



Yorkshire in Bloom Judges Notes for summer 2017

Category 1A: Small Village

Esholt Gold Award

Overall Impression

Esholt was the home of the TV programme 'Emmerdale Farm' and still attracts many visitors. It is an ancient village with very little modern development. It has its own parish church, the well-known 'Woolpack' pub and a number of very old properties. Parts of the village were badly flooded, but the cricket field and damaged dry stone walls have now been restored

We again saw High View gardens, which is built on a very steep hillside - it has shrubs, herbaceous plants and trees before blending into woodland. Excellent planting at The Old Vets, and in areas around the recreation ground, especially new plantings at what has become known as 'Steve's Garden', a place of calm and reflection. The Landlord at the Woolpack is very supportive of the efforts made. All the main grass areas are cut by Bradford Council staff, and were in good condition. The in Bloom group seem to have a good relationship with Bradford Council, because everywhere was also very clean and tidy - a joint enterprise. They also have a good relationship with the Homebase store at Greengates.

The village produces its own calendar, and has a Facebook page. There is also a Scarecrow trail, called 'Larry'

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Allotments - a few plots are not being worked - it would probably be good if the local people had some responsibility for managing the lettings so quick action could be taken when needed.
- The nature reserve, behind where the flooded area was, is in need of a new approach.

- The wild flower meadow, a new feature this year, needs further work, but it is a credit to them that they have attempted to create one - not an easy feature to do.

Ledston Silver Award

Overall Impression

Since our last visit a major development in the village is the reopening of the public house/restaurant, this is important as it is in a prominent position on the main street. The new operators have already installed hanging baskets, planters on the terrace areas and re planted some perennials.

The village was spotless with well-maintained gardens being evident everywhere in the village, with some residents planting in the verge as well. As in Spring it would be wonderful if a few more volunteers could be recruited to help with the work.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The planting density in areas of seasonal planting would have benefited from having more plants to improve the area covered and the display.
- There was a small amount of weed in some of the barrels.
- There was little evidence of environmental issues being explained to us, although the location would suggest many opportunities to include such evidence does exist.
- When and if possible try to generate further help and support for Ledston in Bloom.
- It is evident that there is support for bloom by people taking care of their gardens and adjacent verges it would be a help if the extent of this activity was explained.

Lund Gold Award and Category Winner

Overall Impression

The village of Lund is a picturesque village which has preserved many historical features. The displays are impressive. The pavements and other public areas are kept clean and tidy. The winning emblem from a children's competition for Lund in Bloom was displayed in the windows of the homes of many of the residents. Lund in Bloom has hands on support from residents from all age groups from the very young to the not so young

The rose beds from roses received in 1987 when Lund was an England in Bloom finalist and national Britain in Bloom village winner have been carefully renovated

The pond and Bumblebee Park are wonderful areas for attracting wildlife. The planters and beds are very attractive and well maintained. The welly planters produced by the children for a competition enhanced the route and the bus shelter.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The many heritage features such as the cockpit, the pinfold and the market square add interest to the route. The publication of the heritage trail which is a work in progress will be beneficial for future entries.

Welwick & Weeton Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

The Villages of Welwick and Weeton are rural hamlets in East Yorkshire. With statement entrance signs and displays signifying the extent of the villages, it's remarkable what has been achieved in what is a small community. The use of perennial plants enhanced with seasonal colour in strategically located beds and containers gives a welcoming feel to the village. Of special note was the work carried out to enhance the war memorial, the Kelk Villa display area, Weeton roadside garden scheme, and the enterprising Church Bank wildflower area. Although a small team, the impact of the in bloom teams endeavours has been significant and is a credit to their hard work and commitment.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The Community Gardening Project was a revelation and deserves merit. It would be opportune to use the scheme to support plant propagation for use in the villages display beds and any surplus to be donated to residents not yet participating "in bloomers".
- The Village Hall car park borders were a new project. These could be used to develop theme borders, such as herb garden or annual border. Suitable for encouraging and involving the younger residents of the village.
- The village was well kept in every area and clearly there is good communication with other agencies and local authorities. The recycling bottle banks area at the entrance to Welwick from Weeton detracts from the general standards elsewhere and thought should be given to enhancing this site with hard standing or perennial planting.

Category 1B: Village

Birstwith Silver Gilt Award

Overall impression

Birstwith was even more picturesque in the summer than the judges had remembered from spring.

The Birstwith in Bloom group appeared to have taken on board many of the comments made in the spring judging which had enhanced the village's appearance and clearly work was still ongoing on many improvements. The judges say well done Birstwith in Bloom

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The caravan park could be encouraged to enter the in bloom competition in their own right.
- The private school could be persuaded to become involved in the in Bloom initiative for the village
- Improved maintenance and planting around at the doctors surgery car park could be helpful

Grassington Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

Grassington is a typical unspoilt Dale's village, obviously much loved by its residents and those who visit it. The market square is used as a car park, but is surrounded by a variety of business premises. It is enhanced by various floral displays, many provided by the local traders or by the Grassington in Bloom group. Over the years the village has spread out into surrounding areas, but most of these houses also have attractive gardens. The whole of the route was very clean and tidy, except for a couple of areas mentioned below.

We were shown the winning garden in the local competition, which was excellent, and it has been agreed that this year's winner will judge the final entrants in next year's competition - this seems to be a good idea to move the winning garden around the other competitors. The two pubs were very good, The Devonshire, and the Forester's Arms, and 49 Main Street was also noteworthy Grassington Lodge and School House gardens were also very attractive. We visited the allotments and these were generally good with productive soft fruits. The main visitor car park is located just away from the centre of the village, is run by the Dales National Park, and has good facilities.

The In Bloom group are well organised and have a number of new funding initiatives planned for the end of the season. They also have a well-placed and an attractive notice board.

Judges Feedback on areas for consideration

- There is an embryo wild flower meadow, but it would be good if its ownership could be established so that it could be made more effective for the future.
- There is also a revived seating area, near to the winning garden, which needs some TLC.

Kirkby Malzeard Gold Award

Overall Impression

Kirkby Malzeard is a well maintained village with a wide range of inputs into the In Bloom initiative from many diverse groups within the village. However it is when you visit the playing fields that you are bowled over by the high standard of provision and maintenance of the playing fields that the villagers have provided for themselves.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Some of the street furniture in public areas is in need of attention
- Maybe the addition of heritage information boards could be useful to the visitor
- Greater attention to biodiversity may be useful
- More composting and water harvesting could be helpful

Spofforth in Bloom Gold Award and Category Winner

Overall Impression

Spofforth in Bloom started 32 years ago and their achievements are impressive to say the least, an excellent pre-tour presentation was the prelude to an outstanding tour. The group have 60 barrels, 21 hanging baskets and 10 hay racks plus numerous flower beds throughout the village and all 3200 plants are grown by In Bloom members.

Major projects like Ginny Greenholes, Millennium Garden and Memorial Garden are major undertakings which have been very successfully completed. On the environmental side the group use peat free compost, the work with the school at Ginny Green Holes on plant and butterfly identification. The bio-diversity survey is to be commended as is the weekly garden club at the school led by the In Bloom group – up to 40 members at a school with a total of 100 pupils is a very high interest level.

On our visit to the school the children were knowledgeable on why they were doing things. The school also assist with the regular litter picking through the village

The importance of the heritage of the village is apparent from good information boards, the leaflets at the Millennium Garden for the Heritage Trail and of course the castle which is the most visited open site in Yorkshire – this is used for the Christmas carol concert by the school – what a setting!! There is good community involvement with around 40 members of the in Bloom group and many items in the village are sponsored by villagers.

Communication is by weekly column in the local paper, twitter, Facebook, web-site and a newsletter delivered locally by hand. Good fund raising with strawberry tea (300 attended), quiz nights, open gardens etc.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- A printed version of the portfolio would have been appreciated by the judges.
- The nature trail proposed for 2018 linked to the web-site by a QR code app for downloading will be another outstanding feature
- The new steam engine planter and railway totem at the entrance to the village will be an eye catcher and will link to the railway heritage of the village.
- The judges really do look forward to seeing the future plans of the in Bloom group reaching fruition to further enhance an outstanding group.

Category 1C: Large Village

Barwick in Elmet Gold Award and Category Winner

Overall Impression

A very enthusiastic and well organised group who were able to demonstrate year round activities to ensure the continuity of their entry into the Yorkshire in Bloom Competition. There is an obvious sense of pride and historical knowledge of the village from all the volunteers.

The welcoming presentation was in itself a great achievement and gave an overall view of the work of the group which had been carried out throughout the year. The addition of the allotment bed in the grounds of the village hall with one of the group's volunteers working with the children from the local school helps to enhance gardening skills for future generations. The judges were very impressed with the wildflower area which made a spectacular view on approach to the village via Cattle Lane and Aberford Road. After numerous attempts to establish a wild flower area around the playing field the group have now found the perfect site to achieve full flower this year outside of the industrial units. It was good to see year on year improvements and the group going from strength to strength.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider some further works to the entrance to the Bowling Green with additional perennial planting.
- Consider building on the poster campaign with the school with the potential to work with school on designing a flower bed for display outside of the school entrance
- Consider signposting the Community Orchard as this is a beautiful natural area of the village.
- Some tree work is required in and around the beck and drainage channel.
- The judges welcomed the written handout of the judging route during the tour of the village in a couple of cases the volunteers struggled to verbally emphasise how the work and projects fitted the new judging criteria.
- Jubilee gardens, bulk up the planting by division of other perennial plants found throughout the village
- Suggest taking a record of inscriptions on the headstones within Jubilee Gardens before becoming too weathered as many date back to the 1700s.
- The quality of the planting throughout the village was very impressive and there are only one or two areas where small changes will need to be made to further improve the standard and maximise the marks.

Boroughbridge Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

The enthusiasm and energy of Brighter Boroughbridge is to be commended and your efforts were clearly demonstrated during our summer visit. The whole area was very clean, tidy and inviting. We noted a marked improvement to weed control at the Hall Square.

The ongoing developments at the Chatsworth Grove garden and Stump Cross roundabout were good and we could see that the work you had told us about in the spring had been put into action. The Judges look forward to seeing future developments with local schools. The efforts at the High School are commended. Your work with Jennyruth workshops is excellent and certainly enhances your entry. Good range of soft fruit at the allotment communal orchard and inter-action with the Woodland Trust here noted. The planters and hanging baskets around Boroughbridge are excellent with plenty of seasonal colour, including outstanding floral displays at the Post Office, which add to the experience of residents, businesses and visitors alike. Well done to all.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Incorporating the Infant/Junior school into the route would add to your entry.
- Update the judges on points raised at Spring judging, highlighting actions taken – this could be incorporated in your Summer Portfolio.
- Research appropriate planting for winter interest – providing all year displays.
- Your entry would be enhanced by greater highlight of the heritage of Boroughbridge.
- Explore more sustainable planting options – this would provide more diverse interest and perhaps alleviate some water issues.

Bramham Gold Award

Overall Impression

We were met by the enthusiastic Bramham in Bloom group, the sun shone on your many themed floral displays. All the communal areas were well maintained and litter free. A committed group with lots of plans, they are always looking to improve and are very open to suggestions. There was evidence of the spring judges feedback had been accomplished such as Gill's garden, the physic garden and the des res wildlife hotel. We endorse the change to some sustainable plants to balance with the bedding.

Although embryonic the judges thought the Bramham in Bloom allotment and future plans for its use was commendable. Good to hear news of attracting some new members to Bramham in Bloom and well done on all your achievements.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Keep progressing with the creation of the information notice board and signposting of the village interest sites, this would strengthen future YIB entry.
- The new bug hotel is impressive and especially with involvement from the Brownies, keep developing this area and we suggest looking at an interpretation board with the diversity of wildlife in the area.
- The newly planted Medicinal Bed will be an interesting display when established, a lot of research has been done already, think about having a noticeboard to showcase the plants.
- The Himalayan balsam in the beck, is a major weed problem it can invade gardens and seeds transported further afield by water so would strongly recommend that a programme be reviewed for clearing the balsam.
- Support the collaboration with the gardener from Bowcliffe Hall for plant advice and environmental guidance.
- Continue building on the existing relationships with the school, especially with the proposed 'outdoor Classroom' project.

Great & Little Preston Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

Great and Little Preston is a former mining community, which has undergone great changes in recent years. The in Bloom team have championed and developed some wonderful spaces for the use of residents, in particular: the Meadow Wood walk through St Aidan's Wood (laying sympathetic bark chippings to define the paths); the Wildlife Meadow working in partnership with the Parish Council to secure funding to make the two entrances to the meadow more accessible, purchase of trees and the redevelopment of Preston Corner. The Judges liked the increase in sustainable planting balanced well with the bedding, and the striking local stone forms. The planters were full of colour with very good plant quality and selection – themed throughout to link it all together.

The successful revitalizing of the Whitehouse Lane Hedge was a mammoth task but well worth the effort, in fact overall the judges applaud the in-bloom team for taking on large scale projects and what has been achieved with the relatively small number of dedicated volunteers - well done.

We congratulate all those involved for their warm welcome and the commitment to the community.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Good to promote in Bloom on the planters and continue progress with the large pebble dash planters using local stone would integrate them with the rest of the village planters and make a more impressive statement.

- The long border is extensive and the in Bloom group are to be commended for looking after a difficult area near the road, perhaps consider a bit more colour to give summer interest.
- Great strides have been made to regenerate the cenotaph, continue developing this project.
- The sun dial at the Village Hall Garden is a great asset, consider exposing the stone with the roman numerals on e.g. placing gravel round them making it more of a feature
- Little Preston Hall is a great merit and should be commended for the high standard of gardens and consider entering in its own category.
- There has been a lot of excellent involvement with students and local children with nature and biodiversity e.g. planting trees, siting of bird boxes making bug houses, it would strengthen your entry if the judges could meet some of the children.

Harthill with Woodall Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

A very enthusiastic 'in Bloom' group with ambitions and plans for the future for yet further improvements. All the entrances to the village were much improved with vibrant floral displays and all being planted and maintained by volunteers. The judges were impressed with the improvements made along Woodhall Lane especially with the newly formed partnership of the local gardening society.

Local businesses had placed very vibrant coloured planters and hanging baskets which helped to enhance the overall appearance of the village. Work had begun on the clearing of the school pond following the comments from the judges in the Spring, this will encourage wildlife to once again occupy this space and which can only prove to be an educational area for the children in the school.

A mention must be given regarding the school allotment with the children, Teachers and volunteers being congratulated on maintaining an area which was clean and tidy with a variety of fruit and vegetables.

The 'well' was once again a stunning feature, with herbaceous planting alongside a formal bedding scheme. There are three working allotment plots with a final showcase of produce held in the village hall in September. The plans for developing signage within the Reservoir area are well in place and hopefully will prove interesting reading on the next judging day.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Look to work more closely with the local authority for grass cutting around the village

- Much improvement from the Spring.

Nafferton Silver Award

Overall Impression

Nafferton is a neat and tidy village whose residents clearly take a pride in their neighbourhood. The beds in the station area are appropriately planted with flowers and foliage and well maintained by Christine and Colin, as were the planter with the topiary dog and the corner of Howe Lane which attract wildlife.

The troughs in front of the War Memorial gave an impressive display and the attractive planting of Molly's beds and round the signpost as well as the bus shelter enhanced those areas. The residents of Beech Grove have well planted and maintained gardens

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It was felt that making the general public more aware of Nafferton in Bloom plus information boards placed at various places of interest would benefit your entry next year.
- Nafferton in Bloom is a small, hardworking group who would benefit from recruiting new members
- Consider asking more businesses to put tubs or baskets by their premises and become involved with the new recreation ground and bowling club
- Consider dead heading to prolong the flowering period and how to manage the wildlife area at the church

Ripponden Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

A wonderful start to our visit to Ripponden seeing the well cared for park and immaculate bowling green, a credit to Ripponden Parish Council, the Bowls and Tennis clubs and Ripponden in Bloom who plant tubs in the area up to the Bowls Club.

The centre is enhanced by beautiful hanging baskets and barrier planters supplied and watered by the council. There is delightful planting at The Old Bridge Inn, and Ripponden in Bloom have masked the electricity substation with tubs and perennial flowers. St Bartholomew's Churchyard is very well cared for with delightful planting by the Guides, the Scouts and the Brownies and attracts birds and wildlife with its bird and bat boxes. Jubilee Gardens has planters on the top wall done by the in Bloom group who also do planters at the bus stop and public conveniences. A new

project is a lovely wild flower bank. Volunteer litter pickers help the Council in keeping Ripponden litter free and a pleasure to visit. Well done.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It would be helpful to meet representatives of any groups involved, especially Ripponden in Bloom who seem to do a lot of work in Ripponden.
- Advertising of the competition and judging day could benefit the entry as could involvement of local gardening clubs or schools - possibly a poster competition.
- Very commendable work by the Parish Council and Ripponden in Bloom

Scholes Gold Award

Overall Impression

A very devoted and enthusiastic in Bloom group with clear ambitions and plans. Their efforts can be seen throughout the village with numerous floral beds and hanging baskets. The quality of the planting and designs is outstanding and coordinated floral effects throughout.

It was good to see numerous residents taking on the maintenance and watering of the floral features to maintain the high standards. The schools involvement was very good with the gardening club and floral bedding scheme designed by one of the pupils planted out in the village. The Lodge Farm site working group have started to develop a sustainable plan for the important green space within the village. The entry contained a wide range of perennial plants and it was good to see the wildflower area in full flower. The village private gardens were of a high standard and complimented the group's efforts. The group were able to demonstrate a wide range of community activities and fund raising throughout the year

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Further develop plans for Lodge Farm site including Bog planting and increase wild flower areas which will attract wildlife
- Consider increasing areas of perennial planting on problem areas which are difficult to water and sustain annual bedding displays
- Try to encourage involvement of the younger residents. The Overall Impression of the scarecrow competition around the village has widened community interest.
- Develop stronger links with the sports clubs and churches within the village to increase volunteers for the in bloom group.
- Consider Flowering Shrubs to compliment the bug hotel and placing bird boxes and feeders within the area to create a wildlife sanctuary

- Consider increasing floral containers as an alternative to sponsors on the waiting list for hanging baskets
- Need to consider some long term plans to retain grass cutting standards as Leeds Council reduces grass cutting frequencies
- Look at new ideas for social events to attract wider resident interest to sustain funding

Category 2A: Urban Community

Allerton Bywater Gold Award

Overall Impression

Any visitor who travels down Leeds Road into Allerton Bywater cannot fail to observe the splendid horticultural display of the Village sign and flower beds tendered by Peter and Yvonne. This sight sets the atmosphere of what was to come on our judging tour and to see the improvements since our spring visit. An abundance of local identity incorporated into this entry shows subtle pride of place in this community. The Staithes, St Mary's church walk, Hollinhurst, the 'Cage' area with mine carts and the Sud are just a few of the well maintained, planted and cared for gems of Allerton.

Meeting the children at the school and hearing what they had planted and learned was a highlight for the judges.

Pride in your community came across in abundance – well done on your achievements.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Excellent work achieved by Malcolm in developing the Staithes and achieving the feasibility study for implementation of mooring upgrade to the marina. Keep persevering with the aid of the Canal & River Trust for grant funding and installation of a floating pontoon.
- Consider addressing the route for further judging to include the areas you feel best portray Allerton.
- Consider revitalizing Ticklecock Bridge area, possibly introducing more nectar rich plantings to encourage wildlife.
- Allerton is surrounded by some excellent wildfowl lakes and habitats. Perhaps consider including one of these natural areas into your judging entry.
- Good to hear news of attracting some new members. Consider an action plan: to raise public awareness of the group, increase publicity and use of local media as well as social media with the aim to raise the public profile of Allerton in Bloom. Perhaps put together a newsletter (and sponsorship from a local business/ printer) to aid the group.

Beeston Silver Gilt Award

Overall impression

The park serves as a Headquarters for the bloom group, and is a place where they have carried out a number of projects successfully. Regrettably a point of achievement is the ability and willingness to recover when extensive damage has

been caused to planting areas. By cleaning and replanting they have maintained the area to be enjoyed by the majority and will demonstrate that they have the resources and energy to overcome damage.

The street planting and management of introducing new planters re using old ones in new locations introduces planting to areas that have no space to grow other than in containers.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continue to repair damage in the park as resources allow, and well done for gaining the support of local companies to help in this work.
- Consider how you may be able to introduce variable grass cutting regimes into the park to vary the height of grass but we understand that this may not be possible
- The floral mix/ wildflower area in the church yard needs to be further away from the large tree, consider if it is an annual floral mix or are you attempting to establish a wildflower area as the maintenance needs will be different.
- Planting the graves in the church yard is an attractive idea but be careful to ensure that resources are available to maintain the graves once planted
- Continue to spread the bloom effect by using planters that would be redundant unless being re-positioned, which in turns spreads the bloom effect.
- When possible support the community garden at the Barn, and try to influence the redevelopment plans.

Bramhope Gold Award

Overall Impression

Everything everywhere continues to impress and maintain the outstanding community involvement. It really has made an impact from the local in blooms efforts to showing improvement in so many ways. Everyone is to be congratulated on their individual efforts and achievements. Bramhope continues to be an excellent entry in Yorkshire in Bloom.

The Centenary refurbishment of the War Memorial is outstanding. It is wonderful to see the ongoing heritage of Bramhope being recognised. The use of stone troughs, barrels and appropriate planters throughout the village adds to the charm in that they are in keeping with the character of the area.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It has been an exceptional year for growth, but weeds to need to be acted upon.
- It is exactly the same with the upkeep of certain verges.
- It will be good to see developments in the school when a teacher is appointed to be in charge of the gardening club

Calverley Gold Award

Overall Impression

Once again, the enthusiastic and dedicated members of Calverley in Bloom gave a lovely welcome to the Yorkshire in Bloom judges, who were given a very informative tour of the community. Calverley benefits from having a variety of different areas, enabling the in Bloom group and its partners to develop different planting schemes and garden styles. From the edible bed in the park, through the formal bedding schemes to the more natural areas of St Wilfred's Church, this variety greatly enhances the community. All areas, including St Wilfred's Church, the Methodist Chapel, the schools and the Old Vicarage Nursery, were well maintained and clean. The Brookfield Memorial Garden is developing well. The park is a real asset to the community - well used and well maintained. The portfolio produced for the judges was excellent!

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Try and include a short walk at the Brookfield Memorial Garden in future.
- The edible bed in the park is an excellent idea, but keep experimenting with a greater variety of veg (e.g. beetroot, purple sprouts, carrots, and radish) and add height perhaps with beans grown up a structure. Look at adding some signage, either encouraging people to pick or explaining that the bed is there to encourage people to grow veg alongside flowers in their own ornamental gardens.
- The gardens at Brookleigh are lovely and varied, and there is a great community spirit. There is scope to replant the old rose bed with perennials, wildflowers or edibles, but avoid more roses.
- Consider adding yellow and white crocuses when planting the purple Rotary ones, and use to brighten areas under the trees in the park.

Halton Silver Award

Overall Impression

It was lovely to see how this previous "It's Your Neighbourhood" group are grasping in Bloom and making positive changes and improvements to their busy community. There were bright highlights across our tour, particularly the bed across from the High School, the mixed planted areas at Fields End Gardens, and across from the Woodman's Pub, the area outside Lidl's maintained by Peter and Roland, is a credit to them, and the bed on Temple Newsome Road, sponsored and maintained by Dodson's Funeral Home.

Attractive new barrel planters have been placed along the main shopping area, which are bright and cheerful. The new landscaped area, funded through the RHS Grey to Green scheme, outside the library, is a stunning addition in this prominent location blending both the modern library and the traditional building and gardens at Dell House. This landscaped area provides a clean, well maintained focal point, which can be built on in the future. Good to see a number of local businesses' getting on board and sponsoring various planters across the entry.

Keep up the good work, all your hard work is making a positive difference to this urban community.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It was good to see the planter at Pinfold Lane, which lifted this busy road junction. It would further benefit from the seat adjacent to it being refurbished, and the planter being re-stained/treated, this would further enhance this focal point.
- The Group have already identified an area of paving outside Myers Builders that would benefit from some form of raised planter in the future plans.
- Some of the street furniture along the High Street, particularly the blue litter bin would benefit from repainting, or a programme of replacement to improve the look of the busy shopping area.
- Maybe consider a raised planter/trough adjacent to the Halton boundary stone below the Lidl's car park, this would help to enhance this hard landscaped space and compliment the island bed. Look to arrange for someone to remove the two dead trees on the verge about the boundary stone.

Holbeck Gold Award

Overall Impression

Great improvements have been made by Holbeck in Bloom since the judge's visit in the spring with all the judges' comments been acted on. The summer judging route was well thought out and the walking section were very good. The walk under the motorway and up Moorville Road was a real eye opener with a tree lined street and great well maintained bowling greens.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Look into the possibility of having a RSPB Big Bird watch on Holbeck Moor Park
- Consider the habitat under the new orchard to encourage more wildlife.
- A visit to an allotment should be considered on a future judging.
- Look at possibly adding bird boxes on the mature trees on Moorville Grove.

- The weed in front of Aspire Community group should have been removed before showing the Judges.

Kippax Gold Award and Category Winner

Overall Impression

From the moment we arrived it was clear that this community are committed to in Bloom and pulling together to one aim to make Kippax a wonderful place to live and work. From the “tropical” beds along the main road, sponsored by local businesses, the willow bee sat upon his hive over-looking the colourful nectar mix, wildflower meadow near the pub. The colourful baskets and boxes around the Moorgate Pub, the sustainable planting area at Calvert Close, a well presented mix of perennials, enhancing the stunning *Betula utilis* at this road junction. The sunshine bed outside the dentist, the many planters, hanging baskets and barrier baskets across the entry, and the consistent standard of residential gardens is to be commended. There’s truly something to see at every turn.

Meeting the children and the Head at the Primary School and seeing what outstanding work they are doing around their school grounds, and hearing from the children about the many projects they are involved in, this is clearly a committed school to improving and understanding their environment. We would recommend that the school consider entering the Young Peoples category in the future.

We were blown away by the fabulous work going on at The Grow Zone, the enthusiasm of June and her team, the eclectic growing space and the way that everyone is welcome to pop along and join in the gardening fun. The lovely grounds at the Methodist Church, and St Marys flower festival, and their grounds, the Cross Hills cottage gardens outside the old toilet block, and the Wells Garden, and the Butt Hills project all adding interest and supporting local heritage.

And finally the fabulous natural resource of the SSSI at “Billy Wood“, this is truly a superb wildflower meadow over magnesium /limestone, all going to support this superb entry.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The plans to improve and develop the old allotments site with the Scout Group will be an added bonus to the entry.
- The Group have made a good start at the War Memorial Gardens, improving access and renovating the memorial and boundary fencing. As funding becomes available it may be worth considering providing some back drop planting to the memorial to enhance the green space, a low hedge perhaps; lavender may work, to provide colour and scent, easy to maintain, and will increase insect life, perennial planting of pastel shades to provide a calming, reflective space, may compliment seasonal bedding in the entrance. Look to

higher the cutting height on the grass to help it to recover and will help to sustain it in dry periods.

Scarborough Old Town Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

Scarborough Old Town covers an area of housing behind the harbour and up to the town centre. It also includes the seafront of South Bay and all the associated businesses in this popular tourist area. The close knit and thriving community represented by the Castle Ward Tenants and Residents Association shows great pride in both its physical environment and in the range of events and activities it holds or supports throughout the year. The area is punctuated by a variety of attractive and varied floral displays from perennial plantings in the church grounds, tubs with mixed plantings to hanging baskets and window boxes adorning both private residences and businesses.

Local schools are supported and encouraged to participate through a competition to design annual bedding flower beds and a poster campaign to discourage dog fouling. All of the areas seen on the visit were clean, free from graffiti and virtually litter free. The association is successful in fundraising and communicates well with local residents via regular newsletters and meetings. They are active participants in the local 'Muck and Magic' in Bloom competition.

This was a very good entry and all members of the association are to be commended on their commitment and hard work to improving the community's environment

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- While many of the floral and planted spaces will attract wildlife, it would be good to see a more pro-active approach to improving biodiversity and conserving elements of the natural environment.
- While recognising that not everyone embraces electronic methods of communication (hence the importance of newsletters etc.), the association might wish to consider using social media or perhaps developing a website to engage with a wider section of their community. NB it is recognised that there may be some cost restraints in regard to a website). If possible, the newsletters could be made a little easier to digest if they contained illustrations or photographs of work to be done or projects completed. They should be a source of inspiration as well as of news.
- Some interpretation of the old town and its history would be of benefit to visitors. It is a shame that there is no longer a seafront tourist office though of course this is beyond the control of the residents association

- A number of the gardens that were on view for judging did not appear to be accessible to the general public – the gardens to the rear of St Mary's Walk were well worth a wider viewing public.

Swillington Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

After being impressed with the splendid displays seen during the Spring visit, the Summer visit did not disappoint. The very colourful displays of seasonal and an increasing number of perennial plantings standing out along the main roads through Swillington. The hard work carried out during recent weeks, paying dividends particularly at The Green shrub bed. The Preston View Allotments were immaculate and a credit to the plot holders.

The industrious efforts made by the Swillington in Bloom team clearly influencing others, with the Overall Impression of planters and seating by the Miners Welfare Club, transforming a former car park. The sustained contributions made by every member of the in bloom team a real credit to them and to the village.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The Overall Impression of the mowing strips to a number of the containers on Wakefield Road is an excellent start to the review of all the containers and will aid the reduction in maintenance. This needs to be copied at the other locations during the coming seasons to further reduce maintenance tasks.
- Expanding the use of mulch will help to improve moisture retention and suppress weed growth in a number of the bed displays. The fine start made at the shrub planted bed at The Green needs to be repeated elsewhere.
- The involvement of adjacent residents to help maintain some containers and displays is encouraging, and it may be possible to expand this with use of grey water from households and businesses. The new takeaway shop at Church Lane a good starting point.
- The in bloom team are discussing methods to recruit more members. This has to be addressed to ensure the continued success of the group.

Woodlesford Gold Award

Overall Impression

The judges were delighted to return for the Summer judging after the impressive displays and high standard observed during the Spring visit. The repeated colour scheme used in many of the planters provided an excellent sense of unity throughout the area. The wildflower meadow on The Green was impressive and clearly well

established. Woodlesford Lock and Orchard were again immaculate, with great provision for wildlife, and deservedly appreciated by locals and visitors.

The Langdale and Pymont Estates continues to impress. Volunteers and residents have made an excellent contribution to the summer display outside their own properties and roadside island beds, with a good balance of seasonal and perennial planting.

The whole team and their sponsors again deserve to be congratulated for their whole hearted year round effort and commitment, to making such a positive contribution to Woodlesford and its residents.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Although the judges may not have seen the wildflower meadow on The Green at its peak, consideration could be given to the sowing of more annual Cornflowers, Corncockle and Field poppies to obtain a more balanced wildflower effect and reduce the domination of one species, particularly Corn Marigolds.
- Re-assess the use of dark Heucheras in front of the stone on The Green as the flowers covered the name. Just as the Forsythia added much colour around this area in Spring, brightly coloured, low-growing plants would enhance it in Summer. Consider using the same colour scheme as used in the planters for greater impact.
- Hooping Stone/Pickpocket Lane. As it is was reported to be increasingly difficult to plant seasonal plants in the half-moon beds beneath the climbing Hydrangea, planting them with perennials is recommended and a colourful, seasonally planted container placed at the edge of the pavement directly opposite the hooping stone. This will also minimise the effect of the large area of gravel.
- As previously recommended, the Grey to Green beds could be increased for greater impact, interest and pollinators.

Category 2B: Small Town

Dunnington Gold and Category Winner

Overall Impression

The community of Dunnington have to be congratulated on their cohesive, sustainable approach to the In Bloom movement. The many floral features around the village are well thought out, planted and maintained with a real passion by the In Bloom group, along with the many others groups that link in to improve their locality.

The use of annual wild flowers in the millennium garden and promoting pollinating urban Buz. The many planters around the town were of a very good quality. The overall quality of the maintenance around the town was excellent. The cycle bed route 66 had a good mix of sustainable and annual planting. The feature beds were well maintained with a nice mix of perennials complementing the sculptures.

The children showing off the school allotment were a joy and the quality of produce was a credit to the pupils. Street furniture and signage around the town was well maintained and there was strategies to deal with the up keep, mainly for the community. The attention to the biodiversity of the town and surrounding area was a credit to the group.

The displays of the on-going in bloom works at the reading rooms were very informative and helped put the year round work around the town in context. The judges were impressed with the amount of local groups directly or in directly involved with Dunnington in Bloom. Dunnington have attracted thousands of pounds of external funding over the last couple of years which could be a result of the communities can do attitude.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Think about the size of the plants in the main feature bed. Consider replanting the bed with less vigorous varieties so as not to obscure the horse and cart.
- Carry on working with the school and the youth to encourage tomorrows in bloomers.
- Carry-on with the replacement of the wooden half barrels around the town to help conserve water.
- Consider water conservation and try to install water butts around the main floral features.
- Look into clearing some of the iris/reeds at the nature reserve to stop the ponds getting swapped.
- The town could benefit from more signage around the in bloom group and their achievements.
- You could look into a couple of town maps at key points to help the many visitors navigate the town and its many historical/floral features.

Pateley Bridge Silver Gilt Award

Overall impression

Pateley Bridge High Street clearly does have the wow factor and it is obvious that most businesses are supportive of the in Bloom initiative for Pateley Bridge. There can be no doubt that the enthusiasm and drive of the officers of the Nidderdale Chamber of Trade and others are making Pateley Bridge into a must see tourist attraction

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consideration could be given to Bewerley Village becoming a separate entry in the in bloom competition.
- Encouraging a wider involvement of the residents of Pateley Bridge may be helpful in the future.
- Increased attention to biodiversity and recycling could also be useful.
- This village is no doubt a future Gold Medal winner.

Category 2C: Town

Elloughton cum Brough Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

It was a pleasure to meet the enthusiastic group of in bloom volunteers at Elloughton cum Brough and to see the imaginative and innovative ways they have found to highlight their work and raise funds. Considerable effort has been put into cleaning and painting the street furniture particularly around the Cenotaph and Elloughton crossroads and the bus shelter on Loxley Way. This has greatly enhanced the appearance of these sites. Considerable development is taking place in the area with the construction of a significant number of new houses and associated infrastructure. The dedication of the in bloom team in developing Myrtle Meadow and the recording and relocating of wildflowers in advance of this construction is to be applauded.

The fantastic sedum roof at Welton Primary School was a highlight along with the developments being made in the school grounds to enable the children to experience the outdoor environment and the lovely poems read by the pupils.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The planting schemes are generally of a high standard of maintenance. Increase use of perennial planting was noted and this could be developed further to reduce maintenance and the reliance on annual bedding and the need to water. It is suggested that the use of annual bedding should be consolidated into a small number of high impact areas where the required levels of maintenance can be achieved. Plant selection at a small number of sites requires greater consideration. Year round interest is being achieved, however it may be prudent to select fewer plant species for each area to create better impact.
- The work being undertaken to develop Myrtle Meadow and preserve and recreate habitats is impressive. This would benefit from the support of a detailed maintenance plan to support the life cycles of the plants and insects that have been identified and to prevent areas becoming overgrown by invasive species. The new notice board at the entrance to the site was impressive, and would be of additional benefit if some interpretation regarding the site detailing the work being undertaken and highlighting the wildlife and plants to be seen was posted.
- It was good to see the recycling bins at the Cenotaph. The painting and cleaning of the street furniture has also made a significant and positive impact.
- The summer portfolio contains an outline 5 year plan. This could be developed further with even more detail in order to help with the allocation of

resources and responsibilities for the many differing sites and projects as they develop.

- There is evidence of very good communication and support for the in bloom group from the community. The new notice boards and the Facebook site build on this, and the in bloom teams initiative to keep the Petuaria Press for the future is to be applauded. Levels of funding and material support from the Town Council, East Riding Council and local businesses are very good. The in bloom group are also successfully developing fund raising initiatives such as the Elvis evening and the open Gardens event.

Garforth Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

A very strong established group with a strong community. The judges were impressed with the number of company sponsors and the large sums of money raised from the friend's. The Peace Flame in the Jubilee Garden is an interesting idea. The yarn bombing is a great way of showing community involvement.

Over all the work and impact of the bloom group can be seen over a large area of Garforth, with large and small areas being improved and well maintained. The business support where it has been recruited is impressive with their displays and high standards of maintenance.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The weed in the Crusader Pub carpark distracted the good hanging baskets.
- More emphasis should have been placed on showing us nature areas bird, bat boxes etc.
- Consider talking to Northern Rail about possibly turning the Station Masters garden into a nature garden.
- The weed in front of Aspire Community group should have been removed before showing the Judges.
- The window boxes and work at the Aspire centre were very good but unfortunately there were areas with a lot of weed.
- Continue to develop the planting at the second Railway Station, ensuring that the capacity exists to maintain such developments.
- There are so many projects being developed that care will need to be taken to ensure that they can be completed and maintained.

Horsforth Gold Award and Category Winner

Overall Impression

The judges were impressed with Horsforth in Bloom by the efforts they had made and for listening to the judge's comments in spring. Horsforth is a large town but has an enthusiastic community which wants to see it do well in the competition. The effort made by everyone across the community was a credit from individuals to larger community groups. It was also very pleasing to see groups not normally included brought on board and supporting the whole entry. Have to thank the group for an excellent portfolio. And despite being put in the stocks at the end of the day these judges would like to return in the future. Well done everyone involved.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continue to support residents in the St James's area planting fruit trees and developing small orchards. Good project and has a lot of potential. Try to bring more residents from the area on board.
- Both private and local authority gardens a credit.
- Good support for School. Try to develop competition between classes within the school.
- Good to see the community working with the school and the projects they have going on.
- Wildflowers in old burial ground are excellent encourage at rear of Emmanuel Baptist Church.
- Fink Hill area is colourful and an inviting entrance into Horsforth
- Work by the community at the Railway Station also excellent. Ladies thank you letter in the comments in the Horsforth Squeaker back that up.
- Good allotment site at Parkside. Very cheery bunch up there, we would never get any work done if we had a plot there.
- Very good use of social media which judges were quite rightly made aware of.
- Most of all thank you Horsforth in Bloom for making judges so welcome. Well done all

Pudsey Gold Award

Overall Impression

Pudsey in Bloom is a very enthusiastic and well organised group, who are making a real difference to Pudsey. Indeed, the judges were stopped by enthusiastic members of the public who wanted to say how much the work of the group is appreciated! This strong community support is obviously matched by that from local businesses and councillors.

The group has a strong identity in all it does, from the tabards to printed and online publicity. The 'Friends' initiative is good, as is the working relationship with the Allotments Association. Pudsey Park is lovely and a real asset to the community. Creating themed planting throughout the town centre, with the cherry trees in the large planters echoing those in the park, is well thought out and well executed, as are all the various planting schemes throughout the entry. Well done!

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Try and include the allotments in future judging tours, if time can be found!
- Continue to develop relationships with the school and again include them in future judging if possible
- Work with LCC parks department to find ways to improve/replace some of the picnic tables in the park
- Consider some promotion of Pudsey in Bloom in the park during events and when bands are playing in the bandstand
- The dementia-friendly garden at the new health centre is an interesting project
- At Lane End, the crescent area could be planted with wildflowers or low growing perennials to create another 'wow' area

Todmorden Gold Award

Overall Impression

The Wow factor in Todmorden is certainly supplied by 130 hanging baskets plus barrier planters and planters - many from recycled plastic, many funded by the group. Funding comes from sponsorship plus the public and plant stalls advertised by the in Bloom banner and signs on the barrier planters at Centre Vale Park is a fine example of co-operation between the in Bloom group, the British Legion and Calderdale Council and is a wonderful well maintained community area with a very moving War Memorial Garden representing 72 regiments.

The group's involvement is a great asset to the local primary school which has bee and bug huts, and a bee and butterfly area with signs by the very enthusiastic, knowledgeable children who also plant the raised vegetable beds.

Lovely garden on the site of Patmos Chapel which sadly suffers from vandalism, joint herb garden with Incredible Edible who also have raised planters of herbs and vegetables along Burnley Road, lovely hanging baskets sponsored by the Rotary at The Methodist Chapel, a "Secret Garden and a bee and butterfly area all making Todmorden in Bloom a lovely place to live or visit and a credit to the work of this dedicated group who completed our visit by an excellent presentation highlighting their work and all the community activities throughout the year. Very well done!

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continue the proposed researching of plants from Abraham Stansfield and John Nowell's book with the aim of developing a fernery.
- Help to develop the new memorial garden with The British Legion to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the end of WW1
- Carry on the wonderful work in developing the school garden and gardening club.

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

Beverley Gold Award and Category Winner

Overall Impression

The portfolio and supporting information provided to the judges was informative and well presented. The judging day started with an excellent tour of Beverley Racecourse. The grounds are kept immaculately clean and are complimented by the floral displays which were excellent in colour and presentation and the good work Tom has done in the new wooden planters which were hand made.

The tour of the town was varied and comprehensive and clean from litter and graffiti. Although a major town there was some surprises hidden along the way, Coronation Gardens with its sensory garden to the quiet gardens of the Minster and a special mention to Joyce and the work she is doing within the secret garden encouraging wildlife.

The work the staff are doing at the Chandler Centre is to be highly commended with the sensory garden and the vegetable plot for all disabilities to attend and engage, well done.

Overall a very enjoyable visit to this lovely market town, the horticultural standards displayed coupled with the rich heritage the town has to offer puts Beverley in the top echelons of visitor destinations!

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider creating a wildlife walk alongside the Beck with appropriate interpretation signage.
- Create and develop a 'Preferred Link' between the town centre and the Flemingate Centre
- Continue canvassing the many businesses to support the 'in bloom' bid, the addition of more hanging baskets through the town centre would be an impressive sight!
- Coronation Gardens is a hidden gem! The gardens include many plant species which could prove popular with plant enthusiasts, interpretation/plant naming may be worth considering. – Mini Botanical Garden??
- Consider introducing recycling initiatives at the racecourse
- Continue encouraging more volunteers to join the 'In bloom' group
- Look to develop the area around the Railway Station (including the station itself) with floral displays.

Goole Gold Award

Overall Impression

Goole in Bloom are to be congratulated on their enthusiastic and well prepared return to the Yorkshire in Bloom campaign after a hiatus since 2012. The heritage projects of the Zeppelin Memorial, the Seaman's Memorial, and the Ruben Chappell Art Trail were all well researched, listed and promoted with interesting and colourful leaflets. Each memorial was also enhanced by tasteful and appropriate planting. Bright flower beds and hanging baskets gave a wow factor to the town centre planting.

The local council work closely with community groups to create wonderful metal art projects at the Junction, the 'set in stone' pavers at the market and the seat near the Railway Station. They also work closely with Riverside School who replanted beds near their bus stop in the park and with Goole College to promote their artistic metal sculptures.

Congratulations to all the community groups taking part in Goole in Bloom and ensuring that both the local community and the environment benefit and thrive with their efforts.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Encourage both Riverside School and Boothferry School to enter the Young People's section of the Yorkshire in Bloom Campaign
- Promote further planting of recycled primulas and dividing the existing ones to enhance the beds by the bus stop
- Request the East Riding Council to refurbish the seating in West Park to further enhance the beautiful Park setting.
- With the assistance of Goole college students, continue to build and promote the wonderful metal Art in the Landscape projects
- Consider water harvesting at the station and at other appropriate sites
- Continue to build on the excellent relationship between Goole Town Council, Goole in Bloom and Friends of Goole Station during the refurbishment of the station and possibly consider running a competition to design the new bed at the station perhaps involving the newly established immigrant population.
- Consider including the wildlife projects and the allotments in future judging tour.

Pontefract Silver Award

Overall Impression

The Pontefract in Bloom Group is a voluntary community organisation fully formed in 2015 to enhance Pontefract town centre and surrounding district by improving floral displays and by getting grants and commercial sponsorship. On arrival the judges were shown round the magnificent grounds of the nearby Prince of Wales Hospice which contained many interesting features provided by sponsors and volunteers. Very well done to all concerned.

Due to many different grants Pontefract is undergoing many improvements to the lovely historic buildings along with the renovation of the shop fronts. The stone paved pedestrian precincts were a credit to everyone especially as regular street markets are held there. Sponsored hanging baskets decorated the town along with some single tier and three tier planters, some new planters have been added this year. Volunteers from the Lioness Club planted up the 2 large stone horse troughs while the Civic society funded the silver steel art work round one of the planters made by local craftsman Stephen Williams in memory of Brian Chappell.

Much hard work has gone into the restoration of Friar Wood Valley Gardens with the clearing of overgrown Buddleia, planting of sponsored rose beds, restoration of the aviary and a lovely perennial border with groups of Liquorice plants keeping up the town's tradition. The newly completed stage fits into the surroundings well along with the children's play equipment. There is a lot more work to do but the volunteers have made vast improvements in a relatively short time. School children have been involved in bulb planting and are busy growing food for their school kitchen.

Everyone has made a tremendous effort for the town. With a few improvements to the plant quality in the containers and hanging baskets Pontefract should go much higher in the Yorkshire in Bloom rankings in future.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider sponsoring the entry of The Prince of Wales Hospice into Yorkshire in Bloom next year.
- The planting of some of the street containers was not consistent with some very well established while others only recently filled.
- Given the time of year the hanging baskets were short of good trailing cover with a lot of the black edges and bases of the baskets visible. The plant selection could have been better and more established before delivery.
- Space and funds permitting consider more street level planters as long as they can be adequately watered.
- Well done to all the sponsors; without the sponsorship Pontefract would not be as vibrant.
- In winter; the use of pansy Freefall or Cool Wave would give good displays in the planters during the winter. Try planting sempervivium (house Leeks) in the

horse troughs which will make them easier to water and avoid having to re plant in future years if volunteers are in short supply.

Category 3: Large Town (35-100K)

Halifax Silver Gilt Award and Category Winner

Overall Impression

A very colourful and warm welcome awaited the judges on arrival to the Woolshops with well planted pastel coloured hanging baskets beautifully complimenting the stone of the building.

Halifax is certainly a town wanting to put itself firmly on the map by developing the Piece Hall, the Square Chappell, the Library and future plans ongoing for the station area. The next 5 years have been secured via the Halifax Bid which will develop both short and long term projects for the town.

The Godfrey Road allotments, Manor Heath and the Ravenscliffe School incorporated lush and healthy flowers and edibles within their designs and engaged a wonderful community spirit.

Community based innovations such as Street Angels and Town Centre ambassadors ensure public safety around the town centre whilst Junior Wardens from schools take part in litter picking and planting flowers around the Halifax Town Hall.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- There is a need to enhance some of the sites judged through improving and developing a garden maintenance programme of both hard and soft landscaped areas. This would then bring these areas up to a higher standard like many of the sites viewed today.
- Continue to develop community projects through networking and engaging businesses and residents and especially at Skircoat Green and encourage entry to Yorkshire in Bloom in their own right
- Encourage other residential areas to become involved with other community groups and thus motivate them to continue to develop their own area with colourful displays and create ownership.
- Continue to encourage and develop the involvement of the junior wardens and schools.

Keighley Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

It was lovely to visit Keighley on a lovely summer day and to meet people who are really committed to working for the benefit of the town. The group are making a real difference to their community and richly deserve its support.

The area round the War Memorial in Town Hall Square is very well loved and taken care of, a credit to the people looking after it. Planting round the base of trees growing through the pavement is a nice touch. It was good to see sustainable planting in the tubs around the town. The recycling area at Sainsbury's and the planting round it was well maintained.

The work of volunteers at the Railway Station was very impressive. The use of a water system in the station hanging baskets is a good idea. The Railway Garden with its many beautifully clipped shrubs and provision for children and wildlife is a credit to all those involved. The Sungat Centre Garden is a lovely little flowery oasis of calm and benefits the district very much. The planting outside Wetherspoon's was well planned and well maintained. The garden to the side was a lovely place to sit on a summer evening.

It was nice to visit St. Anne's School and to hear of the work of the children in the school's horticulture project. It was lovely to visit the allotments and see the skill that goes into growing especially dahlias there. The idea of splitting allotments to provide smaller plots is a good one. The impact of the gardens at the kennels with their provision for wildlife are a real credit to the gardener. The roses at the Memorial Garden made it a lovely colourful place.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It would be lovely to meet and talk to the school children.
- Perhaps take action to limit the bindweed in the school garden.
- One or two seats in the Town Hall Square might need painting.
- Perhaps include a commercial section in the garden competition to encourage businesses to support the Bloom initiative.
- Include colourful bedding among the planting of tubs around the town.
- Extend the variety of wildlife planting in the Memorial Garden.
- Think about introducing an allotment section in the garden competition to encourage all allotment owners to make the most of their plots.

Category 4: City

Kingston-upon-Hull Silver Award

Overall Impression

Kingston upon Hull, City of Culture 2017 has brought about a yearlong broad spectrum of arts and cultural events which have been held across the city, utilising both indoor and outdoor venues.

Hull has a large number of parks and open spaces providing a wealth of play and recreation areas which are to be complimented. Biodiversity within the city is encouraged in areas such as Oak Road, Pickering Community Orchard and Wildlife Garden. The city has a wealth of trees and woodland which enhances its urban backdrop. The judges were impressed with the varied community projects engaging local residents of all ages and inclusive of the migrant population, those with mental health issues and the unemployed. It was disappointing during the tour of the outer urban areas to see a lack of horticultural finesse resulting in unkempt rose beds and shrubberies, weeds within the footpaths, inconsistencies in grass cutting frequencies and an abundance of litter. It is hoped that every effort can be made to improve the urban landscape and in doing so complement other cultural strengths for the good of residents and visitors alike.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The city needs to take stock of its amenity horticultural practices. A more pragmatic approach may need to be adopted so that only those elements of the street and park scene which can realistically be maintained are retained, whilst features that cannot be adequately looked after are either altered or removed. For example, overgrown rose beds seen in the central reservation in the approach to the city could be given over to more robust perennial plantings or even grassed over. Every effort must be made to encourage the highway agency to improve the main arterial accesses in and out of the city with regard to verges, permanent planting and litter.
- Litter is an issue in many parts of the city both in public and residential areas. An intention and plan to tackle this is needed not only if the city is to welcome more visitors in the future, but also for the benefit of its residents.
- A couple of attractive and innovative local residents/business schemes were seen on the judging tour. These groups are to be complimented on their efforts and encouraged to take part in the RHS It's your Neighbourhood Scheme (<https://www.rhs.org.uk/communities/campaigns/it-s-your-neighbourhood/about>), a free and non-competitive element of the 'in Bloom' campaign. This is managed locally via Yorkshire in Bloom.
- The city council are also to be complimented for its continuation of the Hull in Bloom annual competition.

Leeds Gold Award and Category Winner

Overall Impression

Whichever entrance route you drive in to Leeds you will always be aware of the colourful floral displays on traffic islands promoting Leeds in Bloom. This is a result of many years of hard work by the Leeds in Bloom initiative to building up quality horticultural features on traffic islands across the city. We are sure that they must be appreciated by the millions of drivers which pass the areas every day.

The promotion of a number of in Bloom campaigns linking schools, business and residential gardens competition together further enhances the work of Leeds in Bloom. The judging route further demonstrated the partnership working which the City Council is doing within the outer districts of the city. It was good to visit the two schemes at Harehills and Allerton Grange Fields in the district areas which will offer future potential and widen the local engagement and public interest in parks and green spaces.

The work of the part time gardener and volunteers in the maintenance of St Gemma's hospice must be congratulated and the new Walk of Life garden is starting to get established. It was good to meet the Friends of Roundhay Park and hear of the work they are doing to improve the park and visitor experience.

The tour of the Gardens of the World and Chelsea Gardens rounded off our tour.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Changes to grass verge maintenance frequencies could be seen on the tour of the city and distracted from the quality of the floral displays on traffic islands throughout the city. Even in a dry maintenance season the amount of grass was unsightly in some areas.
- The Parks and Countryside team needs to work with the project officers and volunteers in the two sites we visited at Harehills and Allerton Grange Fields to ensure that site improvements are sustainable in the longer term and meet the needs of the wider community. It was good to see that the interest in Leeds in Bloom is spreading.
- The Lidgett Lane Allotments site was a great example of a self-managed site and it would be good to get some of the tenants to have inputs in to local improvement schemes to use their growing experience to help community volunteers.
- The Oakwood Clock restoration is a great example of the community coming together to preserve local heritage. It would be good to look at lessons the group learned from the experience which could be passed to other districts in Bloom initiatives across the city.
- We look forward to visiting in the future when we can see the outcomes of the Urban Buzz projects and the recovery of energy from waste major investment

- It would be useful for the judges to meet local residents to see how they perceive in Bloom initiatives have enhanced their neighbourhood
- We were impressed with the work of the gardener and volunteers at St Gemma's Hospice and it was good to see that areas of the garden have started to be refreshed and it is hoped that small sections will be carried out each year in order to retain the horticultural quality and value the gardens have to patients

Category 4A: Town/City Centres and BID

Barnsley Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

The reconstruction in the market and library was a distraction to the overall town view. If there had been a little more 'in Bloom' in this area it would have helped the overall impression. However, the other features made up for this. The individual planted areas were very good with the efforts put into the Cooper Garden very evident from meeting some of the team involved. The celebration of the history and pageantry of the town is commendable with bed planting in front of the Town Hall to a particularly good standard. The effort of all those involved is very evident and support for all of the activities from the sponsors is very encouraging.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The Cooper Garden path reconstruction was carried out very well - there may be more opportunity for further seating in garden of contemplation.
- The reduction in staffing was showing a little with chickweed evident in the beds
- The judges would have like to see more of the new college grounds if time had allowed.
- The redevelopment of the Cooper Art Gallery external buildings to include a café etc. will help bring people into that area of the gallery –the maintenance of the grass area needs to be improved. It is hoped the Arts Council grant will provide the funding for this development.
- Whilst it is appreciated that the market area is under major reconstruction and the open area is used for feature events such as the 'Barnsley Beach' it was felt that a little more planting could have been squeezed in.
- There was very little graffiti – and that made the little that was evident all the more prominent. However we were informed of the present problem and that an officer had been assigned to graffiti removal on sometimes a daily basis, which is applauded.
- At present the planned and ongoing works to the Market town area are possibly causing some disruption, however once the work is complete, this area will hopefully look completely regenerated.
- The overall impression was very good – but let down by a few areas that were not up to the overall high standard.

Kingston upon Hull – City Centre Silver Award

Overall Impression

2017 sees Hull as the UK City of Culture, with a broad spectrum of arts and cultural events being held across the city and many, though by no means all, taking part in the centre. Funding made available for this year long event has led to pedestrianisation of some of the city centre streets and squares, opening them up as welcoming and inviting spaces. Complementing the hard landscaping has been substantial planting of relatively mature trees giving an 'instant' greening of the area, further enhanced by attractive and varied seating, water features etc.

City Centre 'oases' were to be found in the Museums Quarter and some businesses had opted to enhance the city environment through provision of planters and hanging baskets. A city plan provides the framework for developments beyond the current year and promises an exciting future for the city.

Against this background it was somewhat disappointing to find in some areas around the estuary/river boundaries where visitors might be expected to walk, evidence of weeds, a degree of peeling painting and broken down hoarding around a building site. It's a shame the judging route did not showcase the best the city had to offer.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- While the city is to be commended for their vision, there has been a degree of lack of attention to the detail in places. The City Plan provides a framework for future development and the investment it brings should provide the funds to address the issues raised. Nevertheless if the city is to attract visitors and investors it needs to show that it can provide the sustainable horticultural and environmental practices necessary to complement an urban environment.
- It would have been helpful to have had a portfolio in advance of the judging to set the scene and provide information. A map of key features would have been useful and it was only after the judging and doing a website search that the judges managed to identify the Hull City Plan. The portfolio and judging route should have reflected the judging criteria in a more meaningful and substantive way.
- Hull should be complimented on its City of Culture status and it's all-year-round cultural activities. Hopefully this legacy will take Hull on a continued journey but to showcase it at its best it must adopt a more sustained approach to its horticultural and environmental standards.

Leeds Gold Award and Category Winner

Overall Impression

The city centre contained a large number of quality floral features which complimented the business and commercial activities which every vibrant city should have.

It was good to see the partnerships established with local business, Leeds General Infirmary, churches and commercial developers to improve the local environment around some of the cities iconic properties. The exciting major development at Wellington Place the former railway station site for the city in the 1960s offer a great opportunity to develop a quality landscape and public realm facilities of regional significance which will feed in to the heart of the city centre.

The bedding displays and traditional planting of Park Square is always impressive and it was good to hear of the work and numerous projects developed for the Leeds Business Improvement District to provide Ambassadors, street ranger presence and organise events and festivals to make the area more vibrant.

It was good to see the vast improvement to the Bond Court and the new Dakota Hotel which has transformed the square and landscape

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It would be good to include the children's bedding displays in a future tour provide some signage and interpretation material on the beds outside the Civic hall to raise awareness of the children's Leeds in Bloom Competition.
- Consider closer partnership working with the Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust as they have a wide portfolio of projects which could be included if in a future tour. It was good to see the hospital's involvement with the balcony planting for patients to enjoy.
- Consider the Overall Impression of street washing in certain problem areas of the city centre as this is distracting from the overall quality and visitor experience.
- Look at better solutions to avoid planters and bedding displays being damaged within some areas of the city centre. Have back up plans in place to remove or replant to retain the street scene quality.
- Work with the BID team to increase the numbers of office window boxes on business premises throughout the city centre and raise the overall quality as seen in London.
- Provide advice to St Georges Crypt to further develop the garden and grounds which are maintained by volunteers.

- Ensure that the landscape and tree cover of the Leeds Minster closed church yard is not damaged when Network Rail install new fencing on the main railway line.
- Consideration to be given to a walking trail to highlight the work and history associated with in Bloom in the City.

Morley Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

Morley centre was impressively clean, with a high level of interpretation highlighting and celebrating local history. There was good business support and the in Bloom group continue to do some excellent work with local partners and schools. The school banner project was particularly impressive and the engagement with two local schools very encouraging for the future.

Most businesses had clearly made the effort to support the initiative with attractive displays outside, and it was pleasing to see the local Estate Agents (Onwards and Upwards) being so supportive. There was some very good floral displays in the town and the judges also commented on the growing of vegetables in Scatcherd Park, which is a good idea and a nice change from the usual, particularly as local people can benefit from them come harvest time!

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Perhaps consider a wildlife and tree identification interpretation board in Scatcherd Park. There will be several species of bird which could be described on here. Tesco 'Bags of Help' could be a possible funder of such.
- Perhaps introduce more sustainable bedding, particularly for the larger beds.
- If possible, adopt a slightly higher standard of bedding, with less uniformity and plants closer and more evenly spaced.

Category 5A: Coastal Resort A

Filey Gold Award and Category Winner

Overall Impression

It was great to meet the enthusiastic and proud Filey in Bloom group and been shown around the high quality facilities and attractions within the seaside town. The tour got off to a great start at the bathing hut feature and the aviation sculpture on the sea front and visiting and meeting the volunteers at Northcliff Gardens who have complimented the maintenance of the hydrangea and dahlia borders providing a colourful backdrop to the stunning seating area and view across the bay. The superb floral displays by the Bus Station and rose bed on Scarborough Road junction

The restoration of some derelict land outside of Filey Railway Station and the construction of a scaled version of a train and tender feature together with colourful raised flower beds was a great feature for visitors arriving at the resort and gave a good first impression of the town congratulations to the volunteers involved in the project The tour included one of Filey's hidden gems. The Filey Dams is a haven for wildlife run by the wildlife trust and an important habitat for migrant birds.

The Glen and Crescent Gardens where of the highest standards with numerous floral displays well maintained lawned areas with the bandstand been the central feature. A great entry well done to all involved

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- We would have liked to have seen greater involvement of local business in the Filey in Bloom campaign even if they would have shown their support by displaying posters in shop windows.
- It would further strengthen your entry to include on the tour a visit to the Memorial Garden which is a quiet oasis in the centre of one of the town's busiest streets as it contained some high-quality horticultural displays.
- We would have liked to have visited the floral displays around the Bus Station Square and the Doctors Bed which contained floral bedding and Rose garden.
- It was appreciated getting the in Bloom message on the day of the judging using the Town Crier and Consort but would have liked to see a couple of banners around the town promoting the Filey in Bloom campaign which could have been sponsored
- Some of the signage and interpretation boards at Filey Dams would benefit from restoration and updating. It would have been helpful for visitors if simple bird identification posters were displayed in each of the bird hides.
- The gardens around St Johns Church contained a wide variety of perennial plant material and would provide a great source of material for future projects.

- The addition of the planned art reflecting local history on the top wall at Northcliffe Gardens would be a great attribute to polish off the gardens
- It was good to visit Filey C of E Nursery and Infants School to meet the children in their outdoor class room and see them learning about Nature and wildlife. These will be the Filey in Bloom Volunteers of the future and would suggest that the current Filey in Bloom group continue to strengthen the partnership with the School.

GROW YOUR COMMUNITY

Hunmanby - Grow your Community Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

We were met with two enthusiastic in bloom volunteers to show us around the 'grow your own village entry'. The Bayley Gardens were well maintained with perennial planting and raised beds. The street furniture was all in good condition and the entry had numerous floral containers dotted around the village. It was good to see residents and business support who had put additional floral pots and displays to compliment the work of Hunmanby in Bloom.

The entry had a number of floral features throughout the village which were of high quality and some contained community art features. The War Memorial Garden and a number of small cottage gardens around the public square added to the overall floral colour around the village

The allotments, community orchard and Railway Station projects offered a great deal of future potential for the entry and well done to all involved. The success of the Hunmanby hidden Garden weekend must have generated a great deal of local interest and help to raise the profile of the work which Hunmanby in Bloom are carrying out to improve the village.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- There is a need to build on the awareness which the in Bloom events have had in the village to try to get more local people involved.
- There is a willingness of the local school to play a greater role in the in bloom and this should be explored
- Look at organising a poster competition to allow you to display the winning poster in businesses throughout the village
- See if you can establish stronger links with the allotment holders as they can be a good way of getting additional volunteers. Perhaps identify a future project that they could deliver. They could also help with the propagation of additional perennial plant material for sites around the village
- Look at linking in to the in bloom campaign the sports clubs to improve their facilities which would aid a future judges tour.
- We were very impressed by the quality of the displays and links with local heritage throughout the village and with careful presentation to future judges would make a very competitive village entry

Leven Grow your Community Silver Award

Overall Impression

A welcome return to Leven with a reformed group. Even in its infancy the group show determination to improve Leven through various projects which is to be commended. The gardening club require special mention for their efforts in creating the wildlife area with good use of tyres and the compost bags, well done. The green space opposite the school which the group is now maintaining is a great example of good practice which acts as a benchmark for future projects. There is no doubt that Leven in Bloom will continue to improve and prosper year on year given the enthusiasm and commitment shown by the volunteers, Keep up the good work!!

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider further planters to add colour throughout the village with relevant permissions.
- Develop partnerships/sponsorship with local businesses, look at alternative forms of funding e.g. 'Tesco Bags of Help'
- Continue developing the Nature Park working with other volunteer sectors
- Consider networking with other local schools to share good practices concerning horticultural education and environmental responsibility.
- Concentrate on specific projects to ensure high standards are achieved
- Try raising the profile of the 'in bloom' group by leaflet dropping, having specific working days throughout the year?
- Consider providing the judges with a portfolio to showcase achievements/forward planning/Judging route

Malton - Grow your community Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

The community in Malton have really pulled together under the in Bloom banner and are making incredible in roads to enhancing and improving their busy market town. It is clear to see the enthusiasm and pride of all the groups involved, in what they have achieved so far. We were impressed with the blaze of colour from the many hanging baskets, barrier planters and towers around the market square. The support from local businesses, the Town Council, and Fitzwilliam estates is to be commended. We also spied vegetables and tomatoes growing from the veranda above the Greyhound Antiques and a wonderful window display by the Malton Flower Club.

The areas of permanent planting along the route; the beds outside St Michaels Church, give a bright welcome at the entrance; the boundary sign beds; the WI beds outside JB Motors, and the addition of the "knitted visitors"; outside the Bus and

Railway Station and all the while giving consideration to the choice of plants for pollinators.

The work at the Railway Station carried out by the Derwent Diggers sponsored by Trans Pennine Express, and the help from Riley on the beds outside, along with the Tidy Team and the hard work down at the town car park, is transforming the street scene.

The work started on the open space near St Leonards Close social housing area, has transformed this neglected site, and is already reaping the thanks of the local residents providing them with a bright cheerful space in which to sit and pass the time.

We were pleased to meet the young people and Teacher from Malton Middle School and see how they too have been transforming their grounds, both with providing colour with hanging baskets and perennial planting around the main building and entrance, and also the growing area within the school, where they are starting to nurture fruit and vegetables, keep up the good work. We were also impressed with the developments at the War Memorial Garden and the involvement of the Air Cadets, has already made a difference to this space. The future redevelopment plans, working in partnership with the Town Council, Rotary Club and Lions will, in the long term, make this area a focal point at the entrance to the town.

This first time entry, are definitely one to watch, well done.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- There were a couple of areas on the route where the street furniture let down the hard work carried out in the planting areas, these would benefit from a little refurbishment. One outside the Railway Station and those near the Leonards Square public space. Maybe also consider a timber surround on the Greyhound veranda, to disguise the grow bags.
- Working with the primary school was mentioned on the tour, and this is a potential area to grow in future years. It's always difficult to get the involvement of older children but the work happening down at the secondary school is fantastic to see. They may also be interested in entering the Yorkshire in Bloom competition in their own right at some stage, as there is a category for Young People's achievements.
- Consideration was being given to the type of plants used around the town, and pollinators were high on the list, maybe consider an area of wildlife habitat as part of the route, does the cemetery lend itself to improving wildlife creation? Are there areas that could be given over to a different type of maintenance, e.g., longer grass, wildflower, habitat homes, this could possibly be something that the younger children could get involved in over future years.

- As we parked at the Talbot Hotel, we saw the well-kept grounds there, there was also what looked like a grass meadow in the lower gardens, again increasing the bio diversity of the area, maybe this could be brought into the route at some point
- As a first entry we understand you “dipping your toe in” via the Grow Your Community route, but after seeing what Malton has to offer, the sound Overall Impression presentation at the start, and with a few tweaks to the route and consideration on timings we feel this is definitely a main competition entry for the future.