

LARGE CITY

Electoral population 200,001 and over (Judging time 4 hours)

General Comments

The judges were pleased to return to Nottingham! After their short break from the East Midlands in Bloom they soon showed the judges that they hadn't lost their enthusiasm for the blooming. The weather on the tour was perfect, and the route was very well supported by a wide range of the community, relevant Council representatives and partners. Nottingham City's highway roundabouts are always a treat to see, and the work carried out by Community Payback at Highfields Cascade was inspirational and a good example of work that can be achieved through this scheme.

Judges – Jeff Bates and Sharon Thomas

Nottingham Gold Award –170 points

Judged 13th July

* **Judges Award:** the Floral Sculpture trail

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

The bedding displays at the University of Nottingham, giving a fine show for both visitors to the university and passing along the highway. The unusual choice of planting combination at the Arboretum was spectacular, a credit to the nursery staff who have demonstrated a true understanding and talent for floral displays. The enhancements and contagious pride expressed by the Bloomin' Strelley team and residents at Eckington Terrace and surrounding streets made a big difference to what could have been dreary terraced rows and housing estates. The innovative floral sculpture trail in the town centre, which has features appropriately placed to correspond with the retail outlets. The Arkwright Meadows Community Gardens is a huge asset to the local community, bringing different cultures together to garden sustainably, sharing produce and knowledge.

SECTION B

The continuous progression of developing sites to Local Nature Reserve designation, without losing sight of the existing LNR's, ensuring the Groups are supported and sites are continuously enhanced such as the pathway works at Martin's Pond. The environmental sustainability of the Nottingham Science Park and ongoing development of new buildings to the same standard of energy efficiency. The wildflower project in parks across the City was a success, encouraging wildlife, and challenging residents' perception of management and maintenance of grassland in semi formal settings.

SECTION C

Very good partnership working exists with the media and businesses, especially services carried out instead of sponsorship payment. The excellent community participation is too numerous to list and is a strong element within this category; this is shown through the current participation in 'It's Your Neighbourhood' and possible progression of Urban Community entrants for the future.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

It would have been beneficial to have visited a broader range of locations under section A3, such as a school, allotment etc.

SECTION B

Graffiti and fly-posting was noticed along the tour between London Rd Island and Chapel Bar Island: this was localised and was not a problem elsewhere on the tour. Management of furniture in isolated areas in the Town Centre, and more generally in the Castle Grounds needs attention. Consider extending the wildflower project to appropriate central road grassed areas. Information at Wildflower areas in parks to ensure visitors and residents fully understand the project and outcomes being achieved.

SECTION C

The 15 minute presentation and DVD was a missed opportunity, this would have been the ideal time to show the judges projects and improvements not seen on the tour. Most projects were communicated well: however, there were a few which needed more information such as the wildflower project mentioned earlier. The judges felt a little overwhelmed at the beginning of the tour, but this did settle down after half an hour. Try to keep an even and relaxed pace for the vehicle tours.

A=87 B=40 C=43 TOTAL 170