

REPORTS

EAST MIDLANDS IN BLOOM 2012

From the Chairman:

“East Midlands in Bloom has had a splendid year despite the weather and the economic situation. There have been fifty five main ‘In Bloom’ entries - a 10% increase on last year, and 124 entries in It’s Your Neighbourhood, 25% more than last year and across all areas of the East Midlands. In addition, there has been strong interest in the Special Awards (Best School Garden, Frank Constable Best Residential Garden (visible to the public), Best Pub/Hotel Garden or display and Best Retail/Commercial Premises), and the Children’s Art and Digital Photography Competition. Thank you all for entering, and I look forward to hearing and/or seeing your entries again next year. Please encourage your neighbouring communities to join us in the best community horticultural campaign that there is anywhere. We who are involved know that Bloom lifts the spirit of all those who live and visit our communities and inspires those who are actively involved.

We will produce our annual newsletter in December and please take note of our biennial Seminar on 20th February 2013 in Loughborough. All current entrants will be invited and it will also be open to all who are interested in the East Midlands in Bloom campaigns, (the regional part of RHS Britain in Bloom).

Index:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Entry</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Entry</i>	<i>Page</i>
Large City	Nottingham	2	Towns	Bourne	31
				Burbage	35
City	Northampton	4		Ibstock	33
				Immingham	30
Small Cities	Chesterfield	9		Oakham	29
	Daventry	11		Staveley	34
	Grimsby	8	Syston	32	
	Loughborough	6	Small Towns	Bakewell	37
	Mansfield	10		Blidworth	40
Oadby	7	Crowland		43	
Urban Communities				Darley Dale	44
	Evington	13		Deeping St James Village	39
	Littleover	14		Holbeach	42
	The Meadows	12	Long Sutton	38	
Coastal	Cleethorpes	15	Sutton Bridge	41	
	Mablethorpe	16	Uppingham	36	
	Skegness	17	Large Villages	Asfordby	48
Large Towns	Belper	18		Burgh Le Marsh	50
	Boston	27		Caistor	45
	Gainsborough	28		Donington	47
	Ilkeston	22		Market Bosworth	46
	Long Eaton	23	Woodhouse Eaves	49	
	Louth	25	Villages	Lark Hill Village	53
	Market Harborough	19		Middleton by Wirksworth	52
	Melton Mowbray	24		Rosliston	51
	Newark	26		Theddlethorpe	54
	Sleaford	20	Small Villages	Barton in Fabis	55
	Spalding	21		Elmton	57
		Ranby		58	
		St Crispin’s Village		56	
		Marking Sheet		59-60	

LARGE CITY

🏆 Nottingham: Gold Award and Category Winner 174 points

○ Judges Award – the Castle Grounds

Judged on 6th July Judges – Jeff Bates and Peter Benham

Even as wet days go, this was remarkable, with a constant downpour accompanying the judges and the ever-enthusiastic Nottingham Bloom team of Caroline and Julie, supported by many willing staff and volunteers as we visited a wide range of completely new (to the tour) areas of Nottingham. What this proved was how wide the Bloom has spread, and how deep its roots are, in the City. We hope that the new strains of aquatic Antirrhinums and Begonias continue to survive...as well as the splendid Nottingham in Bloom project

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

Many impactful highlights, with the outstanding roundel beds at the Castle better than the judges have ever seen before here – so crisp and well-defined. A tremendous level of horticultural expertise is on show here, in design and implementation. The rockery here is also developing really well. The landscaping at St Ann's Valley Centre is also superb. Horticultural practice continues to be of high quality, with that seen at the University Millennium Garden being especially notable. A real focus of the tour was in community gardening, with Stonebridge City Farm demonstrating that despite the weather excellent crops of vegetables and fruit are achievable. St Ann's Allotments are also carrying out prominent work in fruit growing in particular. The garden at Blue Bell Hill School is developing well, and was so ably explained by the pupils as part of our visit. The floral sculpture trail (the BID project) is once again stunning, with new, vibrant planting in place. Other notable features included the planting outside Mower World and H A Fox, and the containers at the Castle pub (all glimpsed through the misted windows of the vehicle, unfortunately!) It was also good to learn about the continued commitment for new projects in parks, supported through various funding streams and partners, such as the new Café in Woodthorpe Park. The overall impression of green-ness in the City is stunning – perhaps not surprising given the wet weather – and is being enhanced by the efforts of community involvement such as that at Moffat Close and the Science Park. The extensive semi-mature tree planting that has taken place in the City softens the built environment most effectively.

SECTION B

Conservation and environment are clearly at the forefront of Bloom in the City, with so many strengths seen; local food growing, use of peat-free compost as Stonebridge, environmental education there and at St Ann's Allotments, green roofs everywhere – too many things to mention all of them! We also noted the quite remarkable work at the University Jubilee Campus, with so many environmental initiatives in place, at the Science Park and at Blue Bell Hill School. The weather did not assist the 'bee-friendly' garden at Woodthorpe Park to show itself off, but it certainly will be good if the sun ever shines. The street scene is very good, with very little litter or graffiti noted. The innovative approach to tackling both, via mobile phone contact direct to the 'hit squads', is yielding impressive results. A staggering area of pavement has been cleaned, and had gum removed, making the environment so much more pleasant. New stainless steel seats are a big improvement in the City Centre.

SECTION C

As we noted earlier, the Bloom project clearly has wide and deep roots in the City. It was really splendid to visit completely new areas of the City – St Ann's, Sneinton – and hear directly from Carly and Martin about how enthusiastically volunteers are working at Moffat Close. Education at St Ann's (enthusiastically explained at breakneck pace by Richard) and Stonebridge City Farm (Audrey and John doing an equally good job – the combined pest control and duck feeding was most interesting...), as well as at Blue Bell Hill School and via your website, newsletters, Facebook page etc, is excellent. IYN continues to thrive in the City, with well over 30 entries once again. Despite some difficult economic times, it is pleasing to note the financial support from B&Q and the retailers in the City, as well as your numerous 'island' sponsors. The support from Experian in doing 'volunteer days' at Blue Bell Hill School has also been most beneficial.

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

The new route allowed you to show a school and the allotments – well done! – but there is perhaps, as a consequence, a slight fall in ‘impact’. We also feel that so much effort is made to show community activity that there is little room to show off the individual efforts of home-owners in residential gardens around the city.

SECTION B

Little to suggest here. An awful day did not help us to see areas of weakness – if indeed there were any! The changed tour did not include a ‘defined’ wildlife site, but did include the involvement of the Wildlife Trust. We would like to know of your own growing media choice in the Nursery; also the recycling and composting of ‘parks-related’ green waste, used growing media etc – perhaps a note of this in the portfolio?

SECTION C

The tour was well-considered and planned, with very good timing throughout; the weather was an extreme complication, meaning that we did not meet all the ‘planned’ representatives. Perhaps an alternative approach, where we meet some of the people at the end of the tour, could be considered? As last year, we do not feel that you are making the most of the opportunity that the 15 minutes presentation offers to evidence the year round involvement, though the short ‘before’ film at Moffat Close was very effective. If you used electronic media to show pictures and highlights of your campaign, it could then be used as a promotional tool for the Bloom on the internet.

A – 86 B – 45 C – 43 Total 174

CITY

🏆 Northampton: Silver Gilt Award and Category Winner 151 points

○ Judges Award – Bradlaugh Fields park

Judged on 10th July Judges Peter Benham and Jeff Bates

After the initial meet and greet introduction at the magnificent Guild Hall, the judges were taken on an interesting tour, partly on foot and partly in a vehicle, that encompassed examples of the wonderful green spaces that Northampton has to offer, both public and ‘private’, as well as examples of developing community engagement. As ever, a visit to a school – in this case Booth Lane – was a highlight, though honourable mention must also go to the splendid Mereway Allotments. Thanks go to David, Becky and all the many others involved in the organisation of the day.

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

Without a doubt, the greatest strength of the town is the quite magnificent green heritage with its integral treescape. The heritage of 825 ha of parkland and 1.4 million trees is wonderful. The huge Liriodendron in Delapre Abbey Park – in full flower on our visit – can only be described as breathtaking. We were also most impressed with the Walled Gardens at Delapre, where the single gardener and his ‘Friendly’ volunteers are doing a splendid job. We hope that you are able to continue the restoration of the main Abbey and also the Victorian glasshouses, as funds allow. Choices continue to make a considerable positive impact in Abington Park, and we also commend the good outdoor and gardening education taking place in Booth Lane Schools (splendidly presented by the pupils and Kerry a teacher) and the very prolific allotments at Mereway.

SECTION B

The street art – this year the Safari animals – are great fun, enhancing the street scene for all users. We were also pleased to note that there is little in the way of established litter around the town, when viewed as part of the walking tour. Many wildlife areas were seen on the tour, including the meadows in Bradlaugh Fields and the ponds in Eastfield Park. The splendid grounds at Shoosmiths are also being increasingly improved for wildlife use by David Callis’ diligent efforts over the years. We were also impressed with the organisation of the junior community wardens scheme, to develop youngsters as more responsible citizens of the future who care for their environment.

SECTION C

We commend the re-introduction of apprenticeships in the ‘Parks’ section, and also the considerable levels of community engagement via IYN and the range of garden competitions. Partnership is clearly the major feature of your entry – this we applaud as being the future and encourage you to continue to grow this. Two BIDs – with the unusual one at Brackmills being particularly commendable – are important to your efforts, as is the central joint working of the Borough Council and Enterprise. We are pleased to note the continued support of the Mayor and Deputy Leader of the Council.

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Whilst there is clearly a theme to the seasonal bedding (red, white and blue), it has little innovation or impact in its implementation; there is also a lack of height to most beds: the addition of specimen architectural dot plants or a backcloth of permanent planting would enhance your displays. Good horticultural practice in terms of initial disbudding / pinching of the Salvias to encourage bushing out and floral bed maintenance needs to be improved. You should consider a ‘Bloom team’ to generate designs, and you may well benefit from visiting other areas where such expertise can be seen, to give ideas for more inspirational work in the future. Try to increase engagement with more partners in the Bloom tour; we saw lovely grounds to churches, but without any awareness on their part. It would be very sensible to let them know that we have seen the quality of their efforts and the impact that their work has on passing visitors and residents.

SECTION B

In last year’s recommendations, we suggested that you include someone from the Wildlife Trust as a useful addition to the expertise met on the tour; we still think that this is a good suggestion. We also indicated that you have issues with the appearance of street furniture, fly-posting and graffiti; these are still areas which would benefit from

further raising of the profile (fly-posting seen on the DNA sculpture; severe graffiti issues on London Road bus shelters etc). You should consider persuading the local media to address anti-social behaviour as a campaigning theme for the next few months. There are also very weedy and unkempt areas along roadsides approaching town from Delapre Abbey – again this was mentioned in 2011 as a problem, detracting from the overall appearance of the town. With regard to resource management, whilst we are very impressed by the Carbon reduction and food waste recycling that is taking place, there is also scope to give more information on matters such as peat use reduction in the various composts used and distribute compost from the recycling process to support Bloom projects.

SECTION C

We hope that you are able to show engagement with some IYN activity that takes place in the community and residential areas (not just the Parks) as part of future tours. You should also aim to increase the awareness of and entries to the Bloom competitions you organise. These are the areas that will have the greatest direct impact on the lives of the people of the Borough. It would be very useful if some direct business engagement could be shown; for example someone from Shoosmiths meeting the judges to explain the benefits that they see from their support of the Bloom. The initiative of the St David' Jubilee Orchard is excellent – could this be part of the judging route? Try to keep to time, please; the tour was more than 1 hour over the allotted duration (note: marking was not affected).

A – 74 B – 37 C – 40 Total 151

SMALL CITIES

🏆 Loughborough in Bloom: Gold Award and Category Winner 178 points

🏆 East Midlands in Bloom Award for Horticultural Excellence within Parks, sponsored by Greenspace - Queen's Park

○ Judges Award – Chapman Street Horticultural Club

Judged on 12th July Judges Peter Benham and Martin Hardy

This is an important year for Loughborough as one of our regional finalists in the national Britain in Bloom competition. Loughborough is also focused on the Olympic Games with Team GB setting up home at the University. This year additional hanging baskets and floral displays were added together with more plantings of wildflowers on verges and in housing areas. We also saw a number of “It’s your Neighbourhood” entrants and noted that they now have 23 communities entering. A new business improvement district (BID) in the shopping areas has also embraced the Bloom and is focussing on the environmental quality. The success and support of the Bloom is also imbedded within the latest Council Corporate Plan.

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The Olympic themed floral displays in Queens Park with the synchronized swimming legs emerging from the flower beds near the museum and the new sponsored Olympic rings beds which greet you at the main entrance were very innovative. The increase of floral displays by the Council, University and the BID has enhanced the impact.

SECTION B

The use of 211kg wild flowers seed sown along lengths of the main grass verges of the A6004 and on housing areas. The area shown at Stonebow Washlands was a very good example of environmental management utilising grazing cattle supplied by a local farmer. It was pleasing to hear that the impressive St Pauls Bell casing will shortly be located in Queens Park further enhancing your local heritage.

SECTION C

The judges again found that all the groups they met had already made project plans for future years.

We were very impressed with the amount of support and commitment the Bloom Board receives from all its partners and dedicated local individuals.

The three pupil guides at Mountfield’s Lodge School were very professional, knowledgeable and more than able to show us around their school grounds.

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

The BID should assist in actively involving more retailers to be involved in the Bloom. Industrial areas around Loughborough need also to be encouraged to take more interest in their landscaped frontages.

You could strengthen links between groups who produce plants as part of a project with those who wish to undertake and improve their neighbourhood. There are a number of opportunities to increase areas of sustainable planting with permanent dot plants, attractive shrubs and herbaceous plants to add height and texture to your seasonal planting schemes.

SECTION B

Whilst Charnwood has an excellent recycling record, it would be good to see Bloom groups having access to some of recycled compost to support their projects.

The standard of environmental quality on judging day was high; however it would be good to meet someone who can explain how these standards are achieved.

SECTION C

During the presentation it would be useful to include more examples of all year round involvement showing Autumn, Winter and Spring events. This would expand on the section within the portfolio.

We do not wish to temper local enthusiasm; however at some sites the numbers of residents and supporters of projects who wished to engage with the judges was a little overwhelming.

It would also been good to meet the members of the South Asian Women’s Project as an update on their project.

A – 90 B – 45 C – 43 Total 178

Oadby and Wigston: Gold Award 174 points

○ Judges Award – Two Steeples Oasis floral displays

Judged on 12th July Judges Peter Benham and Martin Hardy

The day of the tour was sunny. We enjoyed the presentation which was excellent as usual. A number of new sites were shown to the judges including John Fisher School and Aylestone Lane Allotments. The Council was very positive about “greening the Borough.” They were keen to encourage the community in the Pride of Borough Group. Judges were pleased with the horticultural standards at the Botanic Gardens and impressed with the Jubilee bed at the Peace Memorial Park.

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

Colour schemes were generally good and appropriate. Community gardening was strong with good examples from residents at Wickham Road, Canon Close and Hill Way. Allotments are well supported and thriving with different groups working together.

SECTION B

Developments at Brocks Hill Park are positive and development is being done to attract more users. Sculpture in the Botanic Garden was interesting, thought provoking and fitted in well. Litter pickers covering each town were very good. Judges noted that more interpretation boards at Brocks Hill had been introduced.

The Aylestone Lane Allotment Community have been proactive in installing 1,000 litre recycled water butts, this year’s weather has proved their worth in collecting the plentiful rain water.

SECTION C

Since last year groups have achieved their objectives and are planning new ones. Braille plant labels from Friends Group at Peace Memorial Park are good.

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

It is disappointing that the frequency of grass cutting has been reduced as it impacts on the presentation of the Borough. We would like to see more businesses being involved.

SECTION B

More local heritage could be added to the tour and made more of.

SECTION C

Multi-cultural groups need more encouragement to take part in bloom projects. Press coverage of the tour was poor from local Media.

A – 88 B – 44 C – 42 Total 174

Grimsby: Gold Award 172 points

**🏆 East Midlands in Bloom Best School Garden, sponsored by the Art Department - Lisle Marsden
Church of England Primary Academy, Grimsby**

○ **Judges Award – Scartho Community Eco-Garden**

Judged on 3rd July Judges Peter Benham and Martin Hardy

The tour started at the Town Hall. We were pleased and surprised by the presentation of a cheque for £12,500 to the Chair of Grimsby in Bloom from the Town Centre Forum to support future activities. St Andrews Hospice was very good and the new planting at Heron Close looked good. We would like to commend Alan Fletcher for the support he has given to the Bloom over the years and wish him well on his retirement.

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

Colour themes are good this year. The residential and community gardening was strongly supported and to a high standard. Road verges are being sown with wild flowers and we hope these will develop well in the future.

SECTION B

Road verge wild flower sowing was very good. Improvements to shopping centre are good. We were interested in the history of Clee Village on our tour.

SECTION C

The many groups involved with Bloom are all working together on projects. The Polish War Memorial was very interesting and fitted in well. The strong community commitment in Grimsby was seen at Scartho with a new garden and planters. The area could be an It's your Neighbourhood entry or even an Urban Community. Press support is very good.

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Sustainability in planting is good but there should still retention of colour from bedding in prominent areas. More town centre involvement should be encouraged.

SECTION B

We would like to see wild life areas in more detail.

SECTION C

We would like to see more of a breakdown of the input from the various groups to see how Grimsby in Bloom is expanding and raising its profile.

A – 86 B – 41 C – 45 Total 172

Chesterfield: Silver Gilt Award 152 points

○ **Judges Award – the Britannia Inn**

Judged on 2nd July Judges Peter Benham and Martin Hardy

This year the judges visit to Chesterfield highlighted a number of completed projects, with a Diamond Jubilee flowerbed and a street banners competition both designed by local children. Also on the route were Queens Park and Holmebrook Valley Park, and its new play area. New sponsorship arrangements for traffic islands are now in place and a new plant wall in the shopping area depicting the famous spire has recently been installed. The judges also visited Spire Infants School enjoying some fresh raspberries hand-picked by the children and visited Rhodesia Allotments to see a wide range of crops being grown to a high standard. Chesterfield is moving forwards, with strong backing from Destination Chesterfield and more plans for funding new projects are already being planned for the future.

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

Attractive floral displays themed on the Olympic Torch and the Golden Jubilee. New sustainable plantings on traffic islands using herbaceous plantings. A low number of vacant retail premises were seen on the route.

SECTION B

There were some good examples of campaigns to tackle litter, dog fouling. A number of initiatives to increase the range of wildlife and improve natural habitats at the Crematorium and Holmebrook Valley Park. The use of the spire symbol in designs and a new vertical wall planting

SECTION C

Support from Destination Chesterfield, HLF and new ERD funding has already delivered a number of new schemes and it is understood that there are more earmarked proposals in the pipeline. The sponsorship of traffic islands and Bloom competitions is commended and those businesses involved are proud to support these initiatives. The school garden, Jubilee bed and the banner competition are very good campaigns to involve the local children in the community.

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Having achieved the sponsorship of the traffic islands businesses in the shopping areas, attention should be focussed on increasing the numbers of sponsored hanging baskets and floral features on business premises. The route should include more examples of your bloom-winning residential gardens and community gardening projects outside parks.

SECTION B

There was limited information on recycling of domestic waste and minimising the use of natural resources. The new clean litter bins contrast with some of the older street furniture which needs cleaning, repainting and refurbishment.

SECTION C

More community interest groups need to be involved with the Bloom, its organisation and delivering small projects. More evidence on the year round involvement of the community needs to be demonstrated. Erection of Banners needed to be in place much earlier, as seen in previous years.

A – 81 B – 34 C – 37 Total 152

Mansfield: Silver Award 138 points○ **Judges Award – Maun Conservation Group**

Judged on 4th July Judges Peter Benham and Martin Hardy

This year Mansfield returned to the East Midlands in Bloom Competition after a one year break. The judges were shown a number of parks where we were met by enthusiastic and ambitious members of the community. These ranged from the historic Carr Bank Park to a new park facility Fisher Lane Skate Plaza completed in 2010. The work of the Mansfield Bid was also showcased with over 100 floral features and baskets funded by the traders. The central area also has a number of prominent pieces of modern public art including the Feather, Mansfield Man and High Heels which nestle amongst more traditional and historic buildings. Despite the heavy rain the judges viewed the good work at King Edwards School with a memorial garden and a vegetable plot.

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

Evidence was shown that the Friends groups undertake an active role in managing their open space through gardening activities with raised beds at Yeoman Hill Park being a notable example. The design of a number of new sustainable planting schemes was good and should provide attractive floral features as they establish in future years. It was encouraging to see how Lottery, Section 106 funding and Councillor ward funding schemes were all supporting new

SECTION B

A number of groups were undertaking conservation work such as the Maun Conservation group and the Council are also undertaking more natural wildflower plantings on a number of sites. A number of projects to celebrate local heritage were shown to judges and new public art schemes to improve the street scene. Mansfield has also successfully delivered a number of Heritage Lottery Projects with plans to undertake further works to its parks in the future.

SECTION C

There were lots of projects to improve the parks in Mansfield which have been delivered through consultation with residents and park based friends groups using Section 106 funding and council resources. The initiatives of the Mansfield BID supported by traders are having a positive impact to improve shopping, encourage business and enhance the street environment. A number of regeneration projects such as the proposed bus station, completion of new housing developments and new private business investment should all enhance the vibrancy of Mansfield in the future.

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

The additional of permanent dot plants, architectural specimen shrubs and additional soil would help improve the height and interest of the bedding schemes in Titchfield Park. Perhaps the Council could offer specialist advice and maintenance services to businesses on the industrial estate to deliver higher standards of landscape and environmental maintenance? We saw some good examples of community gardening at St Edmunds Community Orchard, however there were no examples in residential areas, within the grounds of churches, community centres and neighbourhoods.

SECTION B

The use of composted recycled garden waste for Bloom and parks project should be explored. Perhaps some of the material could be given to residents who pay the collection service. Some of the areas visited had evidence of dog fouling, litter and graffiti. A proportion of the street furniture in the bid area had been repainted and the remainder requires to be brought up to a similar. Pedestrian signage to key buildings such as the Museum and new advice Centre when it opens also needs including.

SECTION C

There is no Bloom coordination committee and maybe this initiative should be adopted as part of an existing initiative or partnership rather than create another new group. Include more community participation with evidence of year round activity and structure the 15 minute presentation. The route needs to be reviewed and shortened to showcase examples from each of the judging criteria. The inclusion of a route map and having a Bloom chairman or a smaller number of key officers to escort the judges on the route would also help.

A – 69 B – 36 C – 33 Total 138

Daventry: Certificate of Achievement 76 points

○ **Judges Award – Drayton Residents Association**

Judged on 13th July Judges Peter Benham and Martin Hardy

Daventry is a new entry and had a short lead in time. The visit was as much about providing supportive advice as actual judging. The entry needs some refinement with stronger partnerships being developed. This could include forming a group to steer the bloom entry for next year. A number of areas have potential to improve, such as the town centre and housing. Good work is being done by small community groups such as Drayton Residents Association. Judges also acknowledge the continued achievement of a Green Flag Award at Daventry Country Park

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The green spaces are linked by a cycle route and the town has a number of established natural water features as shown at Lang Farm Estate. Daventry Town Council is to be congratulated on their efforts to provide some hanging baskets in the Town Centre.

SECTION B

Daventry Country Park is well used by locals, has good educational facilities for groups and acts as a magnet for wildlife. The recycling at 58% is good although it would be good to see the recycled compost used in bloom activities. The Council also have a number of projects to reduce the impact of climate change and the environment.

SECTION C

Community building programme could be strengthened and there are a number of areas of synergy where groups could co-operate on projects. The work being done by Tony Newby on the community allotments is already showing benefits to local society, and is supported by generous grants. The new Daventry Allotments and Gardens Association offer additional opportunity to engage with residents.

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Grass cutting this year is difficult, but more attention to finishing details around obstacles will improve the appearance. Resident and community gardening needs to be encouraged by the examples shown at Drayton. The entry needs to include schools, residents, local businesses and the support of the industry based at the Drayton Fields Estate.

SECTION B

There are a number of interesting heritage features and these need to be showcased on the tour e.g. canal, history of radio masts and town centre conservation area. Street furniture looks tired and a full condition audit needs to be undertaken with an action plan agreed. Compost from the recycling activities could be given to residents to pump prime new community projects.

SECTION C

Support and sponsorship for community projects should be sought and encouraged; there are a number large businesses located in the area. During the tour we were told of a number of activities that take place, but they need to be highlighted more in the presentation and shown. Residents should be made more aware of the Bloom using the Council's magazine, through the local Media and organising local competitions for all ages to participate. The logistics of the route need improving with key stakeholders meeting the judges.

A – 29 B – 28 C – 19 Total 76

URBAN COMMUNITIES

The Meadows: Silver Gilt Award and Category Winner 154 points

○ **Judges Award – the Library Garden**

Judged on 10th July Judges Richard Stephen and Ian Cooke

Despite the drizzly rain, this visit was a joy from the colourful meadow in Queen's Park, to the sheltered green oasis at the back of the library, the colourful murals in Mundella park, the school in its wildlife rich grounds and ending at the productive Arkwright Meadows Community Garden.

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The colourful environmental improvements to the 'terraces' with seating and planters is astonishing. The various wildlife areas and school gardens at Greenfields Community gardens show great dedication and an obvious value to the environment. The carefully conceived and well used library garden

SECTION B

The sympathetic design of the flood-works and inclusion of wildflowers in the reinstatement works. Arkwright Meadows Community gardens for demonstration and production of a wide range of crops and involving participation from many parts of the community. Good hard landscaping and use of sculpture in the Library Garden.

SECTION C

Mundella Park as an example of a community led public space initiative with the colourful murals and play area. The innovative forward thinking and planning with regard to the loss of the lime trees and subsequent plans for using the timber. The success of the work in the terraces in being an example and sharing their experience with others.

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Consider including the grounds of a church on the tour for the future. Try to show participation by more business premises. In addition to the colourful terraces it would be good to see a colourful feature area of some sort, possibly refurbishing the traffic island when the tram works are complete.

SECTION B

Try to include more about the area's rich heritage both on the tour and in the portfolio. Provide more information relating to recycling projects and overall targets. Appropriate Interpretation Boards for the Wildflower areas would enhance the entry e.g. Embankment

SECTION C

Provide more examples of Press Coverage, communications, newsletters etc. Try to evidence winter activities, bulb planting, tree planting, clean-up days, fund-raisers etc. Seek more support from small local businesses as well as the big funding initiatives.

A – 77 B – 38 C – 39 Total 154

Evington: Silver Award 144 points

○ Judges Award – the Burnaby Gardens in Evington Park

Judged on 12th July Judges Richard Stephen and Ian Cooke

The tour of this new entry was a tightly packed three hours during which the judges were whisked around a host of attractive areas, meeting the numerous people involved in making Evington a very vibrant environment. It was clear to see that the local community were fully supporting the 'bloom' entry and were keen to talk and meet with the judges at every opportunity.

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The well maintained Evington Park with its many areas of interest including the floral bedding, bowling green, ponds, meadows and outdoor exercise area. The Orchard in the Arboretum maintained by volunteers producing fruit for community use. The gardens in Landscape Drive demonstrating horticultural skills and community in action. Good planters at the Downing Drive shops.

SECTION B

The research into the history of Piggy's Hollow, the library display and printed information. The various wildflower areas at the school, the Village Green, Sedgebrook Road, Piggy's Hollow and in Evington Park. The freedom from litter and other nuisances throughout the area.

SECTION C

Widespread community participation from many sectors and ages of the population. The Bloom logos on planters and flower beds promoting the campaign. The programme of year-round activities related to the Bloom campaign.

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

It would be good to see the allotments on a future visit and also for a link to be forged between the allotments and the adjacent school. More focused impact with the use of planters and flower beds which are currently too spread out and lack impact. Needs WOW somewhere! A more uniform standard of maintenance is needed on verges and other grassed areas. A permanent interpretation panel is needed for the Burnaby Gardens area. The Dove could contribute significantly to the floral impact at the Downing Drive shops

SECTION B

More evidence of recycling such as compost heaps, water butts and other initiatives. Some art in the landscape, which need not be costly, such as carved fallen trees or other ephemeral organic art, possibly involving students and maybe recycled materials. Make more of the Shady Lane and Arboretum history with a possible trail leaflet or interpretation board.

SECTION C

Evidence of wider press coverage and maybe local radio and TV – press releases, even if they aren't printed! A more specific contribution from the Youth Councillors and youth club. Financial sponsorship from local businesses and shops.

A – 66 B – 36 C – 42 Total 144

Littleover: Silver Award 126 points

o Judges Award – the Friends Group

Judged on 10th July Judges Richard Stephen and Ian Cooke

The judges were welcomed to Littleover by members of the 'In bloom' Community Action Group. Located on the outskirts of Derby Littleover has a wealth of heritage which is still evident today. Despite the weather over the last few months, the 'Action Group' have worked tirelessly to improve Littleover's environment and to ensure that the judges had an interesting and enjoyable visit.

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

Littleover Allotments were looking splendid. Congratulations to the White Swan for their contribution. Beautifully landscaped traffic Island sponsored by Derby High School. Sunnysdale open space is a wonderful facility for local residents

SECTION B

The Littleover Allotment Conservation Area is an excellent project. Very good work carried out by the Friends of Mickleover at Sunnysdale Park. Littleover has wealth of information about its heritage. Well done to the 'Bloom' group for persuading retail / businesses to allow water butts on their land. Overall entry generally free of litter and weeds.

SECTION C

Promoting the 'Bloom' during the Olympic torch visit. Good evidence of engaging Littleover's children. Good to see some solid support from local businesses. Good work carried out by those volunteers working in the church grounds

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Important to create some floral impact through the main street – a few large containers clustered is better than lots of little ones scattered. Try to encourage Derwent Housing to provide some planted containers. Consider showing the judges some of your other parks

SECTION B

Consider providing documented evidence relating to Littleover's wealth of heritage (leaflet / Interpretation Board). Keep working to pedestrianise part of the main street. Consider where you might be able to introduce some 'Art' into the landscape. Museum of old tools sounds interesting. Consider how you might develop this resource into the tour or within the portfolio. Some park / street furniture was looking tired – in need of refurbishment

SECTION C

Children are obviously involved in the 'bloom' would be nice to visit a school / meet some of the children involved. Consider providing a little more written information about some of the photographs in the portfolio. Important to try to get more of the local shops to 'do their own thing' in support of your efforts. Developing your own garden / best pub competition will enhance your 'bloom' entry. Would be good to see your own magazine and evidence of 'local' Press support throughout the year

A – 55 B – 37 C – 34 Total 126

COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Cleethorpes: Gold Award and Category Winner 171 points

○ **Judges Award – Art in the Landscape**

Judged on 10th July Judges Sharon Thomas and Richard Welburn

Cleethorpes is a pleasant and vibrant coastal town located on the north Lincolnshire coast. Despite the prevailing North Sea breeze the towns Parks and Open Spaces retain a traditional quality attractive to both residents and visitors

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The attractive and well maintained themed floral display on Sea Road. Pier Gardens together with the Garden planted by Beacon Hill Allotment holders. The use of public art within landscape displays e.g. The Dolphin Anchor sculpture in Dolphin Gardens and carved owl features on the highway roundabout opposite the Adelaide Hotel

SECTION B

Overall cleanliness of the judging route – the cleanliness of the beach and resource input was noted in particular. The use of public art within the landscape – including the saucy seaside postcard murals

SECTION C

Extensive media publicity and fund raising activities including Fundraising Ball. Ability to maintain high quality floral displays and impact despite reduction in funding income. Inclusion of Allotment member representation on judging route

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Meridian Point retail centre – remove visible weeds in shrubberies to main road frontage. Haverstoe Park Sensory Garden – in need of weeding and general improvement regarding plant quality

SECTION B

The Rotary Club sponsored signs in Haverstoe Park need to be replaced / upgraded. Sea Road planters – raise and relocate the interpretation signs within the beds to improve visibility and user interest

SECTION C

Consider broadening representation of supporting organisations during judging. Maintain momentum re diversification of themed attractions e.g. postcards

A – 87 B – 43 C – 41 Total 171

Mablethorpe: Silver Award 143 points

○ Judges Award – the Galleon Bed and the volunteers who created it

Judged on 12th July Judges Sharon Thomas and Richard Welburn

It was a pleasure to see tourists and locals enjoying the beaches at Mablethorpe on a rare sunny and warm afternoon. There is an enthusiastic community who are all working hard to improve their areas, this will stand Mablethorpe in good stead for the future, as the momentum builds and the improvements expand

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The themed bedding at the Dunes Gardens to represent the 2012 events was colourful and well thought out. The themed beds at the new Galleon bed and the Dolphin were colourful and appropriate in this seaside resort. The Trusthorpe Triangle area is a huge improvement and a welcome site at the entrance to the resort. The seed to plate project has come a long way since last year.

SECTION B

The area was relatively clean and free from graffiti taking into account the number of visitors to the resort. Queens Park was an improvement from last year, the painting schedule and colour theme really brightened up this area and gave a welcoming feel, the paths had been improved and the wildflower areas were an interesting feature

SECTION C

There are plenty of bloom initiatives being developed; it will be good so see these reach their full potential over the coming years. The community participation in Mablethorpe is increasing and is a credit to all involved. The new Mablethorpe in Bloom logo is a step forward and is being used throughout the resort to brand the area

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

There was some weed evident in bedding, particularly chickweed. We would encourage the group to develop the galleon bed further; it will be an eye catching feature on the corner. There were some large gaps in the shrub beds at Queen's Park; this could be shown in the portfolio or presentation for year round effect. Try to encourage more businesses to become involved in the Bloom, similar to that shown at the Dunes family Entertainment Centre

SECTION B

The judges would have liked to have visited a conservation area and some local heritage features; opportunities may have been missed on the tour to point out areas of interest. In the portfolio the Railway Walk was mentioned, but there are no pictures to show the improvement work.

SECTION C

It would be useful to fully utilise the portfolio and allocated time for a presentation, to be able to evidence to the judges, year round involvement, year round horticultural displays, display facts and figures, such as recycling %, sponsorship amounts etc.

A – 70 B – 32 C – 41 Total 143

Skegness: Silver Award 141 points

○ Judges Award – Sea View Walk

Judged on 12th July Judges Richard Welburn and Sharon Thomas

A pleasant and vibrant resort on the Lincolnshire coast, judges were welcomed to Skegness by all too unfamiliar (for 2012) sunshine and warm weather. A good omen for the start of a well organised and rewarding visit

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

Extensive use of floral troughs and tiered planters along seafront. Attractive areas of seasonal bedding plants e.g. Natureland frontage, Compass Gardens. Increased use of sustainable planting as opposed to seasonal bedding e.g. Panda's Palace

SECTION B

Gibraltar Point Nature Reserve. Church Farm Museum. On-going maintenance of Sea View Walk re public access. Phased replacement of litter bins. Boating Lake - improvements to visual appearance and visitor experience ,old fence removed, new signage

SECTION C

Encouraging the participation of young people in ongoing foreshore footpath access project. Continuing development of Church Farm Museum and Gibraltar Point Nature Reserve. Active participation of the Skegness Town Partnership Ltd

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Try to deal with visible annual weeds that are present in many bedding displays e.g. adjacent to Bowling greens. Bedding plants / roses in need of deadheading, e.g. geraniums, begonias (generally throughout all displays), rose beds at top of sunken garden. There is untidy open space, weeds, long grass (sunken garden) immediately adjacent to attractive restored open space – lakeside restoration (stone chipping / sustainable planting) which should be dealt with if possible. Consider information panel to explain intention to refurbish in 2013. Profile year on year achievements.

SECTION B

There is visible graffiti e.g. 'folly' castle wall and wall sign; try to increase awareness of the adverse impacts of this issue. Consider increasing use of public art to add interest and diversity to landscape displays / local heritage interpretation. Handrails to steps leading to secret garden next to Bowling Greens should be painted. Profile year on year achievements

SECTION C

Increased evidence of business and private sector funding and practical project support. Profile year on year achievements

A – 71 B – 37 C – 33 Total 141

LARGE TOWNS

Belper: Gold Award and Category Winner 173 points

○ **Judges Award – Wyver Lane Nature Reserve**

Judged on 13th July Judges Doug Stacey and Richard Stephen

As with most other entries, it was not the best of days to judge Belper, but through the misty rain it was clear to see that the Bloom's efforts provided a much brighter picture of the town. From the Jubilee – themed bedding displays to the splendid wildlife sites there was much to appreciate. Throughout it all we were pleased to note the further development of the more inclusive Bloom committee, and the encouraging numbers of volunteers. All this augers well for the future. Whilst by no means the only example, the sense of community engendered by this campaign is characterised by the generous contribution made by Peter Davis at the Beaurepaire Garden, and the pride shown by the Whitemoor Centre students who help to maintain it. Well done to all involved.

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The effectiveness of the Jubilee themed flower beds in the Memorial Gardens, Field Lane and the River Gardens, showing a remarkable amount of colour despite the bad weather. It was good to note the involvement of pupils from Belper School in this work. The Flying Geese Roundabout was looking very good. The tranquil, well planted and maintained gardens of St John's Chapel, also the delightful high quality gardens at Meadow Court which are a great credit to the Warden and residents. Further permanent planting at Belper River Gardens, greatly assisted by the Friends Group and helping in the achievement of Green Flag status

SECTION B

Important contributions to the town's biodiversity are being made by the Green Flag Belper Parks, the Wyver Lane Nature Reserve, parts of the River Gardens, the cemetery and primary school. It was pleasing to see some very good examples of art in the landscape and the efforts made to maintain good quality street furniture. The town's main cemetery was looking good and the chapel restoration has been particularly successful. The generally very good standard of cleanliness around the town.

SECTION C

It was pleasing to note the further development of the Bloom Committee, its enthusiasm and connections with many other supportive local groups. The high profile banners, widespread notices in shop windows, new fundraising Open Garden scheme, links with Radio Derby, are along with other initiatives (Town Crier) great ways of raising campaign awareness. In the current financial climate it was good to see the level of support given by local traders

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Plant some further trees on the boundary of the War Memorial Gardens to help screen the visually intrusive Selway Signs development. Consider ways of increasing the scale of floral display in the Market Place to make a 'big wow impact'. Support the splendid Friends of Belper River Gardens in the next phase of permanent planting and at future judging ensure that **all** weeds are removed and gaps in existing beds are replanted

SECTION B

Whilst generally very clean, closer attention needs to be given to the removal of weeds in some gutters and areas of paving. Whilst recycling arrangements are good, future presentations would benefit from a clearer explanation of how the Bloom is working in conjunction with others towards a more sustainable Belper. Consider ways of increasing the heritage element into the town's entry.

SECTION C

In future portfolios endeavour to obtain greater local press coverage of the current year's campaign. The Transition Town Belper projects are exciting involving initiatives, and wonderful opportunities for improving the car park entrance to St John's Chapel and the station. The judges will be delighted to see the progress made next year

A – 89 B – 41 C – 43 Total 173

Market Harborough in Bloom: Gold Award 172 points

○ Judges Award – St Nicholas Churchyard

Judged on 11th July Judges Doug Stacey and Richard Stephen

Market Harborough in Bloom Volunteers characterise the indomitable spirit of the Bloom. For the second year running they have accepted the responsibility for this entry. Only days before judging a major fire devastated part of their depot/nursery, and major road works disrupted a significant floral feature by the station. Undaunted, they were able to show us an exceptionally high quality entry. Congratulations are due to the group for receiving, only a few weeks ago the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service – the national benchmark for excellence in volunteering. Ambitious plans have been made for future projects

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

Further extension of the Millennium Mile through the town centre via Welland Park, makes the journey to the centre a more attractive option for walkers and cyclists. The School Planter Competition where schools decorate containers and plant to reflect the Jubilee or the Olympics which are now positioned to enhance the Town Square. The excellence of the Green Flag Welland Park (including the lions – a roaring success) and the Memorial Gardens. Contributions from many good residential gardens. Little Bowden Churchyard maintained by ‘the friends’ was a joy to behold.

SECTION B

Further commendable improvements made in recycling and sustainability. High standards of cleanliness were observed throughout the town including the River Welland. The continuing restoration of the Hammond Arboretum and the planting of green bus shelter roofs in the town centre. The very successful regeneration of the historic canal basin

SECTION C

The valuable contributions made to the campaign by many businesses, schools, and voluntary groups e.g. Andrew Granger and Co and other sponsors, the Three Swans, Sugar Loaf, Stamps Funeral Directors and many pubs. The success of the voluntary schools coordinator role on the committee. The great support received from local radio and the press

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Give high priority to replacing dead trees in the town centre with appropriately sized specimens. Encourage the Fire Service to improve their station frontage. Explore ways in which the impact of floral features can be increased in the town centre following the loss of council provided displays

SECTION B

Consider with the Academy whether a more inviting entrance could be designed for the Hammond Arboretum. The present one fails to match the importance of the collection. Interest in the historic canal basin could be heightened by the addition of more interpretation panels supported by additional floral displays. More prominent heritage information would also be helpful at the centre e.g. near the old Grammar School and the Butter Market. It was pleasing to see liaison with Transition Town M.H. The work with this and other wildlife groups could usefully receive more prominence in future judging

SECTION C

Following the redundancy of the council’s major support officer to the Bloom, request that a replacement be designated to coordinate with the team of MHIB. A most interesting portfolio which next year should nevertheless be limited to the 15 pages (30 sides) allowed. Try to recruit some younger people to the management group to ensure a sustainable campaign

A – 87 B – 42 C – 43 Total 172

Sleaford: Silver Gilt Award 161 points

○ **Judges Award – Greylees Estate**

Judged on 4th July Judges Doug Stacey and Richard Stephen

Great credit is due to the highly committed group of Sleaford in Bloom volunteers ably led by Sleafordian of the Year, Ada Tretheway. Their community based entry involves a lot of hard work, close liaison with many other local groups and sensitivity to their local heritage and natural environment. The contribution they make to their community improves the quality of life for all.

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

Increased floral impact made by the grouping of baskets on lamp posts and the effectiveness of the trailing red geraniums. The many good residential gardens (Westgate Park, Graylees Estate) and appropriate industrial estate landscaping at East Road. The valuable contributions made by many business premises e.g. Interflora, Barge and Bottle, Carre Arms Hotel, McDonalds and Coggesford Mill / café.

SECTION B

The beauty and tranquillity provided by the wildflower areas and natural habitats at Sleaford Cemetery, Lollycocks Meadows, Mareham Pastures Nature Reserve and the bypass planting. The ways in which reminders of the local heritage are provided through many excellent examples of art in the landscape e.g. along the banks of the Sleas and in Mareham Pastures Nature Reserve. Very good standards of cleanliness throughout the town

SECTION C

The commendable involvement of so many individuals, groups and the press in the campaign, and the excellent record of all year round activities shown in your portfolio. Good to see that there are further plans in the pipeline that will ensure the sustainability of the 'bloom'

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Consider ways of announcing 'Sleaford is in Bloom' at the various gateways into the town. It is encouraging to see the increasing number of privately provided business displays. Encourage the local press to promote this trend further

SECTION B

This section is an area of strength. Continue more of the same, except arrange regular weeding of hard and soft landscaping at Wyvern Corner

SECTION C

Consider how to involve more younger people in the campaign. Possibly enlisting a younger person's link member on your management group? Continue developing links with the 'business' sector and expanding your sponsorship portfolio

A – 78 B – 43 C – 40 Total 161

Spalding: Silver Gilt Award 161 points

🏆 East Midlands in Bloom Award for Best Retail/Commercial Premises – Springfields Retail Outlets and Festival Gardens Complex

○ Judges Award – floral displays in Vine Street, Francis Street and the Crescent

Judged on 9th July Judges Doug Stacey and Richard Stephen

Spalding's population continues to increase with many new housing development around the town. Fortunately many of these are well landscaped and present attractive front gardens which featured more prominently on this year's judging tour. The River Welland and Coronation Channel provide rich habitats for wildlife and refreshing green corridors throughout the town which is a real asset. Springfields has achieved a Green Flag award this year, and the town is fortunate in having such a high quality accessible garden. This complements the beautiful historic Ayscoughfee Hall gardens. The judging tour was unfortunately disrupted a little by unforeseen roadworks, causing some difficulties along the route, but it was good to see some further improvement especially in Section A.

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

Continuing improvements to the splendid displays in the Crescent, Francis Street and Vine Street area by local businesses. The very high standards achieved at Springfields including the Green Flag award. The very good presentation of many residential gardens. Contributions by the railway staff at the station, many public house displays and the new barrier baskets on Swan Street.

SECTION B

We were pleased to see the grounds of the Monks House Eco School and to receive a confident presentation by pupil Danielle about the development of their new pond. The installation by the Bloom of bat boxes and bee hotels along the river bank and their support of a better management plan for these areas. The utilisation of the Community Pay Back workforce and the Fly Swat schemes.

SECTION C

Funding and community support is good especially for Section A. It was good to have the active involvement of local press and radio on judging day. The commitment of local councillor budgets for desirable Bloom schemes. Good to see the Old Forge Museum as part of the tour, looking forward to its completion and its contribution to next year's entry. Well done!

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Ayscoughfee Hall gardens show some improvement on last year, but available resources appear to be barely adequate and need to be improved as and when possible. Every effort should be made to safeguard this valuable town asset. Seedling trees and bindweed growing in some of the shrubberies alongside the River Welland require removal. Try to include a visit to church grounds as part of the tour.

SECTION B

Our diverted route involved Enterprise Way where litter etc remains a problem. Two new developments have good well maintained landscapes. Raise overall standards to this quality. The quality of street furniture across the tour was quite variable, try to ensure standards are maintained throughout.

SECTION C

Consider reintroducing competitions to encourage participation e.g. Best Front garden and Best Pub involving everyone in the process. Seek some younger recruits possibly from newcomers to the town to help run Spalding in Bloom. Try to encourage greater participation by the retailers around the Sheep Market and Hall Place

A – 83 B – 38 C – 40 Total 161

Ilkeston: Silver Gilt Award 157 points

🏆 East Midlands in Bloom Award for the least littered environment (jointly awarded)

🏆 East Midlands in Bloom Award – best Jubilee bed (jointly awarded)

○ **Judges Award – the General Havelock public house**

Judged on 13th July Judges Doug Stacey and Richard Stephen

It was pleasing to see further improvements at Ilkeston despite the difficult financial climate. This has been made possible by the small, but able and enthusiastic leadership team who are making the most of scarce resources. Community volunteers are being successfully encouraged to give their time and talents to a wide range of projects. Highlights of the visit included the Hallam Fields Eco School, Straws Bridge Nature reserve, the splendid Jubilee-themed bedding at White Lion Square, and the lovely Green Flag Victoria Park. These are beacons to be emulated across the town. Encourage all to aspire to these standards

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The regeneration of Victoria park over the past 3/4years is a major success for the town. The quality of horticultural design and planting is commendable, especially the appropriate restoration and interpretation of the long herbaceous border and adjoining flower beds. Quality presentation throughout the park reflects its' Green Flag status. Benefiting from early planting, five Union Jack flower beds on the White Lion Square roundabout were very well done: simple, necessarily bold in scale and brilliantly celebrating the Jubilee. A few more businesses are involved. We were particularly impressed by the creatively designed new garden at the General Havelock public house. The new planting fronting the Victoria Leisure centre is very good

SECTION B

It was good to see a number of improvements made by the enthusiastic Friends of Straws Bridge Nature Reserve and learn of plans for future projects. Stanton Road Cemetery has much improved access and a more attractive frontage, also good interpretation. The large Friends Group are to be congratulated on many improvements. The wooden sculpture of Giant Samuel Taylor appears to be looking on approvingly! Standards of cleanliness were very good throughout the town.

SECTION C

We were pleased to see continuing support and development of Friends Groups for several different projects. The involvement with schools is creditable. We were delighted to see the enthusiasm, passion and pride of the Eco Warriors and the Gardening Club at the Hallam Fields Eco School

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Continue to increase the floral impact at White Lion Square. Persist in arguing the case for appropriately placed barrier baskets. Seek a tidying up of the vacant Tesco site. Good to see some additional baskets in the Market Place. Further floral impact is still desirable. Explore higher level planting in the tubs fronting the church – possibly some mixed planting of seasonals, perennials and grasses. Continue to encourage more floral displays, like The Charter, by the South Street businesses.

SECTION B

It was noted that a seat is to be provided at Stanton Road Cemetery. The replacement of Coal Trucks at the Stanton Truck Island will help reflect the town's heritage. It was noted that improvements in recycling methods continue to be made. So many exciting things happening at Hallam Fields Junior School, would be good to have some information boards explaining what the various projects are.

SECTION C

Ways of achieving more business support in central areas should be a high priority. The evidence for the level of press support would be so much stronger if they could be persuaded to attend the judging visits

A – 77 B – 41 C – 39 Total 157

Long Eaton: Silver Gilt Award 155 points

 **East Midlands in Bloom Award for the least littered environment (jointly awarded)**

 **East Midlands in Bloom Award – best Jubilee bed (jointly awarded)**

○ **Judges Award – Long Eaton Eco-school**

Judged on 2nd July Judges Doug Stacey and Richard Stephen

Long Eaton's entry shows gradual improvement despite financial constraints. It is helped greatly by the dedicated Parks team and Bloom volunteers. The themed seasonal bedding displays provided a splendid celebratory feature in Diamond Jubilee year and were very well done. The overall floral impact however could be significantly enhanced if only ways could be found to involve the business community. An impressive presentation of environmental initiatives at Long Eaton Eco School involved pupil Kate. Her vision and enthusiasm demonstrated that our futures can be sustainable

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

Very good Jubilee – themed floral bedding displays. The excellent floral impact made by the additional planting encircling The Green. The commendable new permanent planting at the Library influenced by the Bloom Steering Group

SECTION B

We were very impressed by the high standards of cleanliness throughout the town and the addition of Smart Bins for cigarette butts and chewing gum. The innovative Butterfly Gate project involving children is a very good functional example of introducing art in the landscape

SECTION C

It is good to see the development of the local Bloom group including the support of the Horticultural Society. Evidence of several on - going planned projects shows long term commitment to the 'in-bloom' cause by all involved with Long Eaton's entry

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Regrettably points are lost from an absence of displays on business premises. Find ways of involving businesses in central areas e.g. the Market Place. Ensure good existing examples are shown on tour e.g. new retirement homes adjoining the Fire Station. Continue to replant gaps in shrubberies and make better use of groundcover planting e.g. around prominent tree by the Rendezvous Café and in West Park

SECTION B

As finance permits, continue to improve the quality of all street and park furniture, also footpath surfacing to the best of existing standards

SECTION C

Continue to widen involvement in the management of the Bloom, especially seeking greater support from the business community and the involvement of the local press

A – 78 B – 39 C – 38 Total 155

Melton Mowbray: Silver Gilt Award 154 points

○ **Judges Award – Yew Tree Community Gardens**

Judged on 11th July Judges Doug Stacey and Richard Stephen

It is clear that although Melton did not enter last year's EMIB, they have remained very active in developing the local campaign, whilst taking up a major challenge to develop a large heritage garden on an historic site around the new District Council HQ. This is a work in progress and will be a strong feature of the entry next year. The judges were shown a very good entry. The approach includes good partnership working with other local groups, an increasing level of community support for many interesting projects which benefited from creative design and good permanent plantings. An increased impact from additional seasonal floral features in the town centre and at important road junctions would make Melton a formidable competitor

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

Superb standards of planting and maintenance at Egerton Lodge and the Memorial Gardens. The creatively themed borders developed by the Bloom at St Mary's Church, so well maintained by the congregation. Congratulations to Pam Ianson and Sue Brown for making the lovely Yew Tree Community Garden, to the Bloom for the quality of the Country Park Sensory Garden and the Medieval Garden by the Old Manor House. It is hoped the floral torch at the Co-op will spark a new gardening group. The Heritage Garden is a challenging creative project. We appreciate the design concept and voluntary effort so far expended. Its' development will be an important element in next year's entry

SECTION B

The work of the Friends Group at the Country Park is commended. The range of interest is developing and we support the aim to achieve Green Flag status. It is good to see the links established between the Bloom and the other local groups, and the opportunities taken for working together.

SECTION C

The information about past activities and future plans was very helpful on the day. It is however better to have this in advance of judging. The developing participation by many groups and individuals is encouraging. Persist in your drive to get as many as possible involved. Good to see the Youth Service's contribution with the planted Olympic Torch. Well done, we enjoyed our visit

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Opposite the congregational border at St Mary's Church is an area of bare earth offering an opportunity for a further project. From the Market Place to Egerton Lodge create a floral walk with planters in High Street and barrier baskets on the crossing railings. Displays created by the council and the Bid help brighten the town, but for greater floral impact this provision needs extending in the centre and at highly visible road junctions. Wherever appropriate, arrange the display of interpretation boards to add interest to the displays e.g. the Sensory Garden, Medieval Garden and the new Heritage Garden

SECTION B

A little more information on wildlife conservation, recycling and sustainability would be helpful for the future. Ensure that anti-litter campaigns including litter picks are stepped up throughout the town, and show evidence of these in future portfolios

SECTION C

Continue to feed the local press and radio with information to raise the profile of the campaign. Continue to encourage local businesses to participate 'in the bloom' through the provision of their own floral displays. Your returning entry to the Bloom was a strong one and shows great promise for the future of Melton

A – 72 B – 40 C – 42 Total 154

Louth: Silver Gilt Award 153 points

○ Judges Award – Spout Yard Park

Judged on 6th July Judges Doug Stacey and Richard Stephen

‘Capital of the Lincolnshire Wolds’, the town of Louth only formed its’ Bloom committee in late 2011, making its’ first entry this year. The committee includes volunteers from the Town Partnership, Town Council and Civic Trust. It has rapidly brought together a wide range of key supporters, establishing clear aims for future development. The time with the judges was well used, and many appropriate aspects of the community were shown with justifiable pride and enthusiasm. It will be surprising if Louth does not become a very strong competitor in future years.

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The creation and preservation of so many delightful parks and open spaces e.g. Hubbards Hills and Westgate Fields, the Gatherums, Spout Yard Park, as well as the large open areas to the south and west occupied by golf courses, allotments, cemetery and the superb cricket ground. The innovative management arrangements for many open spaces involving local volunteers. Some attractive residential gardens throughout the town enhanced Louth’s entry. Community Herb garden is a bold initiative

SECTION B

The priority given on the tour to local heritage and art in the landscape was impressive and is to be applauded. High standards of cleanliness were observed throughout the town, and we commend the Louth Litter Busters project organised jointly with the Target newspaper. Kidgate School provided some good examples of wildflower areas, recycling and planters

SECTION C

We sensed that the structural arrangements and level of broadly based support for the campaign from the community augers well for its’ future. It was also good to see the commitment from the local press, the development of the website and the range of publicity materials already available.

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Whilst good examples exist, there is clearly scope for the development of floral displays in an appropriate way for the town. Residential front gardens, shops, business premises, bus station etc can all be involved and contribute to the town’s attractiveness. Consult other entrants and network at EMIB seminar in order to research the different approaches to meeting the objective above.

SECTION B

Consider involving someone with conservation and wildlife interests in your management group and add this aspect to future judging itineraries. It would also be helpful at future judging, to receive more evidence of recycling arrangements, and policies for minimising waste and increasing sustainability. Wildlife / Wildflower interpretation boards would greatly enhance the visitor experience at Hubbards Hills

SECTION C

Depending on the approach taken, it is likely that a high priority will be the additional funding for flowers in the centre of town. From local authorities, businesses or a partnership arrangement? A judging itinerary would be helpful at future visits; this should list the places to be shown and the relationship to the judging criteria. In future portfolios indicate a list of committee members with their interests, details of projects and campaigns

A – 76 B – 39 C – 38 Total 153

Newark: Silver Award 133 points

🏆 **Barcham Trees East Midlands in Bloom Award for the Best New Permanent Landscape – Newark College Woodland Garden**

🏆 **East Midlands in Bloom Award for best pub / hotel garden – The Grange Hotel**

○ **Judges Award – the Old English Garden at the Parish Church**

Judged on 4th July Judges Doug Stacey and Richard Stephen

The visit to Newark was enjoyable and encouraging. The activities of the Bloom are complementing the commendable efforts being made to conserve and interpret the town's heritage. Since last year several significant improvements have been made and the judges were pleased to see good progress being made in this lovely historic town

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

It was pleasing to see significant additional seasonal planting in the town centre, particularly the lamp-post baskets in the Market Square along with the well maintained Green Flag Castle Grounds, Sconce, Devon Park and Cemetery. The delightful Newark College Woodland garden receives a Judges' Award for the quality of its' design and maintenance. We wish to highlight also the high quality gardens at the Grange Hotel and the Old English Garden in the grounds of the Parish Church.

SECTION B

Commendable initiatives to involve people with special needs in environmental projects e.g. Eton Growers Association. Partnership working with other groups concerned with local heritage and its' interpretation, and the development of new wildflower areas this year. The Magnus Street woodland / wildflower garden was particularly well presented, creating a natural habitat for wildlife and a place of tranquillity for students and residents

SECTION C

The improved coordination of the project resulting from the development of the Bloom committee. Greater community involvement e.g. the splendid Holy Trinity School gardeners, the Wharf Group and various Friends groups.

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Whilst allowing for weather conditions, the grass verges on part of the judging route leave room for improvement. Stimulate interest in improving residential gardens by way of front garden competitions. Explore possible local press involvement in this. Try to encourage greater involvement of retail, pubs and other private businesses to participate by providing their own hanging baskets / tubs etc.

SECTION B

Regrettably points were lost because of the presence of significant littering and weeds in the channels on parts of the route. Ensure effective council and community clean-ups before future visits. It was good to hear that the section of badly worn tarmac in front of the Town Hall steps is to be replaced shortly

SECTION C

Use the momentum of this improved result to get the whole community behind the splendid efforts of Newark in Bloom. Important to provide evidence of 'Press' support through all year articles relating to your 'bloom' campaign e.g. bulb planting, litter picks

A – 69 B – 32 C – 32 Total 133

Boston: Silver Award 127 points○ **Judges Award – Friends of Witham Park**

Judged on 9th July Judges Doug Stacey and Richard Stephen

The magnificent tower of St Botolph's Church (Boston Stump) dominates the flat landscape of this historic town. An important tourist destination this 700 year old church together with the adjoining market place has benefited from significant heritage investment very recently. The impetus provided by this is continued by Boston entering EMIB for the first time this year. The new Bloom committee has wide ranging support including the Borough Council, the Preservation Trust and BID (Business Improvement District). Viewed as a long term campaign the enthusiastic committee has a clear vision for the future, and already has an impressive range of projects under way which are involving and improving local communities. We very much enjoyed the well planned judging tour and left with feelings of optimism for Boston's future

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

In the well-designed Memorial Gardens we commend the fitting tribute paid to those who have fallen in war. With diminished resources it was encouraging to see how the involvement of volunteers is maintaining and adding interest to Central Park e.g. South Lincs Horticultural Society, Master Gardener/Community Scheme, Thistles Nursery, North Sea Camp and the Special School nature area. The immaculate Pescod shopping centre complete with floral features and the environmental improvements at nearby Wormgate

SECTION B

The excellence of the Boston West Primary Eco School. The increasing number of very good projects completed by the Friends of Witham Way Country Park. Re-establishment of the Merchants House in the Pescod shopping centre and the North Sea Camp artwork in Central Park. Valuable contributions made by the team of volunteers from Asda, not forgetting Asda's own landscaped grounds

SECTION C

Congratulations on such a well presented portfolio. The active participation of local radio and the press on judging day. Good partnership work with the Business Improvement District and other organisations. The commendable level of community involvement especially the Jubilee Avenue community scheme. Well done, a very commendable first entry

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Make the development of more good quality floral features a priority in central areas including the enhancement of more historic lanes similar to the Wormgate example and around further Café culture areas similar to Seventh Heaven. Consider a few carefully positioned much larger scale floral displays to make an impact in the Market Square such as flower towers or floral basket trees on the triangle adjacent to the Assembly Room. Target an extension of the successful floral features along Bargate and at the entrance to the park. Consider introducing competitions as an incentive to participate in the campaign such as Best Front Garden, Best Pub etc. Invite the South Lincs Horticultural Society to design and maintain an appropriate period style garden around St Botolph's.

SECTION B

Consider creating a wild flower meadow in the grounds of the Boston West School along with appropriate interpretation board. Provide interpretation boards to the Merchants House explaining its' history and to the Country Park Orchard identifying the varieties. Remove tree suckers and touch up paintwork on railings etc in the otherwise excellent War Memorial Garden. Expand information on litter and recycling arrangements on future judging visits

SECTION C

In future years include evidence of all-year-round support from the local press. Consider large scale involvement in a possible massed bulb planting to make a spectacular display at a highly visible location

A – 62 B – 31 C – 34 Total 127

Gainsborough: Bronze Award 118 points○ **Judges Award – Marshall’s Yard**

Judged on 6th July Judges Doug Stacey and Richard Stephen

The judges were shown new projects which form further building blocks in the plan to help the town bloom. Unfortunately part of the judging tour took place in torrential rain, but this did not detract from our appreciation of the efforts made by many committed people over the past year. There are some really high quality components in this entry such as Marshalls Yard, the Old Hall, Tractor roundabout and Showfield allotments. These are complemented by the new projects, many involving young people. It is hoped the management group will receive the full support of local authorities, businesses and the local press for with this, the campaign will be a strong influence in transforming the town’s environment

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

Impressively high standards achieved at the Old Hall, appropriately planted with period style gardens and a garden guide by the Friends Group. The excellent design and maintenance of the Marshalls Yard landscaping along with the appropriately named Showfield allotments which even in the appalling weather conditions displayed very high standards

SECTION B

Good examples of local heritage and art in the landscape were appreciated at Marshalls Yard, the Old Hall, Tractor roundabout, also the River Walk mosaics support the heritage aspect of the entry. The improvements made to the Spital Terrace open space by the splendid efforts of the Air Cadets.

SECTION C

High points included the development of the website and the excellent Gainsborough in Bloom signs incorporating your sponsors. Although sadly battered by intense rainfall the themed Schools Competition flower beds at Whittons Gardens and the new Queen Elizabeth’s School beds were very good, and a great idea. The involvement of youngsters at Church X is very creditable and the YaSiG planting has complemented the existing features of this attractive corner of the River Walk.

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Consider raising soil levels, using a few taller dot plants at the centre, and trailing plants around the edge of the new planters to increase their impact. Target strategic locations in the town, and encourage everyone involved there to raise the level of presentation. As this succeeds move on in a phased way around the town e.g. the Market Place as proposed for next year. In conjunction with the local press introduce a Best Front Garden competition to help improve residential areas.

SECTION B

Encourage someone with wildlife conservation interests on to the management group, and include this aspect on future judging routes. More evidence of community litter picks, and information on recycling performance would also be helpful for future judging

SECTION C

The Salvation Army garden, McDonalds and Horsley’s flower baskets are great exemplars for encouraging other businesses and groups to participate. Search out voluntary groups that could be involved in mass bulb planting schemes possibly on the verges leading to the Tractor roundabout. Seek to gain media support through all year round press releases

A – 58 B – 29 C – 31 Total 118

TOWNS

Oakham: Gold Award and Category Winner 179 points

○ **Judges Award – floral displays around the library**

Judged on 12th July Judges Dave Bramwell and Jeff Bates

These experienced 'In Bloom' campaigners really know how to present an entry; the tour included well maintained roundabouts with a fine example of art in the landscape showing the carved Osprey. The Prairie Garden at the library and landscaping in the Museum Grounds were exceptional. The highlight of the Tour was the Library Grounds, displaying the new Peacock floral display.

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The Prairie Garden and the new Peacock Floral Display adjacent to the Library. The landscaping on Stamford Road Roundabout and the grounds of the Museum. The hanging baskets and planters around the Town were of high quality and well maintained.

SECTION B

Fine examples of art in the landscape and excellent landscaping at the Library and Museum. The Post Office, Castle and Bandstand at Cutts Park were key features that were well presented. The recycling rate of the town was to be commended as it was one of the highest in the country.

SECTION C

The widespread community participation in Oakham was inspiring. Good examples of partnership working, such as the Digital Rutland bed. The full calendar of events and plans for the future.

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Improve the planting at the base of the Spitfire. Consider developing floral displays in conjunction with the County Council at the main offices. Minor improvements in maintenance at Cutts Close, where weeds and self-set elders need removing.

SECTION B

Further examples of Conservation and Biodiversity would benefit this entry. There is a minor problem of cigarette litter around key areas of the town which could be prioritised. Improved signage and interpretation boards at the Arboretum would benefit this site.

SECTION C

Consider supporting the development of the pond at the local school, liaising with local businesses for supply of materials. Consider further categories in the local 'In Bloom' Competition. Involve the local young people in the EMiB Painting and/or Photography competition.

A – 90 B – 41 C – 48 Total 179

Immingham: Gold Award 176 points

○ Judges Award – Immingham in Bloom and its supporters

Judged on 11th July Judges Dave Bramwell and Richard Adams

The Judges were welcomed by the In Bloom Committee and what followed was truly inspirational! The Tour was planned and executed with military precision, showing the Town at its best. The Judges report does not seem to do this entry justice: as relative newcomers to the Campaign, it is fair to say that what this community have achieved, over the last twelve months, is truly remarkable.

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The plethora of floral displays is maintained to a very high standard by the town's new apprentice gardener Maddie. The residential gardens at Alderney Way were excellent. The well-presented grounds of Pilgrim Park and the HMS in Bloom floral display.

SECTION B

The conservation and development of Homestead Lake. The innovative use of recycled materials all around the town, such as plastic bottles made into planters at the local Swimming Pool and a greenhouse at the Children's Centre. The redevelopment of the Community Allotments. The cleanliness of the town was excellent.

SECTION C

The community have really pulled together and what you have achieved is remarkable. Involving the young people in the design of the Skatepark and mural are "*Imm-spirational*". The amount of sponsors and partners in generating thousands of pounds towards the development of the displays and facilities around the town. The Portfolio is excellent and the use of all forms of media truly lifts this entry.

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Continue to develop the Gateway features with increased planting areas and use of themed planting schemes. Consider extending the Residential Gardening Scheme to Guernsey Grove. Continue to develop Pilgrim Park and consider the use of permanent planting around the new picnic area.

SECTION B

Continue to develop the heritage of the town and consider introducing a Heritage Trail. Continue to install examples of art in the landscape and explore the potential to use natural materials for sculptures. Continue the development of the pebble mosaic around the Swimming Pool planters. Include a visit to the refurbished allotments on the tour for 2013.

SECTION C

Continue to develop the 'In Bloom' Working Group with Cleethorpes and Grimsby entries to share lessons learnt and improves on successes. Further develop the use of all types of Media to promote the town and 'In Bloom' Competition. Continue the excellent work with all the young people of the town.

A – 88 B – 43 C – 45 Total 176

Bourne: Silver Gilt Award 162 points

○ Judges Award – Willoughby Special School

Judged on 10th July Judges Dave Bramwell and Richard Adams

A warm welcome was extended to the Judges and was most welcome. The In Bloom volunteers put together a strong entry for this year's competition. The highlight of the tour was the visit to Willoughby School, who demonstrated that working with Local Businesses to create an inspiring outdoor environment, can have a huge impact on the students of the School.

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The grounds and sensory garden at Willoughby School. The commitment of the staff to produce the high standard of maintenance in and around the Memorial Gardens and Wellhead Park. The floral displays around the town centre and the new baskets and planters installed by local businesses.

SECTION B

The Community Orchard at Bourne Woods. The sympathetic management of Elsea Meadows Conservation Area. The bank protection project adjacent to the river.

SECTION C

The participation of the businesses in providing additional floral features around the town. The participation of the students at Willoughby School in gaining qualifications in horticulture and maintaining the grounds. The excellent portfolio demonstrating all year round participation. The work with students to develop the In Bloom signage.

Areas suggested for development

SECTION A

Continue to develop the baskets and planters around the town. Ensure that all areas are maintained to the highest of standards particularly with town centre planters and barrier baskets. Continue the excellent work to develop the local park and memorial Gardens.

SECTION B

Further enhance the banking adjacent to the river to encourage additional wildlife habitats. Continue to work on the new meadow to increase the wild flower mix and monitor bird life activity. Consider the use of the Red Hall and its further integration into the Town's day to day activities.

SECTION C

Continue using all forms of media to encourage volunteers and to promote 'In Bloom' initiatives. Continue to raise funds for projects and develop a plan for future events.

A – 83 B – 41 C – 38 Total 162

Syston: Silver Gilt Award 155 points

○ Judges Award – St Peter and St Paul’s School garden

Judged on 5th July Judges Dave Bramwell and Richard Adams

The Judges received a warm welcome to Syston and were impressed by the contribution from all aspects of the community. The new wildlife area and automated watering system were enhancing the diversity of this entry, whilst minimising the impact on the environment. The themed planting had a real impact. The Jubilee and Olympic floral displays were a real treat for all to see.

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The high quality and range of floral displays around the Town. The overall standard of maintenance at the Sun Dial Gardens and War Memorial was extremely high. The high standards and presentation of the grounds at the Cemetery by Paul and Timothy. The quality of the displays from local shop-keepers and businesses.

SECTION B

The well managed allotments at “The Knoll” and the recently restored working Well. The Wildlife area of St Peter and St Pauls School built by the local residents and children. The high level of recycling within the town and at the local Schools.

SECTION C

During our visit to the new wildlife garden at St Peters and St Pauls School the enthusiasm of the children and their knowledge of all aspects of conservation were inspirational. The use of pebbles to promote the contribution of local businesses, whilst minimising the impact on the environment. The contribution from the community and in particular the ‘In Bloom’ Group was evident for all to see.

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Continue the development of Deville Park, with soft landscaping. Consider revitalising the area known as the Peace Garden. Further develop the excellent hanging basket scheme around the Town.

SECTION B

Consider the development of a Heritage Trail around the town. Work closer with the Local Authority when planning the tour with particular attention to timing of operations such as graffiti removal and street cleanliness. Continue the program of painting benches and railings , with particular attention to the seating in the Peace Garden.

SECTION C

Continue to develop the links with local businesses to promote the ‘In Bloom’ campaign. Consider the inclusion of a calendar of events to further enhance the portfolio. Continue to engage with the local young people when designing the floral displays.

A – 86 B – 34 C – 35 Total 155

Ibstock: Silver Award 146 points

o Judges Award – Ibstock in Bloom poetry competition

Judged on 4th July Judges Dave Bramwell and Richard Adams

The Judges received a warm welcome by the “in Bloom” Committee who showcased a variety of floral displays and environmental projects on the tour and it was especially pleasing to see that the group had engaged well with all aspects of the community.

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The flower displays and hanging baskets through the town, were well maintained and of high quality. The residential gardens were excellent and a delight for all to see. The floral displays around the reclaimed “Pit Winding Wheels” were a real treat.

SECTION B

The Sence Valley Country Park and the contribution of the volunteers to further enhance this site. The Allotment sites at Pretoria Road and Station Road were well managed and had the additional features of communal composting heaps. The continued use of the former Bank, which has been transformed into an excellent Community Centre, and which displayed examples of inspiring Poetry from local residents.

SECTION C

The work of all the volunteers across the community. The clear objectives set by the Group for 2012/13. The excellent portfolio and Calendar.

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Consider the judging criteria when planning the tour and allow more time to show off the floral features and displays around the town. Show more evidence of the Towns parks and open spaces on the tour. Continue to develop the projects at the Under 5’s Play Area and the Community Garden

SECTION B

Work closer with your Local Authority, particularly for timings of operations such as weed control, verge maintenance and litter bin emptying. Investigate the potential for creating a mural along the walled area of the Under 5’s Play Area. Continue to expand the preservation of local heritage features around the town, to further celebrate the local history

SECTION C

Continue using all forms of media to encourage volunteers and to promote ‘in Bloom’ initiatives. Consider further categories for the local ‘in Bloom’ competition. Continue to develop strong links with local businesses to promote the ‘in Bloom’ campaign

A – 75 B – 36 C – 35 Total 146

Staveley: Bronze Award 117 points

○ **Judges Award – Ringwood Hall gardens and their restoration**

Judged on 6th July Judges Dave Bramwell and Richard Adams

The rain didn't dampen the spirits of this Bloom entry; we received a warm welcome and on the tour it was evident that the partnership between the Town Council and the local Garden Centre had made a real impact. The highlights of the tour were the development of Devonshire Court seating area, the Hollingwood Hub and Ringwood Hall. This entry has plenty of potential and we are looking forward to visiting the Town next year.

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The grounds of Ringwood Hall and the Pools Brook Country Park Caravan site were maintained to a very high standard. The floral displays designed and presented by the local Garden Centre. The planting around the Hollingwood Hub Community Centre.

SECTION B

The restoration of the Grounds and the Kitchen Garden at Ringwood Hall. The ongoing development and refurbishment of the Canal and Hollingwood Hub. The storage and communal pumping of spring water around Inkersall Allotments.

SECTION C

The contribution of Trevor, the Neighbourhood Ranger and the residents of Devonshire Court in developing the communal seating area. The involvement of the local children in developing the school grounds. The development of the Allotments and the setting up of the Association to manage the site

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Continue to develop the landscaping around the Hollingwood Hub. Consider the development of the roundabout adjacent to the canal basin. Further develop the frontage to the Healthy Living Centre.

SECTION B

Continue to work with the Local Authority when presenting the town. Continue the excellent work on preserving the heritage of the area. Consider developing wildlife habitats around the new canal basin.

SECTION C

Continue to promote the 'In Bloom' entry using all available media. Continue to involve the residents in the development of sites such as the Community Orchard. Enlist volunteers to develop additional schemes around the Hollingwood Hub and Canal Basin

A – 58 B – 32 C – 27 Total 117

Burbage: Bronze Award 117 points

○ Judges Award – the Horsepool site

Judged on 4th July Judges Dave Bramwell and Richard Adams

Hail stones as big as oranges couldn't hold back this newly formed "In Bloom" group! The Judges were impressed with this new entry, we received a warm welcome, had a great afternoon and an enjoyable Tour - well done.

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The grounds of the Cemetery and Public Open Spaces were well maintained. The floral displays within the Town centre were a real treat, particularly the display at the Cross Keys Public House. The gardens within Castle Court Sheltered Accommodation. The plethora of colourful hanging basket trees and high quality residential gardens around the town.

SECTION B

The general upkeep and cleanliness of the Town considering the wide spread impact of the hail-storm. The use of heritage planting and the signage in Pughes Paddock. The preservation and maintenance of the War Memorial. The extensive Heritage Trail around the Town really highlighted the history of the place.

SECTION C

An excellent start, as this In Bloom group was set up in January 2012. The contribution from the residents at Castle Court, to continue to enhance the gardens for all to see.

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Continue to develop the floral features around the town, in particular in the Town Centre. Work with the County Council to develop areas of future landscaping. Continue to develop the route to show off the floral features and community areas of the Town

SECTION B

Re-evaluate the Judging Route and highlight areas of excellence. Continue the development of "The Horsepool" and maximise the wildlife habitat and educational value of the site. Enhance the area around the Outdoor Gym with landscaping; give consideration to a Bog Garden to further enhance the biodiversity of this site.

SECTION C

Seize every opportunity to gain new members and further develop community participation. Continue to promote the heritage planting and involve the young people of the Town in the planting projects. Develop a calendar of events to further enhance the portfolio

A – 60 B – 31 C – 26 Total 117

SMALL TOWNS

🏆 Uppingham: Silver Gilt Award and Category Winner 165 points

○ Judges Award – the community of Uppingham

Judged on 4th July Judges Chris Beal and Richard Gold

The Uppingham tour saw the town growing for gold to reflect the Olympic theme. A visit to the Uppingham school grounds was a delight to see. The enthusiasm of the garden club at Leighfield Primary School should ensure a continuity of bloom volunteers for the future. The community-maintained beds at Baines Corner featured plants propagated from last years bedding by the group. The tour concluded with a visit to the magnificent eco-friendly sports centre showing the successful partnership between the school and the community.

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The new planting at the sports centre and the work to overcome the vine weevil infestation has to be commended. The standard of maintenance of Uppingham School grounds is a credit to all of the staff. The standard of maintenance of public areas without large bands of herbicide treatment around obstacles was nice to see.

SECTION B

The cleanliness of the town is a credit not only to the bloom team but to its residents too. The management of the heritage of the buildings throughout the town and the successful incorporation of new buildings into the landscape. The continued development of the arboretum with regular new plantings and the plans for the new wildlife garden linking the arboretum and the cemetery.

SECTION C

The strong community participation in Uppingham shows in the standards of cleanliness and attractiveness of the town. The group is working well at securing funding for future projects throughout the town. The “sponsorship in kind” e.g. use of the cricket pavilion and Falcon Hotel for meetings etc. is a great asset for the group. The Bloom sponsored front garden competition continues to be successful.

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

The choice of colour of the basket / planter plants against the colour of the stone walls does not work particularly well this year; more vibrant colours appear more successful. Look at including more permanent all year round planting in the bed at North Street East car park.

SECTION B

Liaise with the local dog warden re dog fouling of public spaces and publicise prosecutions, there was a noticeable increase in dog fouling in the arboretum and Todds Piece recreation ground. Look at incorporating some of the schools artwork not only into the beds at the arts centre but into town centre locations. Continue with work on the wildflower plot for the allotment. Look at leaving the grass longer in the Leighfield School orchard for flora and fauna, cut paths through the longer grass linking the fruit trees on a trail.

SECTION C

Show more press / publicity evidence in future entries. Continue to develop the bloom web-site. Consider communities such as The Beeches as entries into the Its Your Neighbourhood category of the EMiB / RHS Bloom campaign.

A – 84 B – 41 C – 40 Total 165

Bakewell: Silver Gilt Award 160 points

o Judges Award – the business sector of the town

Judged on 11th July Judges Chris Beal and John Simpson

Bakewell was one of the few entries in this category to be judged in the sun this year!! The tour, all on foot this year took in many areas of the town. The quality of residential front gardens was remarkable. The numerous small courtyards and seating areas throughout the town all had beautiful floral decorations. The tour concluded with a visit to the always impressive Bath Gardens.

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

Residential gardens in the town are generally of excellent quality showing commitment to the bloom initiatives; Hollybank Cottage particularly stands out. Bath Gardens are a credit to the town again. The increase in hanging basket numbers throughout the town was noticeable. The school garden shows commitment by the youngsters; judges look forward to seeing the planned extension next year.

SECTION B

The town is commended for its general cleanliness. The museum showing local heritage and with its green sedum roof was a joy to see. The use of the artwork in the vacant shop window on Rutland / Anchor Square is excellent use of these premises

SECTION C

The increase in sponsorship of hanging baskets this year should enable the bloom initiative to continue growing. Year round activity is evident, continue to document all activities. The bloom initiative is obviously reaching all sectors of the community, this is evident from the attractiveness of the town and the commitment of the local councillors, the mayor and the patron of the bloom. The inclusion of the future plans section of the portfolio shows the bloom in Bakewell will continue to grow

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Liaise with the local authority regarding standards of maintenance in some areas, i.e. the shrub beds outside the Agricultural Business Centre, particularly as this was the location to meet the judges. We suggest visiting just one of the courtyards behind the shops on Matlock Street and showing the others within the portfolio: this allows time for additional visits to other judging criteria. Continue with the plans for additional tree planting throughout the town in the autumn

SECTION B

Continue with the wildflower meadow in the churchyard and the plans for an interpretation board here. Work with the various tiers of local authority on a street furniture maintenance programme for repair and repaint. Explain more about the various recycling initiatives within the town

SECTION C

Although publicity is generally good try and attract a wider sector of the community into working parties and onto the committee. Continue with your plans for the work within the cemetery

A – 84 B – 39 C – 37 Total 160

Long Sutton: Silver Gilt Award 155 points

o Judges Award – eco-warriors at Long Sutton primary school

Judged on 12th July Judges John Simpson and Richard Gold

Once again the judges were taken on a wonderful tour of Long Sutton by members of the Bloom Committee. Highlights continue to be the fantastic “Cowper’s Gate” and “Annie’s Patch”. But don’t be fooled into thinking this is all Long Sutton has to offer. The Mill pond and stunning 120 baskets throughout the Town also add to the enjoyment of a visit to Long Sutton.

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The quality of the Hanging Baskets throughout the town is noticeable to all. The high level of business support is impressive. Cowper’s Gate continues to delight the judges, as does with Annie’s Patch. The work of the children at “Long Sutton Primary” along with the support of Tony and Sarah is excellent.

SECTION B

The self-made interpretation panel at the Mill Pond was well done. It provides visitors with an opportunity to see what is on view. The painting on the boarded up windows of the derelict building on the high street is a good way of managing a possible eyesore. The harvesting of rainwater is excellent.

SECTION C

The communication and links to other groups within the community is very good. The work being carried out by your school development officer Tony is excellent. The presentation and portfolio shown real signs of year round ‘Bloom Activity’.

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

The triangular bed at Little London continues to let the entry down. Pay particular attention to the judging route. We visited two schools. One of which had litter and cans on the lawns along with poorly maintained beds. This also eats into the judging time, and cuts down on other opportunities. Liaise with the Local Authority over the management of street weeds. Spring Gardens and Sturton Drive were particularly bad. Grass at the Fire Station was in need of attention.

SECTION B

Consider forming a friends group at the “Common Pitt” This will assist with the maintenance and open up possible funding bids. Some litter was evident during the tour

SECTION C

Continue to recruit members to the bloom group, particularly the younger members of the community. Consider putting forward Cowpers Gate into the “Its Your Neighbourhood” category. It would be interesting if you could put together some statistics and show evidence of how the levels of bloom support have increased, be it the level of business support, funding, or new members to the bloom group

A – 78 B – 33 C – 44 Total 155

Deeping St James: Silver Award 143 points

🏆 EMIb Award for the Best Wildflower & Conservation Area-Deeping Lakes

○ Judges Award – volunteers at Deeping Lakes Nature Reserve

Judged on 10th July Judges Chris Beal and Richard Gold

The visit to Deeping St James saw the town ablaze with colour from an extremely wide array of unusual containers. The work of the volunteers at the Deeping Lakes was a joy to see with a new wildflower area and a wide range of waterfowl. The standard of maintenance at Benedicts Court is a credit to its residents resulting in a colourful oasis within this small complex. The tour concluded with a trip through the refurbished church hall gardens and a visit to the old lockup

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The sustainable planting at Old Park Farm is now entering its prime. The quality of maintenance at Benedicts Court sheltered housing is a credit to the residents. The plantings around the 'adopt a road sign' scheme are an innovative way of brightening up street corners.

SECTION B

The transformation of Deeping Lakes in such a short time is remarkable. The general cleanliness of the town shows the bloom initiative is having impact. The Prentis recycling centre and its donations to the bloom initiative are an asset to the town. The retention of the red telephone box and its use as an information kiosk is an innovative way of retaining these historic features

SECTION C

The presentation in the Institute of events throughout the year and The Lakes was excellent. The bloom initiative in Deeping St James is successful due to its strong committee and leadership. The varying fundraising activities for bloom initiatives throughout the year are remarkable.

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Look at more tiered planters or encourage commercial premises to have hanging baskets to give more colour at height. Liaise with the various tiers of local authority regarding horticultural maintenance generally. Consider visiting the primary school to talk to them about their garden, it was visible through the fencing but not expanded upon.

SECTION B

Show more evidence of recycling of household waste, i.e. kerbside recycling. Devise a street furniture refurbishment programme to ensure that deterioration is minimised. Continue to develop the wildflower area at the Jubilee Park

SECTION C

Consider hanging baskets in the town, sponsorship with local businesses would assist with funding. Consider more inter-action with the schools on bloom initiatives

A – 64 B – 38 C – 41 Total 143

Blidworth: Silver Award 129 points

○ Judges Award – landscaping at the Leisure Centre

Judged on 12th July Judges Chris Beal and John Simpson

The tour of Blidworth started with a visit to the country park. A visit to the leisure centre saw the new planter and repainted mining memorial. The war memorial planting is as impressive as ever with new commemorative rose plantings of the Diamond Jubilee rose, do they really only bloom every 60 years?? The tour saw some flower beds maintained by members of the community and concluded amongst the array of colourful planters at the Fox & Hounds public house

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The new landscaping at the leisure centre and the new plantings at the library are a vast improvement. The standard of maintenance at the war memorial continues to impress. The number of allotment plots throughout the town shows a commitment by its residents to grow your own initiatives.

SECTION B

The country park area is an asset for residents of Blidworth. The landscaped area on Mansfield Road with its seating and planters continues to improve. The interpretation at the Rockings enables visitors to understand its unique significance

SECTION C

Working with local children on painting the playground at Marriott Lane Park brings the community together and assists with them taking ownership of the area. The partnership working between Parish Council, the Brownies, Men in Sheds and the Fire Service with the beds at the fire station is remarkable. The business sectors involvement and contributions are now showing in the bloom effort. The work by the Sherwood Forest Community Church throughout the town allows the blooms efforts to flourish.

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Liaise with the local authority over the pruning of the shrubs at Dale Lane, correct horticultural pruning is required rather than hedge cutter pruning. Show more residential front gardens on the judging route, these do not need to be visits but point them out when driving / walking past. Show more evidence of what the schools are doing either out in the community or within the school grounds where appropriate.

SECTION B

Work with the forestry commission and county council regarding interpretation and welcome signs at the country park entrances particularly from the Burma Road Business Park. The weed in the paving at The Rockings area detracts from the planters and the artwork. Look at a repainting programme for street furniture and the railings around the shrub beds on Dale Lane

SECTION C

Continue with and expand the “best kept” competitions. Study the judging criteria when planning the judging route; plan the route to avoid any areas below standard. Continue to attract business sponsorship and volunteer hours from all sectors of the Community to enable the bloom effort to progress. Continue to build upon the community spirit and commitment; recent years have seen an improved entry into EMiB from Blidworth

A – 66 B – 35 C – 28 Total 129

Sutton Bridge: Silver Award 129 points

○ Judges Award – the dedicated Bloomers group

Judged on 12th July Judges John Simpson and Richard Gold

The tour started at the new purpose built “Curlew” Centre, before commencing on a comprehensive tour of the town. The judges were met by a number of enthusiastic Bloomers throughout the tour. Highlights were the impressive number of tubs and troughs that are provided by the Bloom Group throughout the Town and the impressive flower festival displays at the St Matthews Church. Sutton Bridge appears to be going from strength to strength.

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The quality of the hanging baskets throughout the Town, from the choice of plants through to the maintenance and aftercare. The new “Olympic Flower Bed” at the entrance to the Curlew Centre was well planted given the difficult conditions. The grounds of the St Matthews Church, including the war graves and the flower festival were all impressive

SECTION B

The impressive linear “Wildlife Area” maintained by the Wildlife Trust and the County Council. The use of old metal litter bins as planters is a good example of positive recycling. The murals to brighten up the “Old Barn Antiques” site and the former “school” are good ways of softening the appearance of a derelict site. The new seating provided by the friends of “Sutton Bridge Parks” is of good quality and placed at an appropriate point.

SECTION C

The portfolio shows year round involvement in the town. The impressive levels of funding, particularly from the business community

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Try to include a visit to the allotments on the tour. This absence is losing you possible additional marks from the judges. Try to show a selection of three or four residential gardens on the tour. Some gardens could be seen from the car window in passing but it would have been better to stop and have a closer look. Consider including a school on the tour to show a cross section of the community. Liaise with the Local Authority over the management of highway weeds.

SECTION B

Consider the use of interpretation boards to give more explanation of the heritage of Sutton Bridge and to highlight the wonderful nature area. Make more reference to recycling. No mention was made, or examples shown of any composting etc on the tour. Although minimal, there was evidence of graffiti on the old toilet walls at the meeting point, and some litter at the Church around the boundary.

SECTION C

Show a greater link to Schools. Try to show how you area engaging with the young people of the town. Continue to try and recruit more support for the bloom effort. Make more use of display boards, shop windows etc to promote the work of the Bloom group

A – 72 B – 31 C – 26 Total 129

Holbeach: Silver Award 124 points

o Judges Award – improvement work at the Nature Reserve

Judged on 6th July Judges Chris Beal and Richard Gold

An old established entrant but a new group in the driving seat welcomed the judges on an extremely wet day, how appropriate the first point of call was to see the new planter at the football ground, an old rowing boat!! The tour saw some well-established planters and baskets lacking only some sunshine to bring out their flowers. The nature reserve is developing well and the church grounds and war memorial are at their usual high standard of maintenance.

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The growing of all of the seasonal plants and hanging baskets and the locating of new premises for the growing of them. The quality of maintenance by the various bodies within the grounds of the church. The planting of the Boston Road car park bed to brighten up a dull area of town

SECTION B

The work carried out at the Holbeach nature reserve is commendable. The use of the RHS wildflower seed to refurbish a vacant plot. The varying recycling initiatives at the greenhouses, composting of all plant materials and old planters, capture of rainwater and recycling containers from the market stall holders

SECTION C

The continuation of the bloom effort by the new group. The fundraising initiatives are paying off, continue with this work

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Utilise the available public areas, e.g. parks, cemeteries within Holbeach for the judging tour. Consider organising a “Best Kept” competition within the town. Continue with the plans to remove the trees from the planters at the traffic lights and replant the planters. Due to their location we consider that these planters do require a focal point with height

SECTION B

Show more heritage on the judging route / portfolio. Liaise with the varying local authorities on highway weed control and street cleansing prior to judging, keep evidence of this liaison. Within your project plan consider a programme of street furniture renovations, working with the various tiers of local authorities

SECTION C

Continue with the fund-raising. Continue to expand the committee / working group with all sectors of the community being involved

A – 65 B – 27 C – 32 Total 124

Crowland: Bronze Award 115 points

○ **Judges Award – the Abbey 345 pre-school**

Judged on 6th July Judges Chris Beal and Richard Gold

Crowland on a wet July day, but still a floriferous town with red, white and blue on every corner. The tour of the town saw a very well maintained veg plot and enthusiastic youngsters at the pre-school where funds are raised by selling produce to the parents. The work of this small group continues to advance each year with new features being added throughout the town

Areas of Achievement

Section A

The redevelopment of the derelict border at the police station car park into a wildflower / wildlife garden is good use of vacant land. The quality of residential front gardens throughout the town shows commitment of the residents to the bloom campaign. The standards of work in the respective school gardens should ensure a continuity of volunteers for the bloom campaign in the future

Section B

The standards of maintenance and cleanliness at the wildlife ponds. The grants scheme for the new shop fronts in the town to reflect the original appearance is an excellent heritage scheme. The use of artwork in the vacant shop fronts improves the appearance of these premises

Section C

The work carried out to make the town “bloom” by such a small group is commendable. Fundraising for the bloom campaign is paying off; continue different ideas for fundraising

Areas suggested for future development

Section A

Investigate further areas for sustainable permanent plantings. Be careful with choice of plants for future schemes, petunias for the red, white & blue scheme have not been too successful. Work with the Abbey345 pre-school as a separate entry into the schools category

Section B

Consider the judging criteria carefully when devising the judging route and the locations you stop at to talk to the judges. Liaise with the local authorities regarding highway weed control and cleansing prior to judging, and show evidence of this liaison

Section C

Encourage a wider diversity of people onto the bloom committee and work parties. Have a written itinerary for the judging route on judging day to ensure structured and flowing judging. Consider requesting a free advisory visit by EMiB to try and develop this entry further

A – 53 B – 32 C – 30 Total 115

Darley Dale: Bronze Award 115 points

o Judges Award – restoration works at Whitworth Park

Judged on 11th July Judges Chris Beal and John Simpson

A new entry for 2012, Darley Dale, the tour commenced with a tour around the Whitworth Park, beautiful timber sculptures around the play area and the refurbished lake were particular features of note. A trip to Darley Dale station saw planters, all of donated plants, whilst the steam engine passed through. The tour moved on to take in the “flower in the fields” project, the Oddford Lane allotments must be one of the tidiest in the country with the tour concluding at the St Elphins retirement village project with its excellent landscaping. A very well presented first time entry

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The quality of the plots and general appearance of the Oddford Lane allotments are a credit to the plottolders. The overall appearance of the Peak Rail Darley Dale station reflects the hard work carried out by the volunteers. The planting at the Laburnum Inn are worthy of note and could be entered in future years by the bloom into the EMiB Most Attractive Public House competition.

SECTION B

The carvings at the play area in Whitworth Park are an asset to the town. The communal composting on the Church Road allotments is well organising ensuring a ready supply for all plot-holders. The refurbished pond at Whitworth Park, following the design of the original, has matured well in a short time

SECTION C

The flower in the field project is bringing together many sectors of the community. Local sponsorship is good; continue to build upon this year on year. The bloom initiative has got off to a good start using many sectors of the community in its projects; continue with this to retain sustainability

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

When designing flower beds with features in e.g. the “2012” design, use aggregate, bark or similar rather than leave large areas of bare earth. Consider visiting a school in future years to show the valuable work the children do within the school grounds. Avoid duplication on the tour to free time to see more, i.e. visit only one allotment site for instance

SECTION B

Look at more interpretation, either on a board or leaflet etc on the history of the Whitworths, the park and centre. Give more details on recycling in the town, what is recycled and where

SECTION C

Make more use of the Parish notice boards to advertise the bloom; we noticed that there was no info in them regarding the bloom. Show more evidence of the bloom publicity. Consider entering the St Elphins retirement village into the Its Your Neighbourhood category. Generally continue to expand the involvement of the community and this entry will grow in strength considerably

A – 65 B – 29 C – 21 Total 115

LARGE VILLAGES

🏆 **Caistor: Gold Award and Category Winner 182 points**

○ **Judges Award – impressive levels of community engagement**

Judged on 4th July Judges John Simpson and Richard Welburn

Caistor have made giant strides in a very short space of time. On the day of the judging it appeared the whole village had turned out to meet the judges. The bloom group have taken all previous judging comments on board and reacted accordingly. The presentation of ceramic plaques by the bloom committee to special award winners is a fantastic idea, and the use of blue and green plaques around the village noting areas of historical interest is to be applauded. Caistor are a blooming success story.

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The standard of the planting, and the condition of the plants in the many tubs and baskets were excellent. The restoration of the Congregational church yard was fantastic and well worth the time and effort. The memorial garden at the Caistor Grammar School was of a very high standard and had a wonderful sentimental story attached to it.

SECTION B

The wildflower bank in the churchyard is of great benefit, along with woodpiles and interpretation. The high levels of recycling. Regular litter picks are having a positive impact on the appearance of the village. The Blue and Green plaque system is a great way to highlight areas of key historical interest.

SECTION C

Fantastic presentation and supporting documentation showing year round involvement, and buy in from the wider community. The high level of community involvement on the judging day. The judges were overwhelmed with the number of people who came out, and took the time to talk to us about their involvement in the bloom campaign. The support of Breedon Aggregates in the restoration of the congregational churchyard, and other projects

Areas suggested for future developments

SECTION A

Consider further interpretation boards for the Congregational churchyard and the Memorial garden at the Caistor Grammar School. Try to show any consultation that has, or is being carried out with regards development work. (Example. How are the younger members of the Village involved in the ongoing developments of the Mill Field Play area?) Continue to encourage greater business participation and support of the bloom initiative

SECTION B

Continue to look at gap sites. "Westgate House" and an area opposite Mr & Mrs King's property are examples. Continue to pay attention to the route. The benefits of taking judges to a destination can sometimes lose you more marks from what is observed before arriving at the destination

SECTION C

The only comment the judges can make is to encourage a greater buy-in from the business community. Several businesses still do not have a basket or container

A – 89 B – 44 C – 49 Total 182

Market Bosworth: Gold Award 178 points

○ Judges Award – impressive levels of business support

Judged on 2nd July Judges John Simpson and Richard Welburn

Market Bosworth is an attractive Market Town in Leicestershire justifiably proud of its historical heritage and environmental achievements. The tour was conducted in the most atrocious weather. Despite the conditions the judges were given a comprehensive tour of the Village with many highlights. Special mention must go to the impressive levels of business support, and the meeting with the girls of “Dixie Grammar School” who had helped design a bed to the front of the school

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

Attractive floral planters / baskets in the Market Place and Wheatsheaf Courtyard. Increased number of planters when compared to last year. Attractive and well maintained Memorial Gardens

SECTION B

Lack of litter throughout judging route. Retention of local Fire Station and high standards of grounds maintenance. Appropriate use of landscape cobbles to frontages of Park Street houses. Attractive ‘Olympic medal’ feature raised planters

SECTION C

Sustained financial support of business community. Good cross section community project support- e.g. Dixie School. Sustained project publicity and promotion

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Consider expanding use of plant material more tolerant of drier climatic conditions eg ornamental grasses in displays. Consider use of Public Art within display e.g. wood sculpture, water feature as focal points. Expand engagement of children and young people in the design and implementation of horticultural and landscaping projects

SECTION B

Consider providing on-site interpretation of feature displays e.g. line drawing / narrative panels. Consider relocation of Butterfly Garden at entrance to Country Park. Remove ties and stakes to established trees e.g. Country Park

SECTION C

Consider development of Town Tree Trail / Bloom routes. Expand engagement of Churches in Bloom projects e.g. churchyard ecology, wildlife, heritage. Consider extending the use of on-site interpretation of features to improve knowledge and understanding

A – 90 B – 44 C – 44 Total 178

Donington: Gold Award 170 points

o Judges Award – landscaping at the Mill Pond

Judged on 3rd July Judges John Simpson and Richard Welburn

Donington is a beautiful village on the edge of the fens. The tour took place on a overcast summer's morning, but that did not dampen the spirit of the dedicated bloom group who work tirelessly to make this attractive village a pleasure to visit. A special mention must go to the Cowley Endowed Primary School and the pupils Jake and Madaline who showed the judges their courtyard garden; also the gardens of Margaret and Alwyn Smith who open their gardens on a daily basis for the community. Donington continues to thrive through the medium of bloom

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The many splendid hanging baskets; colourful and well maintained throughout the village. The community allotments are continuing to develop. It was interesting to meet and hear from the students who were working on one of the plots. There were many fine examples of residential gardens. The garden of Beulah Sturgess was worthy of special mention. The visit to see Cowley Endowed Primary school was a particular highlight. The opportunity to meet and talk to a different group of the community was fantastic.

SECTION B

The impressive levels of rainwater harvesting are something to be commended. The new landscaping at the Duck Pond has transformed this area into somewhere pleasant to sit and watch the wildlife. The wild flower meadow at the Matthew Flinders Park was fantastic, both in size and quality

SECTION C

The levels of community participation were worth special mention. The continued support from businesses in these times of economical difficulty is to be applauded. The ongoing improvements around the village are evidence of a committed community intent on improving the lives of all. The raised planter at the community herb garden was a good example of this, along with the works at the duck pond

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Pay special attention to the tour route. The visit to Beulah's garden took us through the Prowting Estate that was badly weeded and in need of grass cutting. Previous visits took in the Local Church which was a good opportunity to explain the link to Matthew Flinders and the village's heritage. The visit to see the Beacon at the Thomas Cowley High School offered little to the judging. The school gave the opportunity for the judges to see litter and tin cans

SECTION B

Consider interpretation boards to show wildlife and explain the history of the duck pond. The visit to Mr John Lanes garden took us past the Queen Inn which had badly maintained front borders, with lots of weed present.

SECTION C

The highlight of previous visits has been the opportunity for the judges to meet and talk to the Flinders Founders. This shows a different group of the community, it also demonstrates how the young people of the village are having a say in their community

A – 84 B – 42 C – 44 Total 170

Asfordby: Bronze Award 107 points

o Judges Award – Peter Smith

Judged on 5th July Judges John Simpson and Richard Welburn

In this pleasant rural village on the fringe of Melton Mowbray, the judges were met by members of the enthusiastic bloom group who took them on a tour of the village in bright sunshine!! Once again the grounds of the Bradgate flats were a highlight of the tour. The portfolio had been put together this year by the youngest member of the team, and he made a great first effort. Well done

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

Attractive landscaping to the front and rear of Bradgate Flats. Excellent floral hanging baskets at the Three Horseshoes Public House. Additional raised planters on highways

SECTION B

Wildlife Meadow – additional tree planting. Installation of Wildlife Meadow Information Sign

SECTION C

Local residents dedicated involvement in grounds maintenance of village sites e.g. Riverside Walk. Fund raising activities to support the Bloom e.g. Village Quiz night, car boot sale, plant fair. Parish Council support funding

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Removal of weeds in planters and established borders. Increase floral features within shopping parade. Develop public use of grassed open space adjacent to Landscaped triangle in the centre of the Village

SECTION B

Promotion of local built heritage e.g. display panels. Highway amenity planting to frontage of Parish Hall. Consider promotion of feature trees within Village

SECTION C

Increase evidence of media coverage of campaign. Encourage wider public sector involvement e.g. highway grass maintenance quality. Access developer (e.g. Jelson) funding contribution to Melton BC to support local environmental improvements. Evidence wider local political support (other than Parish Council)

A – 52 B – 29 C – 26 Total 107

Woodhouse Eaves: Bronze Award 100 points

o Judges Award – the pride and hard work of the whole community

Judged on 2nd July Judges John Simpson and Richard Welburn

Woodhouse Eaves is a pleasant and vibrant Leicestershire Village located on the fringes of Swithland Woods and Beacon Hill Country Park approached in all directions through established woodland. This first time entry did themselves proud with a comprehensive tour of the village led by Eric Allsop. The highlight was a visit to the local Allotments which were beautifully managed, and had Bee Keeping tuition being offered to anyone interested in keeping bees

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The well supported Open Gardens scheme (18 entries this year). Good examples of florally attractive frontages e.g. Post Office, Perry Close, Victoria Road. Well maintained leisure facilities e.g. tennis courts

SECTION B

Village Show – ‘Best compost heap’ category. Maintenance and promotion of Village water pump. Recycling facilities

SECTION C

Involvement of schoolchildren in bulb planting, visits to Allotment site. Open Gardens Scheme . Community involvement in the maintenance of the Village water pump and open spaces

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Develop structured approach to planting projects to ensure balance of landscape / floral features e.g. additional permanent structure planting / additional floral baskets etc as appropriate. Consider increasing use of shop frontages to display floral features e.g. baskets / internal shop window displays in support of The Bloom

SECTION B

Awareness of and access to part restored Windmill using information / signage. Need to remove weeds along fence-lines and approaches e.g. sports field

SECTION C

Concerted community support to restore the local Windmill heritage feature. Evidence of practical / financial involvement of business and private sector communities

A – 55 B – 24 C – 21 Total 100

Burgh le Marsh: Certificate of Achievement 71 points

o Judges Award – the new Bloom committee

Judged on 4th July Judges John Simpson and Richard Welburn

Burgh le Marsh is a welcome new entrant to the campaign. The judges were met by enthusiastic members of the bloom team Angela, Sylvia, & Barbara. The village has many community groups and the local Town Council are looking to use the Bloom competition as a way to bring these groups together and provide a sense of pride to the village. The village has all the components that will make a successful entrant in the coming years

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

There were some good examples of community gardens. The borders around the Windmill restaurant were particularly attractive. The Baskets adorning the Fleece Inn were very good

SECTION B

The restoration and development work around the Windmill was of particular note. The fencing depicting local heritage on the entrance into the village is very outstanding

SECTION C

The recognition of the Town Council of all the hard work being carried out by the local community, and its efforts to bring that commitment together under the banner of bloom. The hard work and endeavour of Angela, Sylvia, and Barbara. The first production of a Bloom portfolio showing year round involvement in the village. The bloom slideshow was a good way to show the judges on the day how bloom is a year round project

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Try to encourage greater business participation. Several areas of the village were particularly overgrown with weed. This detracts from the overall visual appearance. A good example was the Market Place where the good work done by the Fleece Inn was let down by the surrounding area. Try to encourage more local people to enter into the spirit of bloom by organising a garden competition for the village. Maybe could be sponsored by the Windmill Restaurant who could offer a meal for two?

SECTION B

The Tinkers Green playing field has the opportunity to be developed into a wildlife corridor, by changing the mowing regimes. There was no mention of a policy for recycling. There was also very little mention of any composting. Consider the use of interpretation boards to explain the village's local heritage. A good example of this would be the fencing on the way into the village. The judges would not have known the link if you had not been there to explain it

SECTION C

Encourage more people to support the bloom effort including business, councils, residents, and school children. Look at ways of attracting funding to support the bloom effort. Look to develop the Bloom Portfolio giving more narrative to the wonderful pictures

A – 36 B – 18 C – 17 Total 71

VILLAGES

🏆 Rosliston in Bloom: Silver Gilt Award and Category Winner 162 points

○ Judges Award – Rosliston School garden and gardening club

Judged on 10th July Judges Jo Tarrant and Simon Lucas

The damp summer prior to judging, hadn't affected the number or quality of flowers on display, nor the spirits of the dedicated team of volunteers endeavouring to enhance this charming village. This is also a significant year as Rosliston celebrates its 20th year in the Bloom campaign

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The wonderful colourful display at the village hall, maintained to a high standard. The school gardening club and all their amazing vegetables

SECTION B

The Eco club at the school. Reused planter by the entrance sign

SECTION C

The work placements and community payback at Rosliston Forestry centre and further enhancements to Herbie. The continued good works in raising funds and community awareness of the bloom and your very full Bloom Calendar. The number of residents entering the new container competition

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Talk to the District Council about offering to assist at the recreation ground e.g. football pitch mowing in return for a small donation to Bloom funds. Consider some renovation planting works to the cottage garden behind the Awards Board

SECTION B

Working with the Co-op to improve their car park – Co-op staff could help and might also offer volunteers refreshments through their community fund. Show the judges more of the forestry centre with regards to the benefits to conservation and biodiversity. Try to make more of the local heritage of the village. Detail more things the village are achieving with regard to B2 Resource management. Develop a management plan for the playing field so it can be maintained to allow, or even improve, use of the football area whilst increasing the biodiversity. This could include small information boards

SECTION C

Consider creating a five year plan to decide how the Bloom develops further and work out funding plans to achieve its aims. Review the judging tour; especially at the beginning when we possibly rushed away from the Forestry Centre and missed hearing of the many resources and features, this would have been of greater benefit than time spent by the bus stop and playing field

A – 85 B – 32 C – 45 Total 162

Middleton by Wirksworth: Silver Award 144 points

○ Judges Award – Middleton Primary School environmentally friendly classroom

Judged on 10th July Judges Jo Tarrant and Simon Lucas

This traditional Derbyshire village has a mix of everything from Eco centre to Heritage centre, village allotments to village school plus much much more. This community fits so well into the Bloom criteria it is ensured a continuing positive future

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

'Middleton's gone potty' competition, a good way of engaging residents who have little or no front gardens. The Sun flower competition. Management of the orchid verge in collaboration with the District council

SECTION B

The bug hotels and composting at the Eco centre. The excellent visitor centre at Middle Top and wildflower management at Redhill Quarry. The school, garden, green roof and new woodland classroom area. New Notice board

SECTION C

The Facebook account keeping everyone up to date with Bloom. The work of the various groups and committees in enhancing the village. The excellent portfolio used to detail each section of the competition

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

The millennium garden requires areas of replanting. Consider increasing the planting in the church yard both florally and with wildlife in mind. Are there more opportunities across the village for appropriate floral enhancements e.g. at the entrance to the village and hanging baskets on village properties. Help the pub with a floral display which will be attractive to villagers and pub-users and potential new visitors going to Middleton Top

SECTION B

Some of the street furniture and signs, particularly in the millennium garden, are in need of refurbishment. Consider a water collection unit storing rainwater from neighbouring properties for use on the allotments and to be linked to the new watering system instead of mains water. Consider interpretation panels in the village or making an interesting visitor trail across the village, explaining the heritage and history of the area.

SECTION C

Consider creating a five year plan as to where Middleton would like to take the Bloom and how to raise funding to achieve projects. We look forward to hearing about the calendar of events starting in September to boost further community involvement in projects. Increase the awareness of bloom by doing a window display in the post office and posters around the village. Could you also display the portfolio or a scrapbook of activities in prominent locations e.g. the Village Hall?

A – 67 B – 39 C – 38 Total 144

Lark Hill Village: Silver Award 143 points

○ **Judges Award – the Woodwork Club**

Judged on 6th July Judges Jo Tarrant and Simon Lucas

The very wet weather didn't dampen the spirits of this enthusiastic entrant. Progress over the last 12 months was clearly visible with the improvements to the pond and the new bird hide/summer house designed and built by the woodworking group

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

Entrance to the site is very good and sets a good tone. On-going improvements to beds. Unusual container planting adds a new element of interest

SECTION B

The refurbished pond with added information. The bird hide and feeding station and to Trevor for his daily feeding of the birds. Bespoke planters and benches

SECTION C

Involvement of other groups and residents in the entry. Plant sales to raise funds so self-sustainable. Coast to Coast walk to raise funds for the bird watching station. Castle College work placements and weekly visits. Garden Club outings to other gardens. Raised beds in car park, now adopted by residents. New interpretation board by the pond

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Work with Horizon to add colourful shrubs and add structure to beds where there are gaps. Top up the mulch on shrub beds with a good quality chippings to reduce maintenance. Consider replacing the 'Maintained by Residents' notices which are showing their age, possibly with a simple sign with your logo on?

SECTION B

More information on how the wildflower areas are being maintained. This could be from a management plan or by meeting with a representative from Horizon. Add water butts to the greenhouse and continue to encourage others to install them (for a better summer than this!). Support the scheme for a large communal water harvesting system. Ensure no litter or weeds especially by the main entrance to the building. Work with Extra Care to attend to rusting steelwork on barriers etc. Investigate the use of a Green Cone for the cafeteria

SECTION C

Although the weather didn't help this year, create opportunities to meet residents, staff from ExtraCare and Horizon during the tour. Make more use of the wildflower/pond areas by involving a local school and creating links to the community beyond the village. Make full use of the allotted presentation time to explain your achievements over the past 12 months and aims for the future. A scrapbook, examples of the newsletter etc and other evidence of work we cannot see at the time of judging

A – 69 B – 36 C – 38 Total 143

Theddlethorpe: Bronze Award 112 points

○ **Judges Award – Peter Wood of Curlew Cottage**

Judged on 13th July Judges Jo Tarrant and Simon Lucas

This first time entrant to the Bloom shows good promise with most elements of the criteria already present but just need pulling together not just for the campaign but to increase greater community participation

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The beds seen on open spaces near road junction were appropriately planted for the setting. Although not visited, viewed from the road, the primary school garden showed a good number of positive elements from wildflowers to vegetable garden. A number of residents helping to look after beds. Floral displays at the pub

SECTION B

Peter Wood at Curlew Cottage, where the garden is maintained for increasing wildlife and biodiversity. Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes National Nature Reserve. Vegetable garden and off site small holding growing fresh produce for the pub food. Nourishing the judges with freshly picked peach and then samphire from the beach!

SECTION C

The only garden club in the area attracting people to the village. Local residents maintaining verge-side beds. Article in the local newsletter. Flower Show and Spirit of the Marsh activities

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Incorporate good farmyard manure into beds (a donation from a farmer would also count as business support!) Develop a relationship with the new nursery - they could be a great asset to the entry. Make contact with Conoco Philips; there are many potential ways they could support the entry both on their site and within village. Enter the pub in the EMIB best pub competition

SECTION B

Invite a representative from Lincolnshire County Council or Natural England to tell the judges about the nature reserve. Adopt the two traditional working telephone boxes, they must be unique but need some TLC. Continue with plans for a feature to recognise those who gave their life in war

SECTION C

Village Hall and associated play/sport facilities has greater potential than was evident on our visit. Involve Olderton House group. Start a scrapbook, and make it available to as many residents as possible, to show the year round work. Include press cuttings, newsletter and lots of photos of activities and people working on projects. This can help inspire others as well as impressing judges! Learning how to present the village to judges will in its-self increase the score but more importantly at the same time help involve more residents and encourage greater community participation. Additional guidance has been given separately to this report

A – 58 B – 30 C – 24 Total 112

SMALL VILLAGES

🏆 **Barton in Fabis: Silver Gilt Award and Category Winner 151 points**

🏆 **The Brooks Mayfield Award for the Most Improved Entrant in East Midlands in Bloom**

○ **Judges Award – the Churchyard Area**

Judged on 6th July Judges Ian Cooke and Jo Tarrant

Despite the torrential rain on the day of judging, this tranquil, traditional farming village was a joy to explore, every resident had a pride in their garden and many of the verges and public spaces were enhanced by appropriate planting and flowers. The acclaimed Forge Garden was an added bonus to the tour

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

Improvements to the entrance to Top Farm with new a trough planter and planted verge. The spectacular Forge garden open to the public through the NGS. The highly appropriate mix of manicured verges in the village centre and the more natural wild village boundaries

SECTION B

The seasonal “Art” in the way of planted wheelbarrows outside the fronts of many of the houses, which will be used for Olympic style races later in the summer. The Village work party who cleared out the flood bank ditch and natural re-colonisation on the adjacent verge. The general cleanliness of the village

SECTION C

The working parties in the Churchyard to create new beds and encourage wildlife. The widespread participation in gardening activities in the village including the village flower festival. The numerous publications detailing gardening events in the village

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Consider increasing the width of the beds and borders in the Churchyard to increase the opportunity for greater planting. Try to identify more locations around the village for more permanent planting schemes. At the village entrances consider larger planters but also year round interest with colour schemes in keeping with and sympathetic to the location

SECTION B

Perhaps consider a “Welcome to” sign promoting the village and the Bloom. Interpretation of the Village Dovecote may be sited at the entrance to the Farm Shop to draw people down to it. Show evidence of village recycling, reuse, composting, mulching and water conservation. Encourage another location for a bench within the village

SECTION C

Try to encourage Local media coverage for some of the village activities, i.e. the Barrow race and open gardens day. Give careful consideration on species with regards to winter Bulb planting in verges and churchyard. Source or raise future funding for more projects – create a 5 year plan of what “The Bloom” would like to achieve in the village

A – 79 B – 36 C – 36 Total 151

St Crispin Village: Silver Award 129 points**○ Judges Award – Beryl Harper**

Judged on 2nd July Judges Ian Cooke and Jo Tarrant

This retirement village is set in beautiful grounds, maintained largely by the residents. There is a great deal of input from individual gardeners looking after their own areas as well as some impressive public areas. In particular the hard work and enthusiasm of Beryl Harper is key in the achievements in this lovely community. The standards achieved are particularly admirable, not only despite the poor season but especially as the gardener responsible for lawns and hedges retired earlier this year and a replacement has only just been appointed

Areas of Achievement**SECTION A**

Many planted areas including balconies were tidy and well maintained with healthy colourful plants. There has been a particularly welcome use of a wider range of plants and in particular new herbaceous perennials. The well filled borders outside the restaurant are particularly attractive and the containers of sweet peas a nice addition

SECTION B

The bug hotel outside the restaurant is a good addition and the interpretation panel identifying butterflies is great. The site is commendably free of litter, graffiti and other nuisances and seats and other outdoor items in excellent condition. The composting exercise and use of water butts throughout the site is exemplary and will no doubt be valuable in future dry seasons!

SECTION C

There is widespread involvement from many of the residents who maintain their own patches of the grounds. It is good to see that the organisation values the grounds and supports this with regular funding. Plant sales are another good source of income

Areas suggested for future development**SECTION A**

Work on co-operation between Beryl and the new gardener to achieve a better standard with lawns and hedges and avoid contractor's heavy handed pruning. Whilst the spread of colour throughout the site provides widespread interest, it might be good to add more colour and impact to the main entrance area. It would be good to see some new shrubs added to planted areas for diversity in planting and sustainability

SECTION B

The Management organisation should give more support to volunteers with heavy jobs such as moving compost. Pressure washing and weed control of paved areas for safety as well as aesthetic reasons should be a priority. Some additional bird boxes would be a great addition and these could perhaps be made by the woodworking team

SECTION C

Whilst the work of Beryl is highly commendable it would be good to see a few more key enthusiasts to spread the work and ensure continuity. It would also be good to see a greater link with the wider community and in particular the local school. Perhaps the school could be encouraged to take over an area of the more public parts of the grounds to plant and maintain? Other outside links e.g. with garden centres could be explored with the possibility of winter talks or demonstrations, to maintain interest and help recruit other volunteers

A – 65 B – 34 C – 30 Total 129

Elmton: Silver Award 122 points

🏆 Frank Constable Award for Best Residential Garden – the Pinfold

○ Judges Award – the Well dressings

Judged on 3rd July Judges Ian Cooke and Jo Tarrant

This historic, naturally pretty village has a picturesque rural location and an enthusiastic community who seem very dedicated to making the village an interesting and lively place to live. The Parish Council provides some lovely floral baskets to enhance the village further

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

The three Well Dressings across the village were superbly designed and created using mostly local flower petals. The Pinfold garden was joy for any passer-by to admire. The quality of all the residents gardens plus the very pretty village pub

SECTION B

Community clean up of the Old School Room's garden. The interpretation panels and blue plaque across the village are excellent

SECTION C

The number of volunteers and the training given to all the Well dressing petal pushers. The number of community events and helpers involved is impressive for a village this size

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

Think about creating an appropriate focal point at the entrances to the village, maybe using permanent planting provided it's in keeping with the rural setting. Undertake some year round planting as a community: consider further horticultural enhancement to the Well area. Ensure the Elm tree planting project is carried out and local residents help with the planting

SECTION B

Ensure the management of the Green is appropriate for the needs of the village, ensuring a balance which conserves remaining Bee orchids and the other flora, whilst keeping some space for recreation. Reprint the village trail. Try to set up a community work party to repaint benches and sweep gullies. Consider making the grounds maintenance in the churchyard more wildlife friendly

SECTION C

Read the judges comments and consider which would fit into planning for the next Bloom Year. Consider what elements of the village and its activities fit into the Bloom Criteria and target the tour on those. Consider raising funds for further horticultural enhancements to the village

A – 60 B – 31 C – 31 Total 122

Ranby: Bronze Award 116 points

🏆 East Midlands in Bloom Committee Award – Mavis Wollerton

○ Judges Award – the high standard of grass maintenance

Judged on 3rd July Judges Ian Cooke and Jo Tarrant

This conveniently located village on the edge of the A1 is a mix of newer and older properties with well maintained verges and some lovely front gardens. Horticultural efforts are concentrated in hot spots across the village. The villagers battle on with displays despite the impact of the local rabbit population!

Areas of Achievement

SECTION A

New planters and benches are a valuable addition to the village landscape. Areas of planting and containers around the bus stops maintained by residents. The very neat well maintained grass verges and grass areas in a wet season

SECTION B

The Village clean-up operations are commendable. The almost total absence of litter and other nuisances in this village is a great achievement. Recycling is well organised

SECTION C

The procedure whereby the grass cutting is done by a volunteer in exchange for funding from the Parish Council and available for Bloom is a great idea. The coffee mornings and raffles organised by Mavis are good sources of income

Areas suggested for future development

SECTION A

It would be good to see more permanent planting including new trees and shrubs which if carefully chosen might be less palatable to the rabbits. Encourage school to be involved in some way, possibly via the RHS Schools campaign and the results shown to the judges in future. Encourage the Chequer's Public House to plant their baskets again. The automatic irrigation system already in place would not make this an onerous task. The judges encourage the Village to enter one of the good front gardens for the Frank Constable award in future years

SECTION B

The finger signboard and some other items of street furniture such as benches are in need of cleaning, repair and wood treatment. It would be good to see if the presence of the Chesterfield Canal running through the village would yield any interesting heritage information that could be displayed

SECTION C

It seems vital that the Bloom initiative in this village recruits additional active participants. Some practical support for Clive is very much needed. Someone to do the Bloom paperwork, produce a portfolio and act as a contact would also be valuable. It would be good to see the Open Gardens event reinstated, possibly linked to a garden competition. An action plan listing future improvements would help with focus and fund raising

A – 61 B – 28 C – 27 – Total 116

MARKING SHEET (the same for all categories)

As per the 3 RHS Core Pillars: Section A 50%; Section B 25%; Section C 25%

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement			
Assessing year-round horticultural achievement including conservation and natural areas:			
		MAX	ACT.
A1.	Impact – <i>design, colours, appropriate choice of plants, special features, presentation, innovation</i>	20	
A2.	Horticultural practice – <i>cultivation and maintenance, quality of plants, sustainability, new planting</i>	20	
A3.	Residential and Community Gardening – <i>residential, communal areas, allotments, public buildings (grounds of churches, schools etc.), car parks</i>	20	
A4.	Business Areas and Premises – <i>retail and shopping areas, leisure sites, transport terminals, car parks, farms, rural businesses, pubs, post offices, tourist areas/attractions, offices, estate agents etc.</i>	20	
A5.	Green Spaces – <i>verges, parks and open public spaces</i>	20	
TOTAL POINTS AWARDED FOR SECTION A <i>50% of maximum points</i>		100	
Areas of Achievement:			
Areas for Improvement:			
SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility			
Assessing year-round activities improving environmental responsibility:			
		MAX	ACT.
B1.	Conservation and biodiversity – <i>wildlife areas, natural habitat</i>	10	
B2.	Resource management – <i>recycling, minimising demand placed on natural resources and any harmful impact on the environment</i>	10	
B3.	Local heritage – <i>management and development of local heritage and/or identity, inclusive of natural heritage</i>	10	
B4.	Local environmental quality – <i>management of vacant premises and plots, litter, graffiti, fly-posting, dog fouling etc.</i>	10	
B5.	Pride of place – <i>management of street furniture, signage, art in the landscape and hard landscaping</i>	10	
TOTAL POINTS AWARDED FOR SECTION B <i>25% of maximum points</i>		50	
Areas of Achievement:			
Areas for Improvement:			

SECTION C – Community Participation			
Assessing year-round community participation:			
		MAX	ACT.
C1.	Development and continuity - <i>Development and sustainability of the local bloom initiative and evidence of on-going projects</i>	10	
C2.	Communication and education – <i>community awareness and understanding, engagement with schools and young people and/or other community groups, press coverage, publicity materials</i>	10	
C3.	Community participation – <i>community involvement is representative of the community's size and diversity</i>	10	
C4.	Year-round involvement – <i>schedules of events and supporting evidence of year-round activity (primary evidence to be presented in 15 minute presentation)</i>	10	
C5.	Funding and Support – <i>initiatives to secure on-going support for the local bloom campaign including local business support</i>	10	
TOTAL POINTS AWARDED FOR SECTION C <i>25% of maximum points</i>		50	
Areas of Achievement:			
Areas for Improvement:			
GRAND TOTAL POINTS AWARDED		200 <i>(max.)</i>	
MEDAL AWARDED			

<u>MEDAL</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
GOLD	170-200
SILVER GILT	150-169
SILVER	120-149
BRONZE	100-119
CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT	0-99