

TOWN

Electoral population 6,001-12,000 (Judging time 2 hours)

General Comments

Once again Oakham have managed to maintain the very high standard set over the past few years. High quality planting throughout the town, lack of litter, a balanced and considered approach to the core pillars of the campaign backed by strong support from the community and local businesses combine to make this a most impressive entry. Oakham are well deserved winners of the towns' category.

Judges – Richard Stephen and Richard Adams

Oakham Gold Award and Category Winner –179 points

Judged 5th July

*** Judges Award:**

Land's End Europe Ltd.

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

Areas of Achievement: a) Quality landscaped Roundabouts. b) Cutts Close Park & Church grounds. c) Rose beds in Braunston Road. d) Quality baskets & tubs around the town.

SECTION B

a) General Street scene very clean & tidy. b) Very good street furniture. c) Good idea putting posters in vacant properties. d) Good recycling programmes

SECTION C

a) Widespread community involvement throughout Oakham in Bloom. b) Several examples of partnership working with the Lands End initiative being outstanding. c) Development of clearly defined objectives for the forthcoming year.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

a) To see an Allotment during the tour would have been helpful. b) Didn't see any contribution from a Police station, Fire Station or Railway Station. c) Good concept with Spitfire Floral bed – but quality of planting needs to be improved.

SECTION B

a) Only 1 out of 4 Gateway town signs planted up. b) Try to embrace more of the town's rich heritage into the in bloom concept. c) Try to introduce Interpretation signs / boards at Cutts Close Park, Gorse Field Wood & Arboretum. d) Perhaps show judges a Recycling Bank. e) Try to introduce some 'natural habitat' pockets through the town.

SECTION C

a) Seek nominations for the EMiB Special Awards, in particular the Frank Constable best garden and the hotel/pub display. b) Look at the possibility of including further categories in the Oakham in Bloom garden competition eg best hanging basket or novel plant containers. c) Include photo of town centre Winter planting in containers. d) Try to encourage local schools to take part in the EMiB painting and digital photography competition.

A=92 B=41 C=46 TOTAL 179

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General Comments

In their second year in the In Bloom competition Immingham have built impressively on last year's submission to achieve a well deserved silver gilt. North East Lincolnshire has become an In Bloom force to be reckoned with!

Judges – Richard Stephen and Richard Adams

Immingham Silver Gilt Award –164 points

Judged 8th July

* Judges Award:

Pilgrim Park HMS in Bloom Project

* Frank Constable Award for the Best Front Garden

Mrs Susan Blades, 40 Stallingborough Road, Immingham

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

a) Colourful floral displays around the town include Pellham Way, War Memorial, and Manby Road.
b) Community contribution along Aldernay Way. c) Good Gateway plantings. d) Pilgrim Park & HMS 'In Bloom'.

SECTION B

a) Holmstead Park & Pilgrim Anglers. b) Ongoing development / planting at Coomb Briggs Meadow.
c) Clean & tidy weed free street scene. d) Good 'Art' in the landscape. e) Good heritage initiatives.
f) Good recycling initiatives (bring & buy).

SECTION C

a) Excellent welcome, presentation, DVD, Press support, good transport for the 'in time' tour. b) Good garden displays at Coomb Briggs School. c) Good sponsor & sponsorship support. d) Good partnership working & ongoing support eg MKM Members Card

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

a) Try to encourage more retailers / businesses to support your 'in bloom' efforts (shops etc). b) Try to include an Allotment site during the tour. c) Consider including contributions by the Library, Police Station, and Fire Station.

SECTION B

a) Consider ways of extending your 'Art' in the landscape programme. b) Develop Interpretation Boards at Coomb Briggs Meadow. c) Consider ways of building further on your heritage theme.

SECTION C

a) Helpful to list planned future aims / objectives. b) Consider introducing 'best pub /hotel & retail premises' categories to your in bloom competition to encourage greater participation.

A=83 B=40 C=41 TOTAL 164

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General Comments

The warm welcome extended by Nelly, Ivan and the local In Bloom volunteers combined with an excellent portfolio made this a most enjoyable visit for the judges. They were particularly impressed with their visits to Bourne Woods, Well Head Gardens and Bourne Westfield Primary School. Bourne have once again performed very well in what is a strong and competitive Towns category.

Judges – Richard Stephen and Richard Adams

Bourne Silver Gilt Award –162 points

Judged 4th July

*** Judges Award:**

Well Head Gardens

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

a) Memorial Garden & Wellhead Park. b) Town Centre Barrier Baskets. c) Elsea Park Residential area. d) Westfield School garden & grounds.

SECTION B

a) Bourne Wood Friends / Volunteers & wildlife projects. b) Street cleanliness was very good as was the street furniture. c) Forest school is potentially a very good project. d) Recycling programme continuing to be successful.

SECTION C

a) The Bourne Abbey Link path. b) Exceptional Portfolio. c) Good partnership working & community involvement.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

a) Continue efforts to engage town centre retailers to have hanging baskets on their premises. b) Consider trying to develop the area around the Library, Fire Station and Red Hall. Look forward to seeing signage at Allotments. d) Consider including the Community Hall and surrounding area with floral displays.

SECTION B

a) Consider re-introducing 'Art in the Wood' initiative at Bourne Wood. b) Important to develop stronger links with Bourne's heritage to the 'in bloom' campaign. c) Consider trying to introduce more 'art' into Bourne's environment generally. d) Interpretation of the Elsea Meadows area would benefit the community.

SECTION C

a) Presentation to judges of Bourne's sponsorship in kind. Try contacting Local Radio for support. b) Presentation to judges of Bourne's year round involvement and activities would be useful c) Providing activity list in portfolio in calendar form would be helpful to the judges. d) In portfolio, helpful to separately identify sponsorship, volunteers and sponsorship in kind. e) Helpful to identify future community projects planned in the next 12 months.

A=84 B=40 C=38 TOTAL 162

TOWN

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General Comments

Syston have made a welcome return to the competition with a strong entry. The judges were given a warm welcome and an enjoyable tour of the town during which they were pleased to meet a number of people who had participated in the submission including senior management from the Pukka Pie factory and pupils from Merton School. They were particularly impressed by the quality of the planting in the town centre and the extensive automatic watering system.

Judges – Richard Stephen and Richard Adams

Syston Silver Gilt Award –150 points

Judged 11th July

*** Judges Award:**

St Paul's Court

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

a) Good quality and range of baskets / containers. b) Overall standard of residential gardens is very good. c) War Memorial & Sun Dial gardens were also very good. d) Rose Gardens at Pukka HQ.

SECTION B

a) Watermead Country Park was very good. b) Town's automatic watering system for hanging baskets was excellent. c) Hanging Basket recycling at the cemetery was good.

SECTION C

a) Residents contribution at St. Pauls Court. b) Deville Park & Play Area. c) Good sponsorship of Town Centre displays.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

a) Standard of maintenance of grass areas was rather poor in places. b) Try to extend Merton School and other schools) contribution to the 'in bloom' campaign. c) Try to include a church site and grounds on tour.

SECTION B

a) There was evidence of dog fouling and litter on the judges' tour. b) No recycling statistics provided in portfolio. c) Consider developing 'art' in the park / environment generally. d) Good allotments but couldn't see any signage regarding the site.

SECTION C

a) Helpful to identify future 'in bloom' projects in the portfolio. b) Try to develop further opportunities to engage businesses to your 'in bloom' campaign. c) Try to give judges a brief presentation about your campaign prior to the tour.

A=85 B=33 C=32 TOTAL 150

TOWN

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General Comments

The judges enjoyed a warm welcome from the In Bloom team and were pleased to meet a number of volunteers during their tour of the town. They were particularly impressed by the colourful floral displays in the town centre and the centenary bedding in Hall Leys park. The work in hand and planned for the railway station by the Friends of Matlock Railway Station under the station adoption scheme is particularly commendable.

Judges – Richard Stephen and Richard Adams

Matlock Silver Award –141 points

Judged 7th July

* Judges Award:

Friends of Matlock Railway Station

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

a) Hall Leys Park was very good / Green Flag park. b) Good display of baskets & tubs throughout the town. c) Matlock Station tubs. d) Crown Square was impressive.

SECTION B

a) Street scene was generally pretty good. b) Denefields & Baileys Tump were very good. c) Good street furniture with hard landscaped areas. d) Good links with Peak Railway & volunteer work.

SECTION C

a) Good volunteer work from 'Friends' of Peak Railway & Volunteer litter picks. b) Some good sponsorship for town centre tubs.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

a) Try to include a school site with children's contributions. b) Try to provide evidence of good residential gardens. c) Continue to engage with retailers / businesses to provide baskets / tubs at their premises. d) Try to show a church site with grounds.

SECTION B

a) Try to provide recycling stats in portfolio. b) Provide information / evidence of young people participating in litter picks. c) Consider developing more 'art' into parks / open spaces / environment generally. d) Didn't notice on tour (or in portfolio) if there were any Gateway plantings.

SECTION C

a) Try to include a range of Press releases about your 'in bloom' campaign in the portfolio. b) In portfolio, helpful to separately identify financial sponsorship, volunteer work and sponsorship in kind. d) Helpful to identify future community projects planned over next 12 months. e) Try to give the judges a presentation prior to the tour of what community activity has been happening over the last 12 months

A=79 B=34 C=28 TOTAL 141

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General Comments

The judges enjoyed a warm welcome from the In Bloom team and appreciated the canal trip! They were particularly impressed by the landscaping at the Staveley Centre and also the contribution made to the submission by the Staveley Hall Garden Centre. Staveley have managed to build significantly on their first time entry in 2010 and there is still sufficient potential in the town to build further on this year's bronze medal.

Judges – Richard Stephen and Richard Adams

Staveley Bronze Award –109 points

Judged 7th July

* Judges Award:

Staveley Centre Care Home

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

a) Impressed with the Landscaping, plant selection & quality of plants at the Staveley Centre. b) The Hollingwood Hub Community Centre. c) The baskets, tubs and grounds of Ringwood Hall Hotel. d) General green spaces well maintained.

SECTION B

a) Norbriggs Flash & Chesterfield Canal Natural Habitats. b) Streetscene free of litter and graffiti. c) Judges shown good heritage connection to the town.

SECTION C

a) The contribution made by Staveley Hall Garden Centre. b) Markham Planting Project. c) Springwell Community College. d) Mastin Moor Community Garden.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

a) Walking tour should have included Healthy Living Centre frontage, Town Centre, Church, Porter and Church St. b) Judges would like to have seen some residential gardens. c) Tour should include cemetery and allotments.

SECTION B

a) Disappointed not to see Poolsbrook Country Park & Caravan Park. b) No information about Community Litter picks (adults & children). c) Develop more around the town's rich heritage.

SECTION C

a) Poor time management meant that large sections of the tour had to be left out. b) Press release should relate to 'in bloom' enhancing events / activities. c) In portfolio, helpful to separately identify sponsorship, volunteers and sponsorship in kind. d) Helpful to identify future community projects planned over next 12 months.

A=54 B=29 C=26 TOTAL 109