging days, community clean ups etc on notice boards.

Horsforth

Introduction

Horsforth is a town of about 25,000 and is a popular dormitory for both Leeds and Bradford situated in the boundary of both. The town has mixed housing from modern to old and small to large with little or no industrial areas or manufacturing, the whole town lies in a picturesque area of Yorkshire.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The Museum Gardens and the Grove Methodist gardens are a credit to all those involved.

Areas for Improvement:

The Fink Hill Car Park verges could be improved as could some parts of Hall Park.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The biodiversity and conservation being done in the Old Burial Ground and wild flower meadow should show many rewards in the future.

Areas for Improvement:

Environmental responsibility is an area where more marks could be achieved in category B2 and B5.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Achievement:

The children's nursery was a delight to visit and enthusiasm of the staff and the children is to be commended. The volunteer work on the old burial ground is a credit to those involved.

Areas for Improvement:

Whilst it may be difficult to achieve persuading local businesses to provide more support would be helpful and Morrison's should be doing more for the local community than they appear to be doing at the present time.

Knaresborough

Introduction

Everywhere, daffodils provided impact. A commendable entry from the Knaresborough in Bloom Group, and the many who support them. Signs of their efforts were everywhere. Community involvement and enthusiasm is most evident. Several schools work closely with KIB, and particular mention should be made of their liaison with Forest School. A well put-together brochure, photographic display in Knaresborough House, and a comprehensive judging route, all contributed to an excellent presentation. Well done KIB.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

Good sustainable planting in several locations. Judges were shown many impressive residential gardens. Knaresborough House beds and lawns were excellent, as was Gracious Street corner, and many other plantings.

Areas for Improvement:

In addition to the new planters in the High Street niche, and the barrier planting, the High Street could be further enhanced by more involvement from High Street business premises.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

Overall cleanliness and absence of litter and graffiti is most noticeable, as is the condition of street furniture. Well maintained recycling facilities.

Areas for Improvement:

More evidence of composting, such as in Bebra Gardens.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

Despite a long and difficult winter, KIB's presentation continues to improve, with a creditable list of plans for 2011. Networking with other 'in bloom' groups, and exchange of ideas and advice can only be beneficial. An excellent involvement with community groups – especially young people and service organisations.

Areas for Improvement:

A little more visible poster coverage of YIB Judging Day.

Morley

Introduction

Supported by their local council the Morley in Bloom team are making great strides to improve their environment and rally the whole community behind their efforts. Colourful and sustainable projects greet you across the town, and the work with young people is commendable.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The precinct hanging baskets and planters provide a colourful spring display. The sustainable planting at Morley Bottom and the new conifer beds around the car park, along side the trial planters outside the town hall. Residential gardens across the tour were well maintained, and Siegen Close housing complex maintained by Keith were a picture. The new planting at Kirkness Court and the well maintained area around the health centre. The quality of maintenance at both Scatchard & Dartmouth Parks and the seasonal planting on the sponsored roundabout off Fountain St. Local business support such as the window boxes and tubs at J.W. Birks, Chadwick Lawrence & Stapelton Gardners, The Jewellery Box, Berties Diner and the small court yard maintained by Crumbs.

Areas for Improvement:

Look forward to seeing the mosaic in the car park which will help to alleviate the problem of compacted earth. Consider improving the fencing in this area also. Continue to encourage local businesses to support the floral initiatives across the town. The turf edge around the Fountain St roundabout is in need of attention due to traffic.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The fantastic achievements down at Woodcross wildlife area. General recycling and the groups composting facilities. The sculptures outside the Town Hall & in the precinct and the “Worthy of recognition” sculpture within Dartmouth Park commemorating animals at war is an interesting talking point. The general cleanliness across the town particularly in the pedestrian precinct. The town was generally litter and graffiti free and street furniture was well maintained.

Areas for Improvement:

Attention to litter in particular cigarette litter in the areas around the town bus shelters, this let the street scene down a little. We look forward to seeing more of Woodcross in the summer and see further involvement with young people such as Fountains Primary school. If possible, consider covering up (hiding!) the wheeled trash containers in the seating area of Crumb’s Café. A suggestion would be a couple of sheets of green tarpaulin weighed down with a couple of lightweight planted tubs. A small inconvenience to cover/remove but it would visually improve this quaint little area. If possible, also consider placing a small interpretation panel next to the Ernie Wise sculpture, explaining his connection with the town.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The outstanding work with local primary schools across Morley whether it be through school gardening or the poster competition. The involvement of Community Payback in some of the new schemes around the town and the support from the PCSO’s, Police and Fire station. The continuation of the St Georges Day celebrations bringing the whole community together. Support from local business’s via the sponsored baskets and floral displays and permanent planting schemes. The many posters and signs across the town in support of Morley in Bloom. And the Morley Observer’s window display supporting the in bloom group.

Areas for Improvement:

We are looking forward to seeing Fountain School’s garden in summer and the continued work with young people. Continue to encourage local business support, across the town.

Introduction

The size of this entry, covering 2 pleasant villages, is impressive. There is wide variety of contrasts – period houses and cottages to modern homes and sheltered accommodation, still lakes for fishing, stream fed ponds to the man-made sea cut, woodland to open fields and verges. The ‘In Bloom’ group have a lot to challenge them and are supported by local voluntary groups. It is felt that the inclusion of a simple road map in the brochure would help future judges to see the relationship of the villages, the floral high spots and plantings as discussed en route around the entry.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

Colourful Spring planting at the village signs. Mass planting of daffodils throughout the area with more planned. High standard of care in private front gardens and on open plan estates with a variety of permanent plants of appropriate size for all year interest. Allotments are well cultivated with new planting and over-wintered vegetables. Holiday village is a valuable commercial entry. The Best Kept Garden Competition and Produce Show will help to spread the ‘In Bloom’ message.

Areas for Improvement:

Think about using a wider variety of informal Spring planting around the seating areas (Foulsyke Pond and near Scalby Church). Snowdrops, aconites, miniature daffodils, crocuses, primroses, chionodoxa, forget-me-nots, bluebells, honesty will produce several months of welcome colour before the trees shade the areas. Vary the daffodils chosen for future mass plantings to utilise the varied colours available. Ask the verge cutting contractors to try to cut the verges before the summer judging.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The wild life areas are maintained to a satisfactory standard. The old railway line provides a safe green corridor through the neighbourhood and links to similar neighbouring projects. The Friends of Raincliffe Woods are supporting you with their on-going work at the Mere to provide improved access for all and bird feeding tables which should arouse public awareness. There are plenty of opportunities to re-cycle household waste. These areas were clean and litter free. The whole entry is to be commended for being litter and graffiti free.

Areas for Improvement:

Try a method of fixing down wooden seats to make their theft a lot harder. **a** Countersink fixing screws to eliminate any area of grip. **b** Use X – headed screws and drill out after fixing. **c** Use one-way screws which can only be screwed in and not out.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

A wide range of groups are involved to help with this large entry. Further contact with schools and the potato competition will widen the interest in the locality hopefully encouraging parents to participate. The children are the future enthusiasts. The ‘In Bloom’ group is a year-round effort and stays viable by attracting grants and sponsorships. Banners were prominent and announced the Judging day.

Areas for Improvement:

In our summer visit perhaps we could be made more aware of the size of the 'In Bloom' group. Perhaps the size of the entry is a bit daunting for some. Try to encourage groups of houses to mow the smaller verge areas and perhaps enter 'Scarborough in Bloom' as a group. This might encourage others to do the same and every little helps.

Northallerton

Introduction

It's good to see Northallerton Blooming Together building on the recent successes in the In Bloom competition and enhancing their local environment not only with floral displays but encouraging the conservation of a number of wildlife areas and increasing the biodiversity. The judges were impressed with the activities and projects at Northdale and the way the centre integrates its self into the community of Northallerton. The judges liked to idea of selling off the apple trees and dividing the apple crop and will be interested to see the development of the 1940's garden. The enthusiasm of the group is very evident and the judges look forward to their summer visit.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The work the Bloom group is doing in the schools was nice to see and the way the school heads, parents and pupils were all so excited with their various projects. All the floral planting in the town and the roundabouts were of a high standard and the town gardener is to be congratulated. The new play area will be an asset to the community and it was good to see the trees and shrubs planted within the area. The judges were pleased to hear of the support from the Broadacres Housing Association maybe it would be useful to meet a representative in the summer. The transformation of the back lane by Mrs Buxton-Smitherngale with planting has brightened up the whole area. The variety of bulb planting outside Knotto Bottom allotments was a very colourful enhancement to the area

Areas for Improvement:

The judges felt that a little more care of street cleanliness and verge cutting particularly along the judging route chosen would have been of benefit. The judges appreciate it must be difficult when so many different Councils are involved. It may also be useful to meet some of the representatives along the route.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The work on biodiversity the Bloom group is doing was very encouraging and forward looking and the group is lucky to have so many areas to work on. The judges were pleased to hear the group getting involved with the RHS/Woodland Trust scheme for planting trees this Spring along with the bulb planting project with the Lionesses. The judges were interested in reading about the project to enhance the yards and hidden spaces, let's hope the opportunity to develop these areas can continue. It was good to see the display of the compost bins of the NYCC Rotters at Northdale and hear about the work they do across the region. The new buildings around Northallerton are incorporating the new technologies in their design such as solar panels, recycling of grey water and a wind turbine.

Areas for Improvement:

The judges felt that during the drive around the amenity site, it would be useful to have met with a representative to discuss the strategies on waste, kerb side collection and recycling. With so much going on with biodiversity the judges felt it would be good to meet Richard Furness so he can expand on some of the on-going projects. With some many wildlife areas the judges suggest that a leaflet could be considered creating a walk between the sites or along the riverside and explaining some of the wildlife or perhaps some interpretation boards at some of the sites for visitors. Maybe consider a funding application to "Awards for All" for this. Consider adding bird boxes to some of the biodiversity areas this maybe a project for some of the youth groups like the scouts. Consider a maintenance regime for the tubs along the High Street which again could be a project for a youth group.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

Good to see the local businesses getting involved with the sponsorship of the judging vehicle . The visit to Northdale was extremely interesting and the judges were pleased to hear of the close ties between Northallerton Blooming Together and Northdale. The staff and students should be commended on the range of plants they produced and the diverse projects they get involved in. Northdale may wish to enter Yorkshire in Bloom in their own right in a separate "specials" category . The on-going 1940's garden was of particular interest and we look forward to seeing it progress on our next visit. The judges were impressed to see the involvement of the schools and that prizes were given out as part of the Northallerton in Bloom competition. Also the links between school and college contributing to a new garden between the two sites. It will be good to see the garden planted in the summer.

Areas for Improvement:

If time allows it would be useful to meet the town gardener either on route or afterwards. It was felt that maybe there was room to involve more children's groups like Brownies, Scouts, boys and girl brigades in some of your projects and by enabling them to earn their badges by doing something like a mass litter pick or designing posters announcing the judging day. Consider raising the profile of the group with a press call for the local paper or sending a photo of judging day. Consider a Bloom Newsletter or add an article to an existing local newsletter to help publicise the group and the events and activities.

Otley

Introduction

Otley in Bloom is a thriving group with links into the community/church groups/traders/ local groups and the council all of which adds sustainability to the group. It has to be said that the floral displays that the group have delivered and the many other horticultural enhancements for the people of Otley are of very good quality. All of this set in an iconic setting under the Chevin sporting its cross for Easter makes this a very good entry in Yorkshire In Bloom.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The 23 barrier planters situated around the town were full of spring colour, as were the hanging baskets at the Buttercross. The holding area for the group's plants and Eddie's allotment were very well maintained. The 7 raised planters at the Whartons School that are been used by parents/pupils

before and after school to encourage growing your own. Nettos self watering planters. The permanent landscaping of the hospital grounds were very well maintained.

Areas for Improvement:

The bus station one of the major gateways into Otley lacks floral planting and as such does not reflect the efforts made by the In Bloom group around the rest of the centre. Although all the front gardens, as indicated by the group at the Whartons were all well maintained it would have been nice to meet one of the local residents to thank them for their efforts. The flower beds within Wharf Meadows Park would benefit slightly denser planting.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The excellent interpretation boards throughout the town that were full of interesting historical information. The use of recycled mulch to bulk up the flower beds within Wharf Meadows Park. The plant pot recycling scheme at the allotments. The play area at Wharf Meadows Park and the use of some natural play elements was of good quality

Areas for Improvement:

Some of the bench's at Wharf Meadows Park were in need of refurbishment. Check the bus station is litter free if you are to include it on the summer route. There was some graffiti present at Bayhouse Court. The railings where the barrier planters were removed from in the town centre would benefit from a coat of black paint.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The mulched beds to conserve water in Wharfedale hospital grounds. The wildlife area at the Whartons school that is being further developed by the site manager/ the children and is being used as an open air classroom. The support given by local businesses to the in bloom group was good to see. The in bloom display at the Methodist church rooms was a credit to the group and gave you a good idea of the amount for work the group have done for Otley over the years.

Areas for Improvement:

Try to work in partnership with Leeds city Council/Otley town council to seek funding for in bloom banners on some of the street railing around the town to further raise the groups profile. Work with the after school gardening club at the Wharton's school to further develop the wildlife area within the grounds.

Pocklington

Introduction

The Pocklington 'In Bloom' group is enthusiastically supported by Pocklington Town Council, and has displayed considerable progress since we last judged the entry some years ago. This delightfully vibrant small market town with its renowned school, the outstanding Burnby Hall Gardens and resonances to its Second World War airfield is a jewel in the East Riding of Yorkshire and was a pleasure to judge.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The redesigning and regeneration of the Memorial Garden is showing great dividends and it is no one's fault that normally robust shrubs fell foul to last winter's awful weather. Further new initiatives included taking on the 21 tree planters originally donated by the Civic Society, the creation of a round flower bed on the sloped pavement edge of the church, new roadside railings planters and lamp post rings awash with spring flowers and new permanent shrub gardens at the entrance to Burnby Hall gardens and the entrance to West Green car park, and much new bulb planting. The further development of the Town Council's allotments, now managed by an Allotment Society, were most impressive.

Areas for Improvement:

It is disappointing that, particularly in Spring, many town centre businesses are not supporting the efforts of the 'In Bloom' group and their Town Council.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The Town Council's recycling of green waste door to door collection facility using a vintage tractor and trailer is to be commended. In 2010 they recovered an amazing 55 tonnes of green waste, which is currently being composted.

Areas for Improvement:

Linking the town trail/map to locations in the Bloom might be a possibility.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The primary school continues to make great strides in educating and involving its pupils through practical initiatives and special projects such as the out of school gardening club, and local groups such as the Army Cadets and the Rotary Club have assisted with bulb planting and anti-litter campaigns..

Areas for Improvement:

Additional participation on the part of the business community. It would also be encouraging to see more formal connections between the famous Pocklington School with its well established gardens and grounds and the town's 'In Bloom' group and Town Council.

Rothwell

Introduction

On entering Rothwell you are greeted with numerous Rothwell in Bloom planters which are all colour coordinated. These add a vibrancy to the town and are a credit to all involved. The local park (Springhead) is well maintained and compliments the recently refurbished Avery area which is still to be landscaped

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

Colourful coordinated planters which are full of colour and are planted and maintained by the in bloom group. The continuing development of herbaceous mixed borders in Margaret's garden. The newly landscaped beds either side of the Avery –Springhead park.

Areas for Improvement:

Ensure that the planting beds at St Mary's Church are weed free if they are to be included in the summer judging route. Continue to develop the working partnership with Rothwell St Mary's school and their display garden (it would be good to meet someone from the gardening club on the summer route). Make sure the planting beds that are shown are weed free.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The use of slate chippings as a mulch at the memorial beds at St Mary's Church. The working relationship between the council and the In bloom group regarding mulching material for shrub beds. The composting of old bedding plants on Colin's allotment

Areas for Improvement:

Discuss with Leeds City Council regarding the cleaning of street furniture prior to the summer judging Consider being more informed about the allotments and there allocation.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The rented house garden scheme, which the group maintains and receives income from. The signage advertising Rothwell In Bloom on the planter at Marsh Street. The councils recycling policy for households was to be commended. Good to see that there is a proactive approach to dog fouling.

Areas for Improvement:

Involve the local Junior school to design posters for in bloom which could be displayed in local shops. These could be used to raise the profile of Rothwell in bloom by placing them in local shops around the town. It would have been good to see evidence of household recycling / recycling centre on the route. It would be good to have a display for Rothwell in Bloom in the library or another public place for the public to see.

Todmorden

Introduction

We would like to thank the Todmorden in Bloom group for their warm welcome to the town and to congratulate them for their deep and long term commitment to the welfare of their community. The group has been together for over ten years and their experience and knowledge of their town shows through at every turn. The willingness of the In Bloom group to tackle issues directly for the good of the town is to be commended. The group are a hard-working set of volunteers, who have the potential to regain former glory within the In Bloom competition. Of particular note was the huge difference the group has made to former grot spots in the town centre and their excellent partnership working skills. We look forward to our return visit in summer.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The butterfly bed planting by the railway arches was innovative and brightened up a gloomy spot for commuters and rail users both. The Nat West garden was a little oasis in a busy town and the use of pale flowered bulbs gave it a feeling of peace and contrasted well with the use of ivy to screen the walls. The ongoing work by Fielden Wharf, is ambitious and will greatly enhance the area. We enjoyed seeing children enjoyably at work on their vegetable plots at Ferney Lee School. Passing along Hall Royd Road, we saw well maintained front gardens; the residents obviously take a great pride in them. Todmorden Park is obviously a great asset to the community, with wide grassy spaces which host many different activities during the year, with an impressive sweep or woodland behind it. The Sensory Garden around the war Memorial was well maintained and must be very fragrant in the summer months. The Pat Moss Garden was another lovely oasis in the middle of a busy town and the spring planting of hellebores had a lot of impact. The spring planting in the Peace garden with its hanging baskets, certainly brought a splash of bright colour to a busy retail area.

Areas for Improvement:

It would be nice to see the railway station in summer, one of the catalysts of the town's horticultural achievements. The management of the grass in the Park is obviously a huge job but perhaps the lawns in the walled garden area could be targeted for a special regime of care, to improve the quality of the grass in that area. The lavender has suffered with the harsh winter. If possible perhaps this could be replaced or alternatives considered for planting of the beds. Perhaps the Bloom group could work together with a friends of the park group to assist staff in the park with selective plant replacement. Consider approaching the College opposite the Pat Moss garden to get involved in its development, working with the Bloom group. The group are already very aware of not stretching themselves too much with onerous watering duties. Please keep an eye on this becoming too much of a future burden. Consider where appropriate using silver leaf and drought resistant plants in certain areas to minimise demand for water.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The people of Todmorden obviously take pride in keeping their town clean and tidy. There was a lack of graffiti and we were impressed to hear of the trouble Bloom group members take to encourage dog owners to be responsible for their pets. It is clear the group also have a pleasing emphasis on litter picking. We were impressed with the Bloom group's concern for the current problems faced by bees at the moment and by their efforts to encourage bee friendly planting through the town. The new planting at the canal side will increase its value as a corridor for local wildlife. The nature trail at the school is a valuable tool in the children's education. The bat and bird boxes in the park will be beneficial to wildlife there and we were interested to hear of the nature trail there. The art installation, featuring fish on a wall at Fielden Wharf was pleasing. The creative use of hard landscaping at the wharf, the Pat Moss garden and the Nat West garden added greatly to the atmosphere of the sites. It was very much in keeping with the character of the town.

Areas for Improvement:

Perhaps the nature trail at the school could be further enhanced with log piles, insect hotels and even more bird boxes. We were interested to hear of their use of a nest cam in one of the bird boxes on site. Work with the school to ensure the viewing areas are protected from possible slipping hazards. In the park area some of the seating needs a little attention and painting or staining, though we acknowledge the tough financial climate. Perhaps leaving some areas of grass in the park unmowed would further encourage wildlife as well as reducing costs. The Pat Moss

garden would benefit from the addition of bird boxes. Consider using weed fabric and bark chippings or gravel where appropriate to retain moisture and reduce maintenance of some permanent beds.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

We were pleased to hear of the good relationship work with both Town and District Town Council's. We were impressed with the careful organisation of individual roles and responsibilities within the group and with their working with other community groups for the good of Todmorden. We could clearly see that the work of the group continues in an impressive way throughout the year. The Bloom group make tremendous efforts to keep the community informed of their activities and to involve all sides of the community in their work. The involvement of the group with the local press was impressive and their involvement with the Talking Newspaper showed creative thinking. We were impressed with the amount of work the group do in attending local events and writing in the local press in order to raise the profile of the Bloom initiative. The support and advice given by the many sponsors of the group show the pride the people of Todmorden take in their town and are obviously invaluable.

Areas for Improvement:

Groups within the town are obviously co-operating well for the sake of their community and all efforts to continue and extend this can only be for the good. Continue to look out for any external funding as well as funding from the Council that may be available via grants etc. Perhaps posters might be designed by the schools for use in shop windows etc, in the run up to important times in the Bloom year. It would be pleasing to see some Todmorden in bloom interpretation signage or identity within the park.

Goole

Introduction

Goole has a large number of different initiatives developing to the benefit of a wide range of residents. Allotment provision is highly commendable and the site visited demonstrated the enthusiasm of the plot holders. The Mayfield wildlife park is excellent with extensive tree planting and the involvement of a wide range of community members. The daffodil displays at the main entrances to the town were a wonderful spectacle. The Green Team are to be congratulated for all their sustained efforts.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The planting and developments at Goole Cemetery were particularly impressive. The town has a wide range of excellent Spring flowers in public places and private dwellings. The Kirby Close flats group of residents are working well together to develop the areas around their houses.

Areas for Improvement:

Evidence of local businesses should be considered for future Spring judging. It is a shame we were unable to meet the allotment representative during the visit. Wish entry well with regard to the Heritage Lottery 'Parks for People' funding which has now been secured.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The whole emphasis is perceived to be on conservation and biodiversity. Particular examples are the Centenary Road ECO friendly housing development, the Green team "Phoenix" allotment, Goole High school "Eco busters" , the Mayfield Park and the excellent work being done by Sarah Hoffman at Riverside Special school with the pupils. A lot of emphasis put on the local heritage of Goole. The environmental quality was good throughout the visit. Good to see the local Rotary Club carrying out improvements to street furniture. Good to meet members of the YMCA residents who are actively involved in enhancing their grounds.

Areas for Improvement:

Consider introducing appropriate interpretation boards at key locations. During the Summer visit make sure we seen evidence of well maintained street furniture, etc. Evidence resource management projects as part of the sustained approach to this element of the competition, with special emphasis on young people.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

A wide range of groups and individuals are involved in the town's environmental initiatives. Media coverage and publicity materials are good. Support from Goole Times was excellent throughout the visit. Communications and education elements of the entry are to be commended.

Areas for Improvement:

Continue to identify good quality projects as part of the overall management plan of Goole. Consider introducing some posters highlighting that Goole is part of the Yorkshire In Bloom Competition.

Pontefract

Introduction

The judges were given a warm welcome to this historic market town and were pleased to meet Brian Chappell who works so hard for Pontefract in Bloom. The floral displays were impressive and the town centre was clean and tidy. The recent developments at the Bus Station were an excellent example of what "In Bloom" is all about.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The historic horse troughs planted by the Lioness Group, hanging baskets in the town centre and the spring bedding along Jubilee Way and Southgate. The pleasing and restful gardens of the Prince of Wales Hospice looked after by Paddy and Mabel. There were some well maintained and attractive residential gardens.

Areas for Improvement:

Continue to work with Wakefield Council to ensure that support, with funding, is available to further enhance the town possibly with additional planters with a mixture of sustainable and bedding plants. Look to do more sustainable planting wherever possible in these difficult times.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The work being done by Larks Hill J & I School as an Eco School and it was good to meet the pupils and staff involved. The town centre was clean and tidy and the street furniture well maintained. The town recycling centre.

Areas for Improvement:

The judges were impressed with the Pomfret Garden at Halfpenny Lane School and appreciate the recent difficulties so look forward to seeing progress and meeting those involved in the summer. Arrange for the judges to visit areas where environmental issues can be demonstrated eg the Racecourse, the Castle and to meet people involved including the re-cycling officer.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The continued support from the two schools and the hospice where community involvement is evident. The Bus Station where enthusiasm and team work, led by Liam Needham, have enhanced their area to create a good impression when people arrive in Pontefract. The existing sponsorships and partnerships that enable work to continue.

Areas for Improvement:

More support is needed for Pontefract in Bloom to ensure its sustainability. The Pontefract in Bloom Group would benefit from additional members to pursue the many aspects of the project including publicity and fund raising (with use of the internet)

Other suggestions:- Appoint a Schools Champion to recruit, encourage and support. Contact other organisations eg Rotary, the Scout movement, Girl Guiding UK, Churches. Publicise "In Bloom" with posters, adverts /features in local press, church magazines. Continue to look for sponsorship from local businesses and individuals

Pudsey

Introduction

This small group of dedicated “In Bloomers” are working hard to sustain their efforts across the town and are encouraging young people to get involved in horticultural projects where possible to improve their environment.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The well maintained gardens at the Baptist Church, season colour at St Andrews Methodist Church and the groomed lawns at the Parish Church. Floral contributions from Mahony & Warr Funeral Directors, Crossed Shuttle and Stroom add colour around the route. General standard of residential gardens across the town and colourful display at the Fire Station House. The standards of maintenance and the many facilities at Pudsey Park. The refurbishment of Sparrow park. Permanent planting at the Low Town Gardens and the library beds, and the colourful planters at the War Memorial. The barrier baskets, and tubs maintained by the group, along side the car park beds and small seasonal bed and lawned area outside the Jet station.

Areas for Improvement:

We look forward to seeing Sparrow Park evolve over the coming months and maybe consideration be given to interpretation within the area.

Consider a knee rail around the turf area out side the Fire Station house to stop people walking over this grass; it will help to enhance the planting display in this area.

Consider improving the range of colour at the Claremont sheltered housing development by planting areas of early-flowering bulbs i.e. crocuses, to complement the fine daffs.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

Areas within Pudsey Park, the wildlife areas set aside and the education centre are interesting features within the park. The Tripe Baths at Low Town Garden are a quirky addition to the route. The use of recycled plastic seats at Low Town. The fact that both the Civic Society & the Allotment society are involved with PiB. The town was exceptionally clean and tidy, both litter & graffiti free.

Areas for Improvement:

The inclusion of the interpretation boards will help to tell the story for visitors to Low Town Gardens. It would be nice to see some sort of wildlife project within the route that PiB are involved with directly. Attention to the detritus at the footpath along side Claremont Grove complex, and the entrance into Lloyds Pharmacy could do with a little attention, possible site for future improvements/clean up. Possible additions that would add interest to the already excellent Pudsey Park would be to utilise the empty tanks in the aquarium by introducing a few more species of native freshwater fish (if these can't be sought from captive stock then perhaps consider a few fancy goldfish); and introducing a few more native British captive-bred finches to the aviary.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The involvement with Crawshaw high school in the development of Sparrow Park is a credit to the Group and the young people involved. The sponsorship from local business's and the bus company are to be encouraged, good in roads being made. The bulb planting scheme at Claremont Grove Complex and the involvement with the residents and school children. The PiB blog is an interesting concept and it gets the message out to the internet society. Funding contributions from both the Civic Society & Allotment Society towards the refurbishment of Sparrow Park.

Areas for Improvement:

Continue to work with the high school and other local primary schools within the area. Try to encourage the primary school near Sparrow Park to be involved in its development. To further increase community awareness, consider advertising PiB in the local library.

Ripon

Introduction

The Ripon in bloom Group is growing from strength to strength. The judge's were impressed with the improvements and new projects. Also the combined efforts of everyone involved on 'Cleaner City Day' are to be congratulated. The City was exceptionally pristine and well presented.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The project planned for Bedern Bank. Green Spaces to be commended. Ongoing improvements at Temple Gardens, supported by Trixies hard work and commitment.

Areas for Improvement:

Extra barrier baskets already planned will enhance the floral display in the Market Square.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

Efforts of everyone in Ripon City Clean up Day. The City was sparkling clean, tidy and well presented. Quarry Moor and the new eco friendly play area.

Areas for Improvement:

Continue with the Goose Common project.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

Outstanding and ongoing efforts at Moorside Infants School. Including the wild life garden, eco week's activities, recycling and good use of the Morrisons Voucher Scheme. Excellent contribution from the Walled Garden Group.

Areas for Improvement:

The promotion of Yorkshire in Bloom Judging Day

Halifax

Introduction

First impressions are important at the start of any judge's day, at Shibden Park both judges were not disappointed. It set the scene for the rest of the tour where diverse contributors had been excellently coordinated for a successful Halifax in Bloom entry. From the historic Shibden Hall complimented by the parks eco friendly Mereside Centre, to the vibrant town centre a real pleasure to visit with its heritage architecture blending seamlessly with today's modern designs. Strategically located spring bulb and bedding displays added bright colours to the town, which was seen to be extremely clean and well presented demonstrating what can be achieved where a whole community engages with a common purpose. With all this and more promised for the summer, both judges eagerly look forward to a welcome return visit in July.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

A very well presented Shibden Park, deservedly a popular visitor destination. Despite the ravages of the recent winter the displays on the Paisley Lawn were colourful and bright. The very many daffodil displays throughout the town, often planted by school groups. An ongoing programme in times of financial restraint of replacing traditional bedding and shrub displays with perennial plantings. Fine examples seen at the Woolshops Shopping Centre, the gateway roundabout on the A58 and the landscape near the Minster. The established gardens of the housing area on the former Infirmary Hospital site and those of the Arden Road Arms Houses were well maintained and to a very high standard.

Areas for Improvement:

Early replacement of plants lost to the severe winter weather, particularly at key town centre display sites.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The town was litter free, no graffiti was seen, everywhere was clean and tidy, a credit to everyone involved in Halifax in Bloom. The developing pond and marsh area at Shibden Park with the involvement of the Friends of Nature Northern Branch, will undoubtedly add much to the flora and fauna of the site and prove to be a great educational asset. The street furniture of the town was in the main well maintained, with replacement programmes evident. All despite the many various agencies involved. The wide use of recycled materials in the landscape, the recycling strategies developed at the Woolshop Shopping Centre and the ground sourced heating pump initiative used at the Mereside Centre, were all of special merit.

Areas for Improvement:

The town is clearly carrying out many initiatives to get the residents interested and involved in environmental activities. The limited availability of allotment plots to those on the waiting list could frustrate many. A garden sharing scheme initiative could help resolve this.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The involvement of the wider community from schools, businesses both large and small, volunteer groups and organisations and the local authority was plainly evident and highly commendable. Credit must be noted of the contribution made by the Payback Team for delivering a service that is often high profile and necessary but not recognised, well done. The development over the years of a successful Halifax in Bloom and its planned progression towards even greater community involvement must be applauded. The judges are looking forward to seeing the advancements in July. A level of recognition in Halifax for the Halifax in Bloom initiative, exemplified by the large barrier banners seen in the town.

Areas for Improvement:

Further publicity and recognition of the towns participation in the Yorkshire in Bloom competition would be of credit to the in bloom group and raise awareness of its involvement to residents of Halifax.

Harrogate

Introduction

Harrogate is a well-known spa town with a pedigree of winning awards and demonstrating levels of excellence. The judges expected high standards and were not disappointed. The judging started at Harlow Carr Gardens, then enjoyed a route through Harrogate with a backdrop of its many magnificent buildings, the Valley Gardens, the colourful town centre, some very well presented areas of housing and green spaces, and finally back to Harlow Carr. A more comprehensive tour would not have been possible. The Harrogate in Bloom team demonstrated how through commitment, enthusiasm and energy, it's possible to involve the wider community in promoting public ownership and engagement in improving the town's environment. The team clearly strive to excel and new schemes such as the "gardensharrogate" initiative, gives evidence of why they are successful at communicating their message to those living in Harrogate. The judges very much look forward to the return visit in July.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The Library Gardens were a fine example of how a refurbishment of a town centre garden can retain many traditional aspects; yet embrace a number of modern features. The Jennyfields housing area showed both public and private gardens, all maintained to a high standard. These were complimented by attractive and well-presented open spaces to give the whole area a pleasant environment in which to live. The Prince of Wales Roundabout was the best example of the many bright and colourful floral displays seen at strategic locations throughout the town.

Areas for Improvement:

The judges look forward to seeing the New Zealand Garden restocked following the losses caused by the harsh winter.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The developing conservation and wildlife site at Iron Gate Wood in the control of the Pinewoods Conservation Group was a wonderful example of how community and the local council working in partnership can progress environmental improvement. The water conservation, recycling and composting methods at both the Harlow Carr Gardens and the local councils plant nurseries,

deserve mention where investment in simple practices return greater benefits for the environment. The town was virtually litter free, no graffiti was seen, an example of a coordinated approach to a cleaner town. It was a real pleasure to see. Betty's "Trees for Life" scheme showed that communities in Yorkshire could impact upon those living in Peru in a positive and meaningful way. An initiative that deserves special mention.

Areas for Improvement:

The example of energy conservation using a wind turbine and solar panel powered street light at Luchon Way should be considered at other open spaces as an alternative to existing provision.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The "gardensharrogate" initiative is a fine example of how an in bloom group can act as a catalyst to support business's, local authorities and organisations when communicating with the wider community. An excellent initiative, which will be copied elsewhere. The many locations of bulb planting around the town was a pleasure to see, doubly so when considering that many hundreds of school children and young people were involved in the planting over the years. The bagging and selling of crocus bulbs supported by local businesses to generate funds for further initiatives by the in bloom group is to be applauded.

Areas for Improvement:

As the in bloom group have a positive relationship with the local media, it would be a useful conduit to see the relationship of the Harrogate in Bloom group with Yorkshire in Bloom Competition given a higher profile. A countdown to judging day and posters in the town a possibility.

Barnsley

Introduction

Seasonal bedding throughout the city was at its peak and supported by a very good standard of horticultural maintenance at key locations for the public to enjoy. The Town Hall frontage, Townend traffic island and Cannon Hall Gardens were three fine examples of spring colour with associated high maintenance techniques. The Streetscene was of a very high standard throughout and which is a credit to the staff involved and to the public of Barnsley. A number of innovative designs at key traffic islands, which included public artwork and sustainable planting, illustrated good alternatives to the traditional local authority bedding displays. Spring contributions from the business sector were evident with The Travellers Rest and The Dove Inn setting examples of what can be achieved. The work of the community groups such as at the Kendray Gardens, the Rockingham Community and the Friends Group at Cannon Hall Museum and Gardens are to be commended in their work in their own environment. Barnsley's commitment to reducing waste to landfill is commendable with not only green waste to landfill reduced but with inert materials being recycled for reuse in future local authority schemes. A very positive start to the 2011 entry.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The seasonal displays were at their peak at a number of key locations with very good colour schemes in seasonal displays and sustainable planting and which were all maintained to a high standard. The general private and public sector housing developments contributed well to the judging route with verges and private gardens to a high standard. Business sector involvement is recognised as being difficult in spring but there were a number of positive contributions along the route. Green spaces such as Kendray Gardens were well maintained and provided important public open space for community events

Areas for Improvement:

Try to balance the individual elements more carefully along the route with perhaps less housing development being shown and include an internal route through an industrial estate if possible to try and highlight the business sector contribution through good, well maintained sustainable planting. Try if possible, to persuade and guide the community group at Kendray to strategically plant appropriate species of trees on the vast open space available. This will not only help enhance the large green space but will offer shade in summer when the site is being actively used. Offer advice and assistance to the BRAG group to develop their pocket park and to implement a more appropriate programme for maintenance.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

Barnsley is taking a lead in minimising waste and using the opportunities available for the reuse of material generated from its services. The use of grey water, recycling of timber and also of its inert materials is a very positive step. The Bio Mass programme for heating public offices and buildings is to be commended. The high level of cleanliness throughout the city is clearly a result of a joined up Council tackling fly tipping, litter and graffiti in a positive and serious way. Despite a busy town centre and district the lack of litter and weed in the Streetscene was outstanding.

Areas for Improvement:

It is recognised that the town centre is awaiting a well deserved programme of redevelopment and therefore investment in the street furniture, signs etc will be required. It is appreciated that this element of the judging criteria will be much improved once works are implemented and completed. Ensure that conservation and biodiversity is well illustrated in summer. The aims and objectives of the work at 'Wooley Wood' and Thicket Lane could have been interpreted better. Show a commitment to the renovation of the interpretive panels at Cannon Hall where required.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

Clearly Barnsley take the 'In Bloom' very seriously and see this initiative as icing on the cake to the positive work they are doing through the delivery of services and working with the community. An all year round programme is evident together with the recognition of the public participation through garden competitions, through to bulb planting with local school children to working with local forums, community groups and other schemes such as 'Community Payback' The support from the local media is also clearly evident. There is good support from the business sector through sponsorship of traffic islands and in preparation for the 2011 season an abundance of spring bulbs provided to the local authority for planting alongside school children – Well done Asda and well done to all the kids!

Areas for Improvement:

Try to drive the business sector involvement during the spring. Not an easy task but there is surely more opportunities available to engage this important sector. Find opportunities to engage the smaller, unique villages throughout Barnsley to participate in their own In Bloom initiatives as a contribution to Barnsley in Bloom. Barnsley in Bloom still seems to rely quite heavily on the Council's input. Whilst it is important that they act as a catalyst, attempt to devolve more responsibilities to the voluntary groups and engage them more in the initiative in future. Provide more information on how Barnsley in Bloom is funded and what fundraising activities take place.

Hull

Introduction

Kingston upon Hull is the largest city in the East Riding of Yorkshire. Maritime heritage dominates every aspect of city life and there is a tangible feeling of history wherever you are. There is much fine architecture to be seen and although redevelopment is taking place in many areas this is happening sympathetically, paying due respect to Hull's history. The country-wide economic situation has caused many Local Authorities to "tighten their belts" and Hull is no exception. It is to be hoped that the Bloom campaign can continue throughout this difficult time. We enjoyed our tour of the city and look forward to our return visit in summer.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

Queens Garden is a horticultural gem in the middle of the city – very colourful and generally well maintained. East Park is justifiably popular with residents, offering a wide range of community facilities, and is very well used. We were impressed with Pickering Orchard and Wildlife Garden. The standard of maintenance was very good and this is a project that many groups could examine and use as a basis for their own community projects. Nelson Pier brought colour to a very busy,

town centre, road side. Planting at the Museum Quarter was colourful, appropriate and well maintained.

Areas for Improvement:

We look forward to seeing the Sensory Garden and Boardwalk development at East Park in the summer. The rose area of Queens Garden around the fountain needs some attention and at present detracts from the high quality seasonal displays surrounding it.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The judges were impressed with the integration of modern developments throughout the city without losing the sense of maritime history which pervades everything. The recycling site at Sutton Fields was clean, tidy and efficiently run. The flower bulb recycling scheme at Queens Garden is to be commended. We cannot over emphasise the quality and appropriateness of the various elements celebrating the heritage of the City.

Areas for Improvement:

There were significant amounts of litter seen throughout the tour and, while we appreciate the enormity of the task of keeping a large city clean and litter free, could some attention be given to specific areas such as East Park. Graffiti is obviously a significant problem throughout the city and some thought needs to be given, corporately, as to how this could be addressed.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The education areas in the farm and aviary at East Park are outstanding and it was nice to see how many school children can benefit from using the facilities available. It would be nice to meet the Education Officer on our summer visit. The efforts being made to continue to involve residents in the best kept gardens competition.

Areas for Improvement:

It would be nice to meet a wide range of community representatives when we return for our summer visit, not least the Friends of East Park who are doing much fund raising for park facilities. There was very little evidence of any publicity or press coverage given to the Bloom Campaign. Some thought might be given to raising awareness of Bloom activities throughout the city.

Leeds

Introduction

Bathed in spring sunshine the Leeds 'Blooming Community' met the judges representing a diverse section of the City's all embracing bloom within in their own communities using a wide variety of unique ways. Strong support for the City's bloom efforts and bloom identity were demonstrated through sponsorship of numerous and innovative ways, spreading a strong positive message, reaching new audiences and supporting a wide community base. Meaningful contributions were made from the business sector through The Shire Hotel and Thorpe Park industrial area. Judging went smoothly and to time, the combination of community, spring colour, blossom, bulbs and spring sunshine made for a great start to Leeds 2011 entry.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

Timing of spring judging enabled the spring displays to be viewed at their peak, high standards of maintenance enhanced the impact of the displays. Garforth in Bloom have made a huge impact on their town in a short space of time, involving much of the community in providing and maintaining floral displays as a positive contribution to the Leeds entry. Park Row in the centre of Leeds was a delight with spring colour and blossom, high impact area with high intensity usage. The Maltings have extend the flowering season and reduced maintenance activity through good use of herbaceous material within key displays. Rural verges throughout the judging route were well maintained and full of spring flowering bulbs

Areas for Improvement:

The judges are looking forward to seeing more civic displays during the summer route. There were a number of positive contributions from the town centre business sector and whilst it is appreciated that this is difficult to encourage in such a large City centre, attempts to increase the level of spring displays should be considered.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The Barwick community provide a wide variety of wildlife initiatives made from recycled materials including bird and bat boxes, bug hotels and habitat log piles. Even the dog bin had been made more attractive and in keeping with the location. Temple Newsam Estate Volunteers demonstrated some of the wide range of skills donated to the estate from coppicing to general clearance works, wide range of traditional woodland management skills are utilised

Areas for Improvement:

It would have been good to meet some of the other staff who are responsible for keeping the town centre clean, from discussions on the day it is clear this is a multi agency function. More information with regards how both the parks team and the city collect, recycle or dispose of waste materials would also be beneficial. On some parts of the judging route graffiti, litter and kerbside weeds were evident.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

Leeds has an impressive bloom identity and reputation across the city, evident on the range of signs and promotional material observed throughout the day. 72 Traffic Islands are sponsored across the city. Some villages have waiting lists of sponsors for floral features and hanging baskets which demonstrates a positive understanding of the initiative. Leeds City provides £70,000 capital funding to support its bloom communities, during current austere times it is good to see a local authority valuing the importance of bloom in the community.

Areas for Improvement:

Community participation is where Leeds excels. Keep up the positive work and the momentum required to ensure that the City's Bloom initiative continues to be successful.

:

Filey

Introduction

The enthusiastic Filey in Bloom team in conjunction with the Local Authority have developed and created many attractive features enhancing the town for the delight of residents and visitors. The judges were delighted to meet with some young people who had contributed their ideas as to how Filey could be improved. The 'Keep Filey Smiley' slogan and campaign reflected the many aspects of the endeavours of the 'Bloom' team

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The numerous feature beds in many parts of the town – The Gardeners bed/ Ronnie Simmons bed/ Northcliffe Gardens and many more. Some lovely colourful flower beds. The emphasis of planting of colourful shrubs and perennials to provide year round effect. The general high standard of maintenance. Private gardens were generally very colourful and well maintained.

Areas for Improvement:

It will be interesting to see how the harsh winter damage to shrubs is to be remedied. Consideration might be given to the density of bedding plants and bulbs by increasing numbers or reducing the size of beds. When deciding on which gardens are to be visited by the judges ensure they are the best. Allotments are never aesthetically pleasing, but some consideration might be given to general tidiness. Consider the style and size of containers for flowers and shrubs in prominent locations i.e. the station

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

Filey Dams are well managed for wildlife with excellent conservation and educational value. Friends of Filey Parks had undertaken valuable work in the development and maintenance of wildflower areas of Nuns Walk and Glen and Crescent gardens. Several sculptures and artefacts depicting many aspects of the local heritage and celebrities throughout the town

Areas for Improvement:

Maintenance of some street and garden furniture requires attention. The judges would like to evidence of recycling practices. The judges look forward to seeing Plesiosaur installed! The area of land adjacent to the railway and the level crossing needs attention; it is an eyesore at the main entrance to the town.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The enthusiasm of the Bloom team is to be congratulated. The involvement of the young people of Filey School, Technology College, with their p Fundraising events throughout the year, and the poster competition from which developed the slogan 'Keep Filey Smiley'

Areas for Improvement:

The judges look forward to seeing the Filey School commemorative bed in the summer. Though many businesses are generous when approached to support the aims of the 'Bloom initiative, a

more active participation in improving the environmental quality of the town could have considerable beneficial effects

Hornsea

Introduction

Visitors entering Hornsea are greeted with the elegant floral signs and the colourful planting which gives the visitor an expectation that they are entering an interesting coastal town.

The judges were pleased to meet, Christine Sumner, Cllr Beatrice Parker and Cllr John Whittle. It was clear to the judges that the two councillors gave strong support, encouragement and commitment to Christine and the Hornsea in bloom group. The Cllr's love and dedication to their town was very evident when conversing with them. The judges were left in no doubt that everyone had the environment and the community at the heart of their commitment.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

Good Horticultural practice was evident wherever the Hornsea in bloom group had participated for instance at Morrow Ave, Marlborough roundabout and Pecketts corner. The planting around the medieval cross was exceptional in design, colour and the quality of the plants. The judges were most impressed with the design and quality of the plants in both the Memorial gardens and the Elim gardens the memorial garden was quite stunning in its simplicity. The planting of Saint Nicholas's Church wall certainly enhances this beautiful church. The judges hope that the Gardening competition will take place this year some of the gardens were looking encouraging and we look forward to viewing them in our summer visit.

Areas for Improvement:

The retail businesses to be encouraged to support the Hornsea in bloom group consider a competition for the best business display.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The garden at the inshore rescue boathouse was an interesting mix of permanent and annual planting. Involving the life style group was to be commended hopefully they gained an understanding of the work the Hornsea in bloom group undertake. The judges enjoyed their visit to the allotments and meeting the members of North Holderness Countryside Society, they are doing sterling conservation work. The town was litter and graffiti free the lack of graffiti was due to a concerted effort by all to eradicate the problem. Everyone involved in this exercise are to be congratulated on an obviously successful mission. The railings surrounding the two parks are well maintained and create an open dimension to the surrounding area, very pleasing. The erection of Identification boards at the entrance to Hornsea rail trail is an excellent addition. We look forward to the out come of the Glacial Erratic project on our summer visit.

Areas for Improvement:

The judges would like to see more practical evidence of conservation and biodiversity. It is not too late to apply for native trees from the woodland trust. The trust has 1000 packs to give away and each one will contain a royal sapling to celebrate the Queen's diamond Jubilee. You can apply now for delivery in the Autumn 2011 or spring 2012.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The banner on entering Hornsea was an excellent advertisement for the Hornsea in bloom group. Press coverage was evident in the press cuttings presented in the portfolio at the beginning of the tour. The judges found the review of the past year very helpful and we are aware of the hard work that has been achieved by a small group of dedicated members.

Areas for Improvement:

All groups, businesses, and organizations need to work together to raise standards throughout Hornsea and this can only benefit all businesses and residents. Consider organising a range of events, projects, activities that involve local people, businesses and community groups these activities could include litter picks, bulb planting or a plant swap for instance.

Scarborough

Introduction

This community managed entry is a wonderful example of what can be achieved when volunteers, business and local authorities work together for the same goal. The new Location of the 'Scarborough In Bloom' hut, on the grounds of Irton garden centre, means the group are perfectly placed to field questions about their work and promote Yorkshire In Bloom. The fund raising achieved by the group is magnificent and demonstrates there year round activities to promote the Scarborough in Bloom message throughout the local community. As winners of a RHS Britain in Bloom Gold Medal last year, the Judges had high expectations from this entry, and happily, these expectations were justified.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

Park Manor Hotel has fabulous colourful floral displays and neatly kept grounds that set a shining high standard for other businesses in the area. The sponsored traffic islands were full of colour and featured a number of different themes adding additional interest. Peasholm Park bedding displays were of the finest standards and it was good to meet the Friends Group who were working hard to make further improvements to the Park.

Areas for Improvement:

We look forward to seeing an example of an allotments site during the summer. The recent changes within the council have affected some of the routine maintenance activities with some areas not yet having its first grass cutting. We also noted some weed growth in estate roadways and foot paths. The bulb trail is a great idea which must give a sunny smile to anyone passing it. Some infilling with 'naturally' scattered bulbs would give the route more structure and really settle it into its surroundings.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The wildlife emphasis designed into St Martins Square provides a little oasis in otherwise built up surroundings. The street furniture, signage and hard landscaping were of a high standard, and varied in style sympathetically to the areas they were in. The addition of the Skate park and other work that has been undertaken along Marine Drive adds structure and flow to the thread of development weaving its way along the shoreline to Peasholm Park. The busy town centre area was totally free from litter at the time our visit and was a result of the hard work of the street cleaning staff

Areas for Improvement:

The judges would like to see more evidence of how the group are putting good environmental resource management into practice, over and above the councils recycling service. We look forward to exploring one of the many wildlife areas during our summer tour

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The group have developed a range of fund raising activities which provide an income and fund an expanding range of features around the town. The group have kept detailed records of their activities and the number of volunteer hours committed to the in Bloom initiative. The group's maintenance vans Thunder bloom one and two and the Scarborough in Bloom promotion caravan are great assets and help raise the profile of the groups work. The judges were very impressed with the sustainability and resources this entry possesses. You are doing a sterling job, keep it up!

Areas for Improvement:

The Judges would have liked to have visited a school or other youth organisation as representation of involvement by the young people in Scarborough in Bloom. It is essential that Scarborough in Bloom group attract more younger and middle aged members in order to provide longer term sustainability of the group. We will be keen to look at the groups initiatives to expand the number of volunteers in the summer