

SMALL TOWN

Electoral population 2,501-6,000 (Judging time 2 hours)

General Comments

The tour commenced at the excellent new cricket ground and pavilion on the edge of town. A trip around the town saw many beautiful plantings and much evidence of the magnificent partnership between the Bloom group and the Uppingham School. The tour concluded with a visit to the new leisure facilities for the town, all housed within the eco-friendly building.

Judges – Jo Tarrant and Chris Beal

Uppingham Silver Gilt Award and Category Winner –151 points

Judged 7th July

* Judges Award:

for the grounds staff at The Uppingham School for their commitment and assistance to Uppingham in Bloom

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

The new planting at the Falcon Hotel brings life into what could have been a dull courtyard. Consider entering it into the Best Pub Garden next year. The quality of the vegetable garden at Leighfield Primary School is remarkable. The new landscaping at the Uppingham Schools new Sports centre.

SECTION B

The new play area is obviously well used and an asset to the young people of the town. The numerous information boards around the town telling the interesting history of the town. The Sculpture area within the grounds of the Uppingham school, which is fully accessible to residents and visitors to Uppingham.

SECTION C

The partnership working between the bloom group and The Uppingham School is remarkable. The number of volunteers on the Bloom group and the size of the Friends of Bloom show high community support within the town. The competition for youngsters to design the Uppingham in Bloom logo. The diverse range of fund raising events for the Bloom ensures a bright future.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

Liaise with the Town Council to get the tree ties and guards removed from the trees on Todd's Piece. Suggest that Bloom look at Todd's piece and offer advice to the Town Council on ways to horticulturally enhance the park. Continue the program of bulb planting across the town this autumn. Consider if the Box hedging at the Uppingham School front beds can be trimmed for judging day.

SECTION B

Consider a management and action plan for the arboretum to develop a diverse understory as well as tree structure. Continue with your plans for the artwork and landscaping on the traffic island. Build links with Wildlife Trusts and County Council to discover more natural areas within the boundary of the town which can be included on the tour.

SECTION C

Continue to work with Uppingham school to develop your web-site to advertise your achievements and aspirations. Look into funds held by the District and County Council to see if any can be accessed for larger projects. Try to increase the number of sponsored hanging baskets sold to the shops and businesses.

A=77 B=34 C=40 TOTAL 151

SMALL TOWN

Electoral population 2,501-6,000 (Judging time 2 hours)

General Comments

A showery start to judging was brightened up by a welcoming party of banner waving school children. The tour of the town took in many delightful areas showing the community input into the Bloom, the heritage of the town and the influential work of the new Bloom committee on various projects throughout the town. The tour concluded with a visit to the spectacular floral display at the Bath Gardens.

Judges – Chris Beal and Jo Tarrant

Bakewell Silver Award –145 points

Judged 8th July

* Judges Award:

For the quality of display and maintenance at Bath Gardens

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

The floral impact and maintenance standards at Bath gardens. The quality and tidiness of residential gardens throughout the town. The secret / open gardens scheme which the Bloom group coordinates.

SECTION B

The green roof on the new building at the museum. The management of the river running through the town to keep geese out, thereby maintaining its excellent cleanliness standard. Bakewell Gardening Association and community orchard and Allotments

SECTION C

Excellent evidence of a range of year round activities, comprehensive easy to read portfolio to support this. The information stall at the Agricultural Centre. The Bloom group have good links to other partners in the Town; build upon these links to further the Bloom initiative.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

Work with the District Council for enhancement and improvement works at the recreation ground. Provide interpretation boards at the carpet bedding display in the Bath Gardens. Work with the grounds manger at Dale Housing to ensure the continued replanting and good maintenance work at the Dagnall gardens ponds ready for the next judging visit.

SECTION B

Include more information on public recycling initiatives throughout the town. Work with all tiers of local government on standardising and refurbishing street furniture throughout the town. Liaise with the District Council over cleansing issues, particularly highway weeds prior to judging.

SECTION C

Increase advertising of the Bloom initiative throughout the Town, i.e. more evidence of your "Supporting Bloom" stickers in shop windows. Look to increase the size of the Bloom committee and working party members to reduce the risk of overburdening just a few. Look to hold one, big, fun, fund raising event each year that will get the backing of the whole town. Network with other Bloom groups for ideas.

A=82 B=33 C=30 TOTAL 145

SMALL TOWN

Electoral population 2,501-6,000 (Judging time 2 hours)

General Comments

The Bloom in Deeping St James continues to grow, only in its second year, the work being carried out by all sectors of the community in planting and maintenance is remarkable. From the prolific displays of unusual containers to its vibrant Allotment community to its peaceful natural areas.

Judges – Chris Beal and Jo Tarrant

Deeping St James Village Silver Award –143 points

Judged 15th July

* Judges Award:

For the new planting at the Old Priory Farm shrub bed

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

The mix of perennials and annuals within planters and beds around the town works well. The number of Bloom maintained initiatives throughout the town is remarkable. The continued increase in the numbers of unusual container displays brightening the frontage of Deeping St James.

SECTION B

The continued work at Deepings Lake Nature Reserve as evidenced through display and portfolio. The Deeping St James in Bloom display in the empty shop made the area visually more attractive. The innovative water collection systems at the Allotment site.

SECTION C

The work with differing community / voluntary groups and the range of expertise amongst the community and committee. The unusual container competition continues to grow. The fundraising through various events and grants is remarkable for a small community. The continued support from Mr Prentice.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

Try and encourage the residents or Council to improve maintenance and planting to the raised bed at 11 Benedict's Court to complete this neighbourhood oasis of colour. Suggest they enter the "Its Your Neighbourhood" initiative. Continue with your plans to secure glasshouse space for growing your own plant material for use and sale. Try to ensure sustainable growth in the Bloom and not start too many projects that maintenance teams can't upkeep.

SECTION B

Remove the graffiti from the wall on Thackers Way Public Open Space, as it will take the hedge a few years to cover it. Consider differing mowing regimes at Thackers Way Public Open Space to make a wildflower / life area in the corner. Expand upon information given on recycling initiatives either on tour or in the portfolio.

SECTION C

Show, either on tour or in portfolio, more of the links with the schools if they can present positive examples of the judging criteria. Consider Benedicts Court as a future Its Your Neighbourhood entry. Consider networking your achievements and fundraising ideas to other Bloom communities in your District and the East Midlands region.

A=72 B=33 C=38 TOTAL 143

SMALL TOWN

Electoral population 2,501-6,000 (Judging time 2 hours)

General Comments

Once again Ibstock has high quality and high impact bedding schemes across the town. The eco-friendly tour around the town used a hybrid vehicle showing this groups commitment to the environment. The judges enjoyed the guided tour by volunteers of The Sence Valley Forest park and concluded with a lunch of fresh local produce including a locally caught trout.

Judges – Jo Tarrant and Chris Beal

Ibstock Silver Award –143 points

Judged 7th July

* Judges Award:

For the Sence Valley Volunteers for their continued work at Sence Valley Country Park

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

The mixed border to the rear of "The Palace" maintained by a group with learning disabilities. The flower beds and baskets throughout the town were of high impact, quality, & maintenance, e.g. the Cemetery. The baskets at the school and Holmsdale Day Nursery were an asset to both locations.

SECTION B

Sence Valley Country Park shows an excellent achievement for its volunteers in its 16 years lifespan. The cleanliness across the Bloom route and town in general. The communal composting and horse manure heap at the allotments are commendable. The Botanical artwork interpretation panels near to the cemetery.

SECTION C

The number of volunteers involved with the management and maintenance of Sence Valley Country Park. The action plan and the aims and objectives of the group clearly identify that this group intends to move forward with their Bloom initiatives. The comprehensive portfolio showing achievements throughout the year.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

Show more evidence of the town's parks / green spaces as part of the judging tour if they can offer positive elements to the judging criteria. Try to show more evidence of commercial premises contribution to the Bloom initiative. Try to get the Bloom volunteers involved in more permanent planting around the town.

SECTION B

Work with the local wildlife trust to create a management plan for the wildflower meadow at the cemetery. Expand the bloom display / advertising in the vacant shop window. Work with the Community College to help create their vision of a Community garden.

SECTION C

Look to local businesses for additional support, consider sponsorship panels of beds and baskets to give supporters some recognition of financial or in kind donations. Have a Bloom stand or fund raiser at the Country Fair. Encourage further ties with the local school and show evidence of school gardening on the tour, if they have a positive contribution to the judging criteria.

A=74 B=36 C=33 TOTAL 143

SMALL TOWN

Electoral population 2,501-6,000 (Judging time 2 hours)

General Comments

The firm favourites of Annie's Patch and Cowpers Gate continue to delight the judges with their immaculately maintained gardens. Equally impressive and new to the judges this year was the garden at the Rainbows Day Nursery. The commitment by Jack Tyrrell to the schools garden design and build competition is remarkable. The colourful hanging baskets in the town along with the Bloom display in the ironmongers shop brighten up the town and lets the Community know that once again Long Sutton is in Bloom.

Judges – Chris Beal and Jo Tarrant

Long Sutton Silver Award –141 points

Judged 14th July

* Judges Award:

For Jack Tyrrell for his commitment to the Schools Garden Design and Build Competition

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

Quality of maintenance and community commitment at Annie's Patch and Cowpers Gate. The quality and quantity of baskets throughout the town. The quality of residential gardens seen on the tour.

SECTION B

Unity Gardens Eco houses and allotments are a credit to their community. The improvement works at Common Pit continue to increase accessibility and information. The painting of unused building windows to visually enhance the area and deter vandalism.

SECTION C

The quality and diversity of gardens at the Rainbows Day Nursery. The commitment of the Bloom group to maintaining all areas of the town. The links that the Bloom group have to other groups within the town is an asset.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

The triangular road island bed at little London requires urgent maintenance. Have closer liaison with the local authority on verge cutting and highway cleansing schedules. Re-seed bare areas beneath the tree canopy in the churchyard with a shade tolerant grass or wildflower mix.

SECTION B

Consider forming a 'friends of' group at Common Pit to undertake maintenance and access funding sources for future projects. Consider interpretation at the treasure chest at the Library, possibly linking into a local heritage display or similar inside the library. Ensure all elements of the judging criteria are highlighted on the tour or evidence is reinforced in the Portfolio.

SECTION C

Consider visiting just one educational establishment on the judging route to free up time for other visits, acknowledge areas not visited in the portfolio. Consider a loose leaf type portfolio that can easily be updated year on year. Try to further expand the number of baskets provided to businesses in the town centre.

A=75 B=27 C=39 TOTAL 141

SMALL TOWN

Electoral population 2,501-6,000 (Judging time 2 hours)

General Comments

Holbeach is a lovely market town in the heart of south Lincolnshire. The Bloom team add a splash of colour on every street corner, with volunteers help from every corner of the town too. The well organised tour took in many of the wonderfully maintained parks and open spaces and it was great pleasure to meet such a passionate and hard working group of gardeners.

Judges – Chris Beal and Jo Tarrant

Holbeach Silver Award –128 points

Judged 11th July

* Judges Award:

For the wonderful grounds and gardening features at Small Saints Pre-School

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

The parks supervisor and his team for the dedication to growing the bedding plants and the high standards of maintenance around the town. The lovely perennial cottage garden in Carters park. For the towns large number of good value sponsored baskets, 96 in total.

SECTION B

The Wildlife garden and bug huts at the Small Saints pre-school. The perennial bed in the Church grounds for attracting insects. The provision of water butts and watering cans at the Town Cemetery. The design and donation of the Hallgate Cemetery gates

SECTION C

The judges were interested to hear in the forthcoming sponsorship of the traffic island. Consider undertaking public consultation over the proposed landscape design of the island. The support and donation of the Roses leading down to Hallgate Cemetery. The commitment of the parks staff and bloom volunteers to the quality of maintenance of the plants and the parks.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

Liaise with the District Council to try to raise funds for infrastructure improvements to Carters Park, ie the paths around the bowls area and the fence around the dog areas. Hall Gate Cemetery, look at the tree maintenance with regards to staking and mulching. Consider planting the avenue with a single species of more substantial size and planting the boundary in a mix of species. Experiment and expand on the variety of plant material grown in the parks new nursery area.

SECTION B

Help the Stukeley School create a larger area for vegetable growing. Consider putting Small Saints garden forward in to the East Midlands in Bloom School Garden competition. Try to remove the graffiti on the Meridian Stone in Carters Park. Work toward refurbishing the Cemetery Chapels before they decline into a state of disrepair.

SECTION C

Work with the local youth groups to find funding and a location for a new skate park. Use the Bloom judging criteria for the basis of a portfolio of the year round activities and areas which the judges weren't able to visit on the tour. Promote and celebrate the efforts of the Bloom volunteers across the town to encourage more participation in the scheme.

A=72 B=27 C=29 TOTAL 128

SMALL TOWN

Electoral population 2,501-6,000 (Judging time 2 hours)

General Comments

The Bloom continues to flourish in Blidworth with drive and enthusiasm. The new signage as you enter the Town not only welcomes you but gives an indication of the Town's heritage. The standard of maintenance being achieved by the Town Council's staff are a credit to the Town.

Judges – Chris Beal and Jo Tarrant

Blidworth Bronze Award –119 points

Judged 8th July

* Judges Award:

For the Friends of Tippings Wood for their excellent work for the Community and Environment

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

The recreational areas within the town have excellent grounds maintenance standards. The colourful display at the Fox & Hounds Public House. The continuation of the colourful display and further development plans for the war memorial garden.

SECTION B

New welcoming signage as you enter the town. Zero tolerance policy on graffiti with the exceptions of the skate park and teen shelter. The new street furniture at the old toilets site is an excellent addition to the village.

SECTION C

The volunteer maintenance at Tippings Wood is commendable. The portfolio shows the highlights of Blidworth in Blooms year. Tree planting on the Community playing fields, work closely with the school to ensure the survival of the plants during the dry summer.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

Liaise with the District Council to refurbish the planting area and mosaic outside the Leisure Centre. Try to raise sponsorship to offer a hanging basket scheme to shops and increase the number of hanging baskets in the town in general. Try and show more commercial premises with horticultural elements within the judging route.

SECTION B

Secure closer links with the District Council over street cleansing, particularly highway weed spraying prior to judging. Show more examples, both on the judging route and in the portfolio of recycling initiatives and allotments. Work with the local authority to combat dog fouling at Tippings Wood. Look at repainting equipment and weeding the safety surfacing in the children's play areas.

SECTION C

Try and expand the Bloom Committee and its volunteers, by instilling local ownership in projects. Investigate sponsorship of hanging baskets / planters with local businesses, particularly shops within the town to brighten up their exteriors. Build upon the existing links to the school to include them in more Bloom activities and consider including them on the tour if they can show positive elements of the criteria. Continue with your plans for a flower and produce show.

A=59 B=33 C=27 TOTAL 119

SMALL TOWN

Electoral population 2,501-6,000 (Judging time 2 hours)

General Comments

The judging tour commenced at the immaculately maintained war graves within the cemetery showing the town's link to the past with the RAF community. The tour of the town saw many of the Big Bloomers current projects and sites for future ones as well as examples of the relatively new groups, impressive fundraising and sponsorship initiatives. The tour finished with a trip up the famous Sutton Bridge.

Judges – Chris Beal and Jo Tarrant

Sutton Bridge Bronze Award –119 points

Judged 14th July

* Judges Award:

To the Bloomers for their wonderful floral enhancements across the town

* East Midlands in Bloom Best Wildflower and Conservation Award

Sutton Bridge

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

The wonderful increase in the number of beds and planters across the town and their tasteful and sustainable planting schemes. The quality of residential gardens seen on the judging route. The quality and diversity of displays in the Church flower festival, was just a joy to see.

SECTION B

The quality of street cleansing and the recycling of redundant street furniture as planters. The highway verge managed by Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust is a remarkable linear nature reserve. The artwork on empty premises windows brighten up these areas.

SECTION C

The fund raising for the Bloom initiatives by a community of this size is remarkable. The number of community participants in the flower festival. The list of activities in the portfolio showing year round participation.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

Show more commercial business participation and open spaces on the judging route if they can add positively to the judging criteria. Bark mulch perennial beds to suppress weeds and conserve moisture. Ensure the number of beds and planters remains manageable for the size of the Bloom group. Continue with your plans for the community allotment and to plant your own hanging baskets.

SECTION B

Try to include more of the judging criteria i.e. "Resource management" on the judging route and where possible meet with local experts, i.e. the agency responsible for the management of the wildflower strips. Continue with your plans for Toms Wood; suggest working with a local wildlife group to develop the area further. Work with the Sutton Bridge to reinstate the Bridge open day.

SECTION C

Raise public awareness of the Bloom campaign by advertising it throughout the town, e.g. shop windows and Parish Council notice boards and consider the Bloom group participating in the flower festival. Devise a longer term action plan / strategy for the bloom with aims and objectives. Try to improve schools participation, look at offering volunteer support to teaching staff for school gardening and add to the judging route if they can offer a positive contribution to the judging criteria.

A=58 B=28 C=33 TOTAL 119

SMALL TOWN

Electoral population 2,501-6,000 (Judging time 2 hours)

General Comments

The tour started with a visit to the ever beautiful community maintained garden at Deepings Community Centre. The guided tour around the grounds of William Hildyard Primary School by two members of the gardening club was a delight. The new project at the cemetery to increase burial options and improve access to the spinney has commenced and will be interesting to see next year when completed. The tour finished with a visit to see the range of unusual and exotic plants at Swinesmeadow Farm Nursery.

Judges – Chris Beal and Jo Tarrant

Market Deeping Bronze Award –116 points

Judged 15th July

* Judges Award:

For Colin Ward of Swinesmeadow Farm Nursery for his continued support to Market Deeping in Bloom

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

The hanging baskets in the Market place were colourful and full. The Market Deeping in Bloom gardening competition has some interesting categories; continue to promote this competition as a way of promoting the Bloom. The Plant Fair at Swinesmeadow Nursery.

SECTION B

Automatic irrigation of the Market place hanging baskets to reduce watering costs. The development of Spinney Woods for burials is an interesting use of existing woodland. The annual walking of the public footpaths to keep them open.

SECTION C

Partnership working with RAF Cottesmore to carry out projects within the Town. The work carried out by the schools within their gardens. The best floral shop window displays.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

Consider maintaining part of the Rectory Paddock as a wildflower meadow with meandering paths mown through. Try to cover the best route and not repeat the same elements of the judging criteria i.e. one school with a positive contribution will cover the criteria and that will allow more time for other sections. Try to get established community groups such as Rotary more involved with Bloom type projects.

SECTION B

Look at a programme of refurbishment for street furniture around the town. Investigate possibility of managing the school car park adjacent to Tesco car park as a wildlife garden. Liaise with the District and County council over their items of responsibility on the judging tour, e.g. street gully sweeping.

SECTION C

Suggest increase partnership working with RAF Cottesmore for future projects. Devise a medium term action plan / strategy for bloom projects within the town. Continue with sourcing additional community involvement and funding for projects.

A=60 B=28 C=28 TOTAL 116

SMALL TOWN

Electoral population 2,501-6,000 (Judging time 2 hours)

General Comments

This delightful market town oozes history at every corner. The Abbey has a foreground of beautiful roses, the ancient bridge is surrounded by hanging baskets and even the natural history of Crowland is intriguing. The judges were delighted to meet the enthusiastic children of South View Junior School who gave them a full and detailed tour of the school grounds.

Judges – Chris Beal and Jo Tarrant

Crowland Bronze Award –112 points

Judged 11th July

* Judges Award:

For the commitment of the Bloom Group in growing all the plants used in the towns planters

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

For the number of sponsored baskets across the town which highlighted many of the towns shops. The community payback work in the Abbey's gardens. The wonderful efforts of South View Junior school in their ever expanding gardens and gardening club members.

SECTION B

The use of recycled green waste compost in the town's planters which is donated free to the group. The South View Junior Schools wildlife garden and numerous bug houses. The regular volunteer working parties at the wildlife pond.

SECTION C

The posters in the empty shop windows advertise the Bloom campaign. The in-kind donation of the printing of the Bloom Portfolio. The enthusiasm of the current volunteers in projects across the town.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

Consider relocating the 3 tier planter from the front of the pub so it can be used to enhance an additional area of the town. Work towards getting all the towns baskets purchased by a single buyer to help with continuity of colour schemes. Find a sponsor for the millennium garden who will fund replanting, in return for advertising on an interpretation panel in the garden.

SECTION B

Work with the Town and district Council to refurbish the rest of the street furniture in line with the newly painted Finger sign posts. Liaise with the District Council in getting the road gullies weeded and swept prior to judging. Try to continue building links between the towns heritage and the Bloom campaign.

SECTION C

Consider holding fundraising events to promote Bloom and raise money for more plants and engage with new volunteers. Consider if there are additional areas of the town which can be shown to the judges that fulfil the Bloom criteria. Use the judge's comments as building blocks for greater growth and success in the Bloom Campaign.

A=49 B=32 C=31 TOTAL 112