

RHS Yorkshire in Bloom

Entry Pack 2023

Community Categories C1 to C5
Villages, Urban Communities, Towns,
Cities, Coastal Communities



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Introduction to RHS Yorkshire in Bloom



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RHS Yorkshire in Bloom is a voluntary regional organisation that administers the RHS Britain in Bloom Campaign in North, South, East and West Yorkshire. RHS Britain in Bloom is the largest horticultural campaign in Europe and each year it grows in size and importance and involves more people, groups and organisations creating lasting improvements to local environments. Villages through to cities in the region are judged in spring or summer.

All other community, business, and educational establishments are judged in the summer.

Why Enter RHS Yorkshire in Bloom

- ❖ To improve the environment
- ❖ To foster civic pride
- ❖ To develop community spirit
- ❖ To improve the visual appearance of the place making it an attractive place to visit, work and live in.
- ❖ To create a good impression to visitors and to attract potential business.
- ❖ To involve local organisations – Local Authorities, schools, voluntary groups.
- ❖ To foster a sense of competitive spirit in order to achieve success

Remember that entering RHS Yorkshire in Bloom should not be seen to be purely for competitive reasons. This is, of course, important but it must also be borne in mind that any improvements made to the visual environment and in the development of community spirit should form the long-term objectives of the entry.

Which categories can we enter?

Entry into these community categories of RHS Yorkshire in Bloom is based on the resident adult population and /or the type of community. Please use the Electoral Roll for your community; this can be obtained from your local council. Please refer to the categories table to see which category best suits your enterprise. Entry form is available on the Yorkshire in Bloom website www.yorkshireinbloom.co.uk



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Having decided to enter Yorkshire in Bloom, what next?

Guidelines for Categories C1 to C5 (Villages, Towns, Cities etc.)



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C1	VILLAGES	
	SMALL VILLAGE	(0-300)
	VILLAGE	(301-1000)
	LARGE VILLAGE	(1001-2,500)
C2	URBAN COMMUNITY	(0- 25,000)
	An urban community should be a community within a larger conurbation sometimes described as an urban 'village or town'. It should have its own housing, commerce and/or industry and community activity as an integral part of the area i.e. an area with its own 'centre'. An urban community may not have its own Council, or be able to stand alone, but it will have its own 'sense of place'.	
C3	TOWNS	
	SMALL TOWN	(2,501-6,000)
	TOWN	(6,001-12,000)
	LARGE TOWN	(12,001-35,000)
C4	CITIES	
	SMALL CITY	(35,001-100,K)
	CITY	(100,001 +)
	BID/TOWN/CITY CENTRE ONLY	
C5	COASTAL COMMUNITIES	
	COASTAL (12,000 and below)	
	COASTAL (12,001 and above)	

Participants' Guidance Notes

Entry to the campaign is by completion of the Entry form located on the website, Link: <https://www.yorkshireinbloom.co.uk/entry-form>

Please pay the appropriate entry fee either by bank transfer or by cheque to the coordinator.

When are we judged?

Spring judging takes place usually over a three week period during April and summer judging takes place over a three week period during July. See YIB Programme Dates for the exact dates available on the website.

"Your Community, Your destiny, Your reward"

The Judging Process

The Judges receive their judging allocation several weeks before the judging period. **They will contact you** as soon as possible to work out suitable availability dates. We request that Judges are as flexible as possible, and offer their services to suit your entry, noting that sometimes this maybe weekends or evenings.

There will be normally one or two judges who visit and carry out the assessment. The judge's names and contact details will be emailed to the entry around the same time that the judges are allocated. (This is referred to as the judging schedule) Thus it is important that the contact details posted on the entry form are the details needed to contact the right person.



Spring judging takes place usually during April and summer judging takes place during July. (See YIB Programme Dates for the exact dates).

Two to three weeks prior to the judging period, all entrants will receive a judging schedule, which shows the names, address and phone numbers of the two judges who will be visiting the entry as well as the contacts for the entry. One of the named judges on the schedule will contact the entrant either by phone and/or by email.

We are very aware that entrants are probably nervous and concerned about the judging process so we do try to allay any possible fears. (Particular first time entries) We are a very social campaign and do our very best to put our entrant at ease.

Spring or Summer Judging?

For entrants in categories C1, C2 and C3, (Villages, Towns and Urban Communities), you have the choice of having:-

- I. spring only,
- II. spring and summer,
- III. summer only judging.

Each visit is charged as a separate assessment. You have an option to decide when you wish for the assessment to be carried out, either spring or summer or both. For each assessment you will receive a full report for each judging. If judging in summer, following the spring assessment, an entry may show a differing route or areas to view, the experience of the spring visit maybe be considered alongside the summer assessment.

How are entries assessed?



What is judged?

There are three Core Pillars of RHS Yorkshire in Bloom

Horticultural Achievement
Environmental Responsibility
Community Participation

RHS Yorkshire in Bloom showcases environmental excellence across the region, from the smallest Open Space or Park to Large Cities, it brings together communities with one common aim, to improve their environment. Judges are assigned to assess your entry against a national set of criteria, which has been developed to support both judges and entrants. To help you meet this criteria the following guidelines may be a useful reminder of what judges will be looking for RHS.

In preparation for assessment against this criteria remember that your entire tour route is subject to judging; that means what the judges see on the way from one feature stop to another as well as what they see at all the stops and as they further explore sites on foot during the tour are ALL subject to judging. Furthermore, the judges will expect that your campaign has considered your entire community not just the high street or the village square and that you, at the very least, have plans to address “problem” areas (i.e. vacant premises/plots, eyesores etc.). Finally, please also bear in mind that judges will be looking for your campaign activities to benefit your community not just for today but for the longer term.

The suggestions that follow are examples of things that **MAY be present** in an entry – **they are NOT an extensive list of things that have to be done or to be achieved!**



Section A - Horticultural Achievement

40 points; 40%

In this section the judges will be looking for your year-round achievements in horticulture (including conservation and natural areas) focusing on 4 key factors:

- A1. Plant Selection
- A2. Plant Quality
- A3. Residential Maintenance of planted areas
- A4. Overall Impression

Each of these key factors will make up 10% of your overall score and be worth a maximum of 10 points.

The judges will take account of:

A1. Plant Selection – 10 points; 10%

Impact will be evaluated across the entry, in each area and as a whole.

Colours & Design: Is there a scheme or theme overall and/or in key locations? Are the colours/design suited for the location? Appropriate choice of plants: Are there too many/too few plants to enhance the area? Are the plants appropriate in terms of flowering period and habit? Is there sufficient variation, appropriate herbaceous plants? Are there appropriate varieties of both newly planted and recently (up to 5 years) planted areas (including mixes of trees, shrubs and herbaceous planting). Planting could be for foliage effect, bark effect etc. or for a specific purpose (i.e. conservation) or to provide flowering or other effects for a defined period. Special features sometimes provided as a focal point, and may include structures or an intensive area of bedding.

A2. Plant Quality – 10 points; 10%

Are the plants in the entry vibrant and grown to their full potential?

Are they free of all pests and diseases?

Horticultural plant quality in all areas will be assessed.

Quality of plants: Good quality plants, obviously flourishing. No obvious signs of pests, diseases or deficiencies. Appropriate size for planting situation, appropriate soil type etc.

A3. Maintenance of planted areas – 10 points; 10%

Are areas maintained to a high standard including baskets & troughs, cultivation, weeding, feeding, pruning, grass cutting and edging where appropriate? Tree management and maintenance including appropriate planting initiatives.

Areas that may be included: gardens in public view, Communal areas - Shared residential & communal spaces, Allotments, Public Buildings (grounds of) - Car parks

Are areas well-presented and maintained?

A4. Overall Impression – 10 points; 10%

Are the overall design and materials used appropriate to the location and do they generate an obvious WOW factor?

Innovation: Are new and creative ideas evident in the design, colours, themes, plant selection etc.?



Floral displays are an important element of the RHS Yorkshire in Bloom Campaign, but must be proportionate to the areas of sustainable planting and permanent landscaping within the entry. Floral displays may be present in a number of locations but typically, displays will be located in:

Publicly owned areas, including parks, publicly owned buildings, roadside areas and roundabouts, housing and residential areas, residential homes, schools, allotments etc. Shopping areas, business areas and premises, commercial premises, public houses, hotels, garages, and transport terminals such as bus and train stations.

RHS Yorkshire in Bloom has environmental responsibility at its core and the judges will wish to see permanent/sustainable planting initiatives as well. Landscaped areas with permanent plantings could include any of the areas outlined above as well as: Woodlands, copse, shelterbelts, verges, parks, public open spaces Business parks, industrial estates, Screen planting, near factories/industrial areas, eyesores, vacant premises/plots etc. Amenity planting near residential areas, car parks, and shopping areas.



Section B - Environmental Responsibility

30 points; 30%

In this section the judges will be looking for your year-round achievements in 3 key areas:

- B1. Natural Environment
- B2. Hard Surfaces and Open Grass Areas
- B3. Local Identity

Each of these key areas will make up 10% of your overall score and be worth a maximum of 10 points.

Please bear in mind that judges will be considering environmental responsibility across all areas of your local campaign so, for example, if you have a fabulous floral display they will also want to know if you have achieved this effect with consideration for the environment. Although this section does outline the key areas of environmental responsibility please bear this important core pillar in mind across all of your Bloom activities and initiatives. The judges will take account of:

B1. Natural Environment – 10 points; 10%

Biodiversity including the protection and conservation of the natural environment and wildlife habitat. The provision of appropriate wildflower areas, aquatic and if applicable marine conservation sites, bat and bird boxes as well as insect hotels.

Efforts being made to preserve and maintain these areas? Activities to educate the community and encourage them to visit these areas? Activities or plans to re-introduce or restore these areas where they have disappeared or been damaged?

B2. Hard Surfaces and Open Grass Areas – 10 points; 10%

Hard Surfaces and Open Grass Areas (Including streets and open spaces)

To include cleanliness, absence of litter, street weeds, graffiti, flyposting and chewing gum, water conservation and recycling initiatives, hard landscape, open spaces & street furniture maintenance and effective dog fouling control measures.



B3. Local Identity – 10 points; 10%

To include sense of place, heritage, art in the landscape and signage and interpretation. Areas that may be included: Management and development of local heritage and/or identity such as natural heritage, community landmarks/icons, other heritage sites etc.

The RHS Yorkshire in Bloom campaign encourages environmentally responsible activities/projects which are designed to improve the areas where we live, work and spend our leisure time. Looking after our environment has become a very important community concern and we are all being encouraged to recycle and use environmentally responsible products and practices wherever and whenever possible. It is the expectation that participants in Britain in Bloom will strive to provide a co-ordinated approach so that all environmental issues are resolved in harmony with each other.



The judges will be looking for local bloom groups to either initiate or actively engage with programmes/activities (as appropriate) which are working towards providing environmental enhancements and which might include:

- Establishing nature conservation and wildlife areas
- Cleaning up polluted sites and appropriate treatment/screening of derelict property or other eyesores
- Active policies to reduce the demand placed on natural resources - e.g. source of water used for plants, use of peat, use of hardwood timber etc.
- Maintaining and preserving natural habitat.
- Minimal use of pesticides and nitrate fertilisers and reducing or eliminating harmful effects on the environment

Interventions, management and development of local heritage (including natural heritage).



Section C - Community Participation

30 points; 30%



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In this section the judges will be looking for your year-round achievements in 3 key areas:

- C1. Communication and Awareness
- C2. Funding and Support
- C3. Year Round Activity and On-Going Planning

Each of these key areas will make up 10% of your overall score and be worth a maximum of 10 points.

Community participation is crucial to the success and continuity of RHS Yorkshire in Bloom campaigns and judges will consider community participation in all appropriate areas of the local campaign's initiatives. For example they will consider whether the local campaign has engaged the community in responsible resource management or educated them about this important issue or whether they have tried to educate and engage the community with regards to local heritage sites.



The judges will take account of:

C1. Communication and Awareness - 10 points; 10%

Active engagement with the local park users both within and outside the immediate area, involving all ages and groups. Communication and social media embraced in all its forms. Areas/activities which may be included Development and sustainability of the local bloom initiative and evidence of on-going projects

C2. Funding and Support- 10 points; 10%

Fundraising and on-going support from a range sources appropriate to the size of the entry making it viable and able to continue moving forward. Adequate budgetary provision by the park owners to provide an appropriate standard of maintenance.

C3. Year Round Activity & On-Going Planning - 10 points; 10%

Evidence of forward planning and year round activities highlighting any events to raise awareness and raise funds for the park, garden or cemetery. Active engagement with any groups demonstrating good partnership working.





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What is assessed?

Has the entry campaign made efforts to engage and secure support from local government, the commercial/corporate sector and local businesses?

Have there been activities to raise support and/or funds from the general public?

Has sufficient support been secured to ensure the campaign is able to deliver its objectives?

Is there a plan of action to secure sufficient continuing support for the development and on-going projects of the campaign?

RHS Yorkshire in Bloom is a proactive campaign of communities creating long-term improvements to their local environment. As such it is expected that a diverse range of community members will be involved in the campaign and that there will be broad based public awareness and support. Focusing on community participation may require some local authorities and public bodies involved to in driving local bloom initiatives to take on the role of enabler or advisor to generate that participation.

RHS Yorkshire in Bloom's positioning as a community improvement and environmentally responsible campaign means that the judges will want to see how finalists intend to continue to develop their programme. Furthermore, RHS Yorkshire in Bloom is not just about spring and summer floral displays; it is about a year-round programme of activity to improve, enhance and maintain the environment around us and keep the community actively engaged in keeping things at their best.

The judges will be looking for campaigns which:

- Evidence thoughtful planning of how to maintain the improvements they make and how to develop in the future.
- Have an effective communication and education programme evidenced by the level of awareness and understanding in the community as well as by physical evidence such as informative signs and displays, press clippings, publicity materials etc.
- Evidence a broad base of community involvement across all ages, ethnic and/or religious backgrounds, and socio-economic groups with a particular effort to engage young people/schools/colleges as appropriate to their community.
- Have a year-round programme of activity to keep their community engaged and at its best throughout the year (not just spring/summer displays and activities).
- Have secured funding/sponsorship and/or support for their activities and the support of government, commercial, corporate, business sectors for their campaign.

The Judging Report

Immediately after your judges have visited, they put together the judge's report using the relevant Judges Report sheet and Matrix as above.

The report will include the Introductory paragraph '**Overall Impression**', plus the '**Judges Feedback on Areas for Consideration.**'

These are the comments that the judges believe would assist the entry in improving and raising the profile of the business as an entry in the campaign. These are constructive suggestions and subjective to the judge's experience and opinion.

Each of the judging criteria is broken down into its component parts and the scores allocated to each are shown. This is a great indicator as to how the judges believe, you the entry, have attained within that scoring matrix.

A Final score shows the medal awarded.

Date of Assessment						Total Marks
MAXIMUM OF 10 POINTS PER SUB SECTION						
A Horticulture 40%	A1	A2	A3	A4		
B Environment 30%	B1	B2	B3			
C Community 30%	C1	C2	C3			
Total Score out of 100						Medal Awarded
Gold, Excellent 85-100 Points						Silver Gilt, Very Good 75-84 Points
Silver, Good 60-74 Points						Bronze, Fair 50-59 Points
Judges feedback on areas for consideration						

Awards of Gold, Silver Gilt, Silver and Bronze Accreditation will be made.

You are provided with a certificate of accreditation and the opportunity to order a plaque to display.



The reports and certification are sent out to all entries following the Award Ceremony in September

Achievement of Awards

Awards will be made in conjunction with the appropriate Report Sheet and Judging Matrix, taking into account the applicable criteria for each individual entry.

Award	Standard
Gold Award Score 85 -100%	An Excellent and exceptionally high standard demonstrated throughout. A consistent approach which demonstrates both best practise and sustainable effort. Meets all of the judge's criteria and objectives of RHS Yorkshire in Bloom and scores very highly in each section of the judging criteria.
Silver Gilt Score 75-84%	A Very Good and high standard which Meets the judge's criteria and objectives of RHS Yorkshire in Bloom. Generally meets a sustainable and quality threshold, but these may not be entirely consistent throughout all areas. Offers potential to become a Gold Medal winner in the future.
Silver Score 60-74%	Considered to be a Good and above average entry which meets most of the judge's criteria and objectives of RHS Yorkshire in Bloom. The entry will include more than one section which demonstrates good sustainable standards and potential to progress to a higher award.
Bronze Score 50-59%	A satisfactory and average entry which meets most but not necessarily all of the judging criteria and objectives of RHS Yorkshire in Bloom. The entry will include more than one section which demonstrates satisfactory sustainable standards and potential to progress to a higher award.

The above are applicable to all categories, with the exception of:
C6 – Parks Gardens and Cemeteries
C7 – RHS It's Your Neighbourhood Awards

RHS Yorkshire in Bloom -

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To help you meet this criteria the following guidelines may be a useful reminder of what judges will be looking for.

In preparation for assessment against this criteria remember that your entire tour route is subject to judging; that means what the judges see on the way from one feature stop to another as well as what they see at all the stops and as they further explore sites on foot during the tour are ALL subject to judging. Furthermore, the judges will expect that your campaign has considered your entire community not just the high street or the village square and that you, at the very least, have plans to address “problem” areas (i.e. vacant premises/plots, eyesores etc.). Finally, please also bear in mind that judges will be looking for your campaign activities to benefit your community not just for today but for the longer term.



Community Judging Criteria and Assessment Forms

Community Assessment



<p>Community Assessment</p>	Name of Entry						Overall Impression																
	Judges																						
Date of Assessment						Total Marks																	
Category <i>(Indicate appropriate category)</i>																							
MAXIMUM OF 10 POINTS PER SUB SECTION																							
A Horticulture 40%		A1	A2	A3	A4																		
B Environment 30%		B1	B2	B3																			
C Community 30%		C1	C2	C3																			
Total Score out of 100						Medal Awarded																	
Gold, Excellent 85-100 Points						Silver Gilt, Very Good 75-84 Points						Silver, Good 60-74 Points						Bronze, Satisfactory 50-59 Points					
Judges feedback on areas for consideration																							

Community Assessment



		Gold 10-9	Silver Gilt 8	Silver 7-6	Bronze 5
A1	Plant Selection Are the plants suited to their growing conditions and location and is there year round interest (where appropriate)?	Excellent plant selection with almost no exceptions and extensive year round interest.	Plant selection overall is very good with only a few exceptions and ample year round interest.	Plant selection is generally good . There is room for improvement in some areas in order to extend year round interest.	Plant selection is satisfactory however it requires further consideration in order to extend the season and maintain interest.
A2	Plant Quality Are the plants vibrant and grown to their full potential? Are they free of all pests and diseases?	Plant quality is excellent and grown to full potential with no evidence of pests and diseases.	Plant quality is very good with few exceptions. There are minimal signs of pests and disease present.	Generally plant quality is good but not consistent. Pest and diseases are present in a few locations. Lack of vigour in some areas.	Plant health and vigour could be improved but are generally satisfactory . Pests and diseases are present in certain areas.
A3	Maintenance of Planted areas Are areas maintained to a high standard including cultivation, weeding, feeding, pruning, grass cutting and edging where appropriate? Tree management and maintenance including appropriate planting initiatives.	Excellent standards of cultivation. Very consistent throughout. Maintenance and general care is outstanding in all areas.	Standards are very good with few exceptions. Maintenance is managed very well and the results are very consistent.	Standards are good and fairly consistent. There are a few exceptions where further attention is required.	Standards are generally satisfactory . However, the maintenance programme requires further attention to detail in some areas.
A4	Overall Impression Are the overall design and materials used appropriate to the location and do they generate an obvious WOW factor?	Excellent attention to detail delivering the desired results in a most consistent and appropriate manner creating the WOW factor.	Most areas have high impact and very good attention to detail though a few are not compatible. There is a WOW factor. The entry is generally very good.	Good overall effect although not always balanced. Some areas make an impact others need to be more vibrant and embrace better design.	Although satisfactory more attention to detail is required in order to create more impact and design. Limited WOW factor.

Community Assessment



		Gold 10-9	Silver Gilt 8	Silver 7-6	Bronze 5
B1	Natural Environment Biodiversity including the protection and conservation of the natural environment and wildlife habitat. The provision of appropriate wildflower areas, aquatic and if applicable marine conservation sites, bat and bird boxes as well as insect hotels.	The natural environment is managed to an excellent standard supporting a wide range of flora & fauna, with little improvement required.	The natural environment is managed to a very good standard supporting a wide range of flora & fauna, very little effort would lift it to excellent.	The natural environment is managed to a good standard supporting a wide range of flora & fauna, Requires further work to improve it in places.	The natural environment is managed to a satisfactory standard supporting a wide range of flora & fauna, Needs significant improvement in places.
B2	Hard Surfaces and Open Grass Areas (Including streets and open spaces) To include cleanliness, absence of litter, street weeds, graffiti, flyposting and chewing gum, water conservation and recycling initiatives, hard landscape, open spaces & street furniture maintenance and effective dog fouling control measures.	All areas are cleaned to an excellent standard. Street furniture including litter bins and seating is in excellent condition. There is effective control of street weeds, no graffiti and flyposting. Excellent evidence of recycling initiatives.	All areas are cleaned to a very good standard. Street furniture including litter bins and seating is in very good condition. There is very good control of street weeds, very little graffiti and flyposting. Very good evidence of recycling initiatives.	All areas are cleaned to a good standard. Street furniture including litter bins and seating is in good condition. There is generally good control of street weeds, but evidence of some graffiti and flyposting. Reasonable evidence of recycling initiatives.	All areas are cleaned to a satisfactory standard. Street furniture including litter bins and seating is in variable condition. There is a lack of control of street weeds, and evidence of considerable graffiti and flyposting. Little evidence of recycling initiatives.
B3	Local Identity To include sense of place, heritage, art in the landscape and signage and interpretation.	Extensive evidence of efforts to highlight/enhance local identity. An excellent impression made about what makes the area unique.	Considerable evidence of efforts to highlight/enhance local identity. A very good impression made about what makes the area unique.	Some evidence of efforts to highlight/enhance local identity. A good impression made about what makes the area unique.	Little evidence of efforts to highlight/enhance local identity. A satisfactory impression made about what makes the area unique.

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Community Assessment



		Gold 10-9	Silver Gilt 8	Silver 7-6	Bronze 5
C1	Communication & Awareness Active both within the immediate area and regionally involving all ages and groups. Communication and media involvement embraced in all its relative forms.	Communication extremely well covered. Community participation outstanding. Public awareness excellent.	Communication very well covered. Very good community participation and public awareness.	Communications good. Community participation and public awareness of a good standard. A few missed opportunities.	Communications and public awareness is satisfactory. Community participation is limited. Overall there is room for improvement.
C2	Funding & Support Fundraising and on-going support from a range of businesses and organisations appropriate to the size of the entry making it viable and able to continue moving forward.	Excellent level of funding that ensures the viability of the entry into the future. Support in all areas is outstanding and a real strength to the entry.	Very good level of funding that ensures the viability of the entry. Support in all areas is very good and will be sustainable over time.	Good level of funding that ensures the viability of the entry and sustains present projects. Support in all areas is good and with effort, will be sustainable over time.	Satisfactory level of funding that ensures the viability of the entry and sustains present projects. Support in all areas is satisfactory and fairly sustainable over time.
C3	Year Round Activity & On-Going Planning Evidence of forward planning and year round activity highlighting any events that makes this entry unique and demonstrates the present strengths of the entry.	Excellent evidence of all activity taking place throughout the year and of advanced planning. The annual programme of activity is exceptional.	Very good evidence of all activity taking place throughout the year and of advanced planning giving this entry a real strength.	Good evidence of all activity taking place throughout the year and of advanced planning. The entry is in a good position.	Satisfactory evidence of all activity taking place throughout the year and of advanced planning. The entry is in a satisfactory position.

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Help in getting started. Here are some pointers to help you on your way:



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The aim of this section is not to offer horticultural advice, but to give tips, hints and assistance on how to bring your entry to life and keep it flourishing in what we hope will be a long and sustained Bloom partnership. Once you and your community get started, you'll form your own ideas for improving your local area for the benefit of local people. Here are some pointers to help you on your way:

❖ Step 1

Ask your Local Authority if they have an Officer responsible for enabling Civic Pride or someone who may be able to offer help and guidance. Remember that regardless of who makes the official entry, the best results are achieved when an enthusiastic local action committee is formed to organise the entry. Ask if a representative from the region will be available to do a presentation to the new group on "In Bloom" or arrange a visit to another local "In Bloom" Group to discuss ideas and tips for entering the regional competition.

❖ Step 2

Form an action group, often the Local Authority is the catalyst for this but they need to engage members from different sectors of the community such as businesses or town centre managers, voluntary groups such as Rotary or Lions, youth groups such as brownies, guides and scouts, schools, local horticultural societies, allotment holders, flower clubs or Civic Societies. Involving a larger group of people, you will get to know the people in your community, share knowledge and experience, and also spread the workload! An action group can encourage participation across a wide sector of the community, attract support and sponsorship, and keep an eye on standards and progress. If the Local Authority does not have a dedicated Officer they will have Officers with special responsibilities such as recycling, cleansing and regeneration, which could assist the group. The Local Authority can also help with issues such as growing your own vegetables and healthy eating, green transport, composting, recycling and energy saving initiatives. There are many Government targets and performance indicators that are useful for the Local Authority to present to the Judges such as recycling targets, numbers of Green Flag/Pennants and Blue Flags for coastal areas. Consider taking out public liability insurance for the group for projects and events. The RHS run a very reasonable scheme please contact the RHS for further details.

www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/affiliated-societies/resources/insurance



❖ **Step 3:**

Put together an action plan for the year to help you decide what projects /events you want to do, how you will go about them (including maintenance plans), how they will make a difference to your environment and also how to fund the projects. Carry out a survey of the area to identify strengths and weaknesses and put together an action plan of what projects you want to do round your entry. E.g. site clearance, litter picking, permanent planting schemes, production or purchase of plant containers, hanging baskets, recycling projects. Remember to take “before” and “after” photographs of any projects/events that will be useful to include in your future “In Bloom” portfolio, which will be shown to the judges as part of the judging tour. This action plan can be in the form of a yearly planner tied into local and national events allied to the criteria and should demonstrate all year round commitment. Consider concentrating your efforts on the following areas:

- *Main entrances to the town/village*
- *Surrounds of any Public Buildings*
- *Front gardens in residential areas*
- *Environmental Quality*
- *Public gardens and amenity areas*
- *Conservation and sustainability*
- *Highway features*
- *Litter problems*
- *Verges and reservations*
- *Incidence of graffiti*
- *Churchyards*
- *Shops and commercial premises*
- *Playing fields and sports grounds*
- *Hotels and Public Houses*
- *Allotments*
- *Hospitals and residential Homes*
- *Town/Village centre*
- *Industrial Premises*
- *Energy conservation and Recycling*

❖ Step 4

Get support from your local community and let them know what is happening:

- Announce that you are intending to put together an 'in Bloom' entry to celebrate how lovely your community already is or to improve its potential. Consider sending out a leaflet to all homes in the area, giving a talk to existing community or residents' groups, creating a newsletter to tell the community what the group is planning to do or create a web site that could be an ideal project for a student. Seek residents' opinions on how they think the area could be improved or how they could get involved. Hold an Open Evening and invite potential sponsors, local businesses, local groups and local Councillors to hear about the plans for the campaign and how they can get involved.
- Put up posters in your local shops and supermarkets, in libraries, leisure and community centres, in church and village halls and on notice boards informing the community of future events.
- Ask local traders, businesses, pubs, hotels, Chamber of Trade, Licensed Victuallers etc. to become involved. Some companies have a policy for volunteer days for staff which could help with community projects
- Contact your local newspapers, radio and television, and give them details of how people can join in. Invite the editor or local reporter to one of your events, don't forget the "What's on" guides on local radio and in the local press
- Involve the young people in your community. They may be able to 'adopt a spot', taking on the responsibility for its planting, cleanliness and maintenance. Ask if it would be possible to work in partnership with your local schools to tie in some of the work being done in your projects with their National Curriculum requirements e.g. in areas such as wildlife, conservation and citizenship. This will also help to promote an understanding of everyone's responsibilities for our environment and the plants and animals within it.
- It's not all about flowers! Start a clean-up project to focus on areas that attract litter and graffiti and look into both soft and hard landscaping options.
- Encourage your supporters to keep their own frontages neat and tidy, where possible using plants and shrubs to help you improve the whole area.
- Promote sustainable planting (e.g. by recommending a range of plants, shrubs and trees that do not have to be watered daily and support wildlife habitats).
- Carry out work on behalf of older residents and old peoples' homes.
- Create a competition (e.g. best kept front garden, best pub garden, best restaurant garden) – a bit of healthy rivalry will generate better results.

❖ Step 5:

Develop a plan to help you succeed in your fundraising efforts. You can generate money by having events like open gardens days, Gardening Question Times, raffles and car boot sales or by attracting sponsorship or benefits in kind from local businesses. There may be grants from the Local Authority for regeneration or conservation or the Local Authority may be able to give advice as to further funding streams. Larger Local Authorities often have separate budgets for carrying out environmental projects within housing areas, if not try the local housing associations.

❖ Step 6:

Leave no stone unturned and stay positive – it takes time to raise awareness of what you are trying to do and to start seeing results. By entering your regional/national “in Bloom” campaign you become part of a much larger community, Britain in Bloom, taking pride in your local environment; and every entry has a valuable contribution to make.

❖ Step 7:

Develop your own constitution and open a bank account, this enables you to be independent and will make grant applications much easier. This need not be an off putting task it just involves having a written constitution, elected committee and an AGM, but does open so many doors.

- Seek the support of the local community including schools and voluntary groups; seek the residents’ opinion on how they think the area could be improved and how they could get involved.
- Ensure there is good publicity about the “In Bloom” group and the work/projects carried out, using local newspaper reports, church and community newsletters, local posters or local radio.
- Decide how you will acquire the plant material e.g. supplied by the Local Authority, grown by local residents or sponsored by a local garden centre.

Other advice

Public Liability Insurance

It is essential that “In Bloom” groups are covered by public liability insurance and if the groups needs to take out its own policy, the RHS offers an excellent value policy for groups from the NFU- details of which can be obtained www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/affiliated-societies/resources/insurance

An “In Bloom” committee will also need to apply, through its local Parish, Town or District Council, to the local Highway Authority for a licence to carry out planting works or to site plant containers in the highway verge or reservation.

Hanging Baskets

Please note – in the DETR’s National Signs manual – hanging baskets and their foliage must allow sufficient clearance for pedestrians – 2100mm (6 feet 10 inches) is the minimum recommended but 2150mm or 2300mm is preferable.

What will the Judges be looking for?

Up to two judges will visit each entry and will spend between one hour and four hours depending on the size of the entry. (See Categories, Entry Fees and Judging Allocation). In the case of special categories (6-12 inclusive) the Judges will spend sufficient time to allow for the particular entry to be assessed. Please bear in mind that the Judges only have limited time and you should make every effort to show them the best. Do not take up their time visiting private gardens that maybe excellent but not in public view. The Judging criteria for each category is available in this pack.

When does judging take place? Spring or Summer options

Spring judging takes place usually during April and summer judging takes place during July. (See YIB Programme Dates for the exact dates)

Two to three weeks prior to the judging period, all entrants will receive a judging schedule, which shows the names, address and phone numbers of the two judges who will be visiting the entry as well as the contacts for the entry. One of the named judges on the schedule will contact the entrant either by phone and/or by email.

www.yorkshireinbloom.co.uk

The Three R's – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



If you have heard of something called the “waste hierarchy” you may be wondering what that means. It is the order of priority of actions to be taken to reduce the amount of waste generated, and to improve overall waste management processes and programs.

The waste hierarchy consists of 3 R's as follows:

- **Reduce**
- **Reuse**
- **Recycle**

Called the “three R's” of waste management, this waste hierarchy is the guidance suggested for creating a sustainable life. You might be wondering as to how you can incorporate these principles in your daily life. They are not hard to implement. All you need is to bring a small change in your daily lifestyle to reduce waste so that less amount of it goes to the landfill that can reduce your carbon footprint.



The First 'R' – Reduce



The concept of reducing what is produced and what is consumed is essential to the waste hierarchy. The logic behind it is simple to understand – if there is less waste, then there is less to recycle or reuse. The process of reducing begins with an examination of what you are using, and what it is used for. There are three simple steps to assessing the reduction value of an item or process –

- Is there something else that can be used for this purpose? Using multi-use items is essential to beginning reduction. One example would be a coffeepot and a cappuccino maker. Both of them do distinctly different things, but you can buy a coffeepot that has a steaming attachment on it so it can do both. The purchase of the one item means that you don't use two. It reduces the amount of production, and the amount of waste packaging material that will be generated.
- Is this something that needs to be done? A lot of our waste material comes from items that are considered to be "disposable." Not in the sense that you use something once and then throw it away, that can actually be a part of environmental responsibility when you are working with medical items – disposable in this sense means whether or not what the item allows you to do has any real meaning or purpose.
- Is the item a part of something that you need to do, or want to do in your life? There is a limit to what you need to be prepared for in life. Chances are you won't need a car that is equipped to handle a sandstorm in the desert. Buying one encourages production, wastes your resources and creates more generative waste than you can imagine. Always make sure that what you consume, or keep in your life as preparation – matches the reality of potential opportunity in your life.

Here are some of things you can do to reduce the waste:

1. Print on both sides of the paper to reduce paper wastage.
2. Use email to reach out to people instead of sending paper mail.
3. Remove your name from the mailing lists that you no longer want to receive.
4. Use cloth napkins instead of paper napkins.
5. Avoid using disposable plates, spoons, glass, cups and napkins. They add to the problem and result in large amount of waste.
6. Avoid buying items that are over-packaged with foil, paper, and plastic. This excess packaging goes to waste.
7. Buy durable goods that have long warranty. They generally run longer and save landfill space.

Number 3 deals with the problems created by living within a culture of consumerism. This type of consumption driven culture also makes fulfilling the second "R" difficult, but it is getting easier to do.



The Second 'R' – Reuse



You may have a box of things you keep that are broken or that you don't have a use for that you hang on to in-case you find another use for them; or you may find bargains on old furniture or go trash picking and get things that you can refinish – in either case you are working towards reusing the item. Learning to reuse items, or re-purpose them for a use different then what they are intended for is essential in waste hierarchy.

One of the best examples for how this is being done today is the modular construction of homes and office buildings that is being created out of discarded shipping containers. These large, semi-truck sized metal containers represent a huge waste problem. Repurposing them as homes and offices saves them from the landfills and doesn't require the additional expenditure of nature resources to melt down and reconfigure the metals used to create them.

You may either reuse those items for your own use or donate so that others can use them. You can reuse below items like:

- 1. Old jars and pots:** Old jars and pots can be used to store items in kitchen. They can also be used to store loose items together such as computer wires.
- 2. Tyres:** Old tyres can either be sent to recycling station or can be used to make tyre-swing.
- 3. Used wood:** Used wood can be used as firewood or can be used woodcrafts.
- 4. Newspaper:** Old newspapers can be used to pack items when you're planning to move to another home or store old items.
- 5. Envelopes:** Old and waste envelopes can be used by children to make short notes.
- 6. Waste paper:** Waste paper can be used to make notes and sketches and can be send to recycling center when you don't need them anymore.

Items that can be donated to others include:

- 1. Old books:** Your old books can be used by poor children or can be donated to public libraries.
- 2. Old clothes:** Your unwanted clothes can be used by street children or can be donated to charity institutions.
- 3. Old electric equipment:** Old electric equipment can be donated to schools or NGO's so that they can use them.
- 4. Rechargeable batteries:** Rechargeable batteries can be used again and again and helps to reduce unnecessary wastage as opposed to regular batteries.

Apart from this, you can build a compost bin and reuse many waste items like used tea bags. The waste then degrades and turns into [compost](#) that help your plants grow and shine.



The Third 'R' – Recycling



The last stage of the waste hierarchy is to recycle. To recycle something means that it will be transformed again into a raw material that can be shaped into a new item. There are very few materials on the earth that cannot be recycled. One of the issues facing communities that want to become more involved with a recycling effort is that while the relying collection and sorting process may be affordable to implement, there still has to be a facility to

receive and transform the discarded waste into a raw material. More progress is being made toward uniting recycling plants with industries that can process the waste material through agreements and incentive credits.

One need to learn as to what products can be recycled and what not. By carefully choosing the products that can be recycled, can be a first step towards efficient recycling.

1. Buy products from market that are made up of recycled materials i.e. the product should be environment_friendly.
2. Buy products that can be recycled such as glass jars.
3. Invent new ways to recycle different items.
4. Avoid buying hazardous materials that could pose difficulty for you to recycle. Buy non-toxic products, whenever possible.
5. Buy products that have been made from recycled material.
6. Use recycled paper for printing or making paper handicrafts.





YORKSHIRE

Yorkshire in Bloom

Categories, Entry Fees and Judging Allocation 2023

Please ensure that you check your Electoral Roll carefully (only include the number of adults eligible to vote) and enter the correct category based on the electoral role of your entry and **not your population**. The Electoral Roll can be obtained from your local council (a list of wards included in your entry should be submitted with the entry form). Although the sub-divisions of each category are charged at different amounts the category will be judged altogether rather than each sub-division

	COMMUNITY CATEGORIES	Electoral Roll	ENTRY FEE per judging Visit	JUDGING TIME ALLOCATION
C1	VILLAGES			
	SMALL VILLAGE	(0-300)	£57	1 hour
	VILLAGE	(301-1000)	£57	1 hour
	LARGE VILLAGE	(1001-2,500)	£67	1 ½ hours
C2	URBAN COMMUNITY			
	URBAN COMMUNITY An urban community should be a community within a larger conurbation sometimes described as an urban 'village or town'. It should have its own housing, commerce and/or industry and community activity as an integral part of the area i.e. an area with its own 'centre'. An urban community may not have its own Council, or be able to stand alone, but it will have its own 'sense of place'.	(0- 25,000)	£86	2 ½ hours
C3	TOWNS			
	SMALL TOWN	(2,501-6,000)	£76	2 hours
	TOWN	(6,001-12,000)	£86	2 ½ hours
	LARGE TOWN	(12,001-35,000)	£96	3 hours
C4	CITIES			
	SMALL CITY	(35,001-100,K)	£106	3 ½ hours
	CITY	(100,001 – and over)	£116	4 hours
	BID/TOWN/CITY CENTRE ONLY		£86	2 ½ hours
C5	COASTAL COMMUNITIES			
	COASTAL (12,000 and below)		£86	2½ hours
	COASTAL (12,001 and above)		£96	Up to 3 hours

C6	PARKS, PUBLIC GARDENS & CEMETERIES Friends of groups for parks, small spaces, cemeteries, churchyards, Hospitals, HM Prisons, Public Buildings and gardens etc.	£40	Up to 1 hour
C7	IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD This category is aimed at small, resident led communities just starting out on enhancing their environment using the campaign as a catalyst.	Free	Up to 1 hour
C8	"GROW YOUR COMMUNITY" - Aimed at past entrants and first time entrants	£57	Up to 2 hours
C9	ALLOTMENT SITES	£40	Up to 2 hours
C10	CHARITABLE ESTABLISHMENTS – Including Non for profit entries	£40	Up to 1 hour

BUSINESS & COMMERCIAL CATEGORIES		ENTRY FEE Per judging visit	JUDGING TIME ALLOCATION
	BUSINESS & COMMERCIAL including Public Houses, Guest Houses, Hotels, Restaurants, Businesses, Shopping Centres, Retail Parks, Caravan Sites		
B1	Small Businesses Include Shops/ pubs and restaurants and guest houses	£40	Up to 1 Hour
B2	Medium Businesses Include Small/medium hotels/residential care homes	£40	Up to 1 Hour
B3	Large Businesses Including Large Hotels/Shopping Centres/ Caravan Sites	£60	Up to 2 Hours
B4	Tourist Attractions Including Stately Homes/ Pay on Entry Gardens	£60	Up to 2 Hours
EDUCATION CATEGORIES		ENTRY FEE Per judging visit	JUDGING TIME ALLOCATION
E1	HARROGATE FLOWER SHOW YOUNG PEOPLES AWARD School Inc. after/out of School Clubs/ Learning Centre's This category is open to any school, youth group or group of young people under the age of 18 who have made significant contribution to improving their environment.	£40	Up to 1 Hour
E2	Universities, Colleges and Further Education Establishments Open to all further educational establishments whose grounds are maintained for the benefit of the community	£60	Up to 2 hours

Yorkshire in Bloom Awards



YORKSHIRE

In September RHS Yorkshire in Bloom hold an awards Ceremony where the awards are presented to all entries in each category and also issue Discretionary Awards to winners. Every entry has an invite and can bring four guests. The cost and itinerary will be advised at the time of invitation.



Royal Horticultural Society



Sharing the best in Gardening

RHS Yorkshire in Bloom is allowed to nominate up to 5 entries into the RHS Britain in Bloom National Final Awards for the following year and these are selected from the categories below. (Only one per category allowed)

National Category
Village
Large Village
Urban Community
Small Town
Town
Large Town
City
BIDs – Town & City Centres
Coastal under 12K
Coastal over 12K



YORKSHIRE

We are Part of RHS Yorkshire in Bloom 2023

