

## **BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2016 – JUDGES’ COMMENTS FULFORD**

BKV awareness was tackled through items in Stone Life, the village newsletter, church magazine, village website and emails to residents. There were plenty of BKV posters on sites all around the village; with the “Working Together” banners looking very eye-catching.

There were many “original” children’s posters at the village hall, on the village green and elsewhere. They certainly got the message across!

All the noticeboards were in good condition with neatly displayed notices; but judges felt that the timber framed one at the village hall needed some attention; notices were neatly displayed.

There was a good spread of up-to-date local information, on Parish Council matters, local events and activities, dog fouling and re-cycling awareness and local contact names. In June judges said “we knew what was going on and who we would need to contact”.

The churchyard in May was not at its best; however in June it looked very neat and tidy, and had been mown to a high standard. There were attractive planters by the church door and the new noticeboard contained relevant up-to-date information. The car park was tidy.

The village hall car park and surrounds were very neat and tidy; but there were a few cigarette ends and other litter near the front in June. There were some attractive, well maintained planted areas.

The Shoulder of Mutton surrounds and car park were tidy and weed-free (there was some builders’ rubble associated with the ongoing extensions – but judges ignored that). The beer garden was tidy, litter-free and looked well cared for. The community herb garden at the front illustrated links between the pub and the community.

The telephone call box was beautifully painted and “in pristine condition inside and outside”. There was no litter or weeds in the surrounds. There was a BKV poster displayed inside.

The bus shelter was well maintained, with an up-to-date bus timetable. The inside was well swept and the surrounds were free from litter and weeds.

All seats and benches were in good condition, with clean weed and litter free surrounds.

The Well and both structures on the Village Green were excellent features. There were also excellent planting features on the bridge parapet at the junction of Meadow Lane and other smaller planted tubs elsewhere in the village.

The war memorial “needed a tidy up” in May. However, the June judges noted that the surrounding grass had been strimmed, but the cuttings had not been swept away from the lower surfaces of the memorial.

All the small open spaces and verges were in excellent condition, neatly mown and well cared for. The small open space at the village hall created a good welcoming impression. The Village Green also looked good.

Apart from one or two, private gardens were maintained to a very high standard, “with lots of colour and nice shrubs”.

Judges said that “the children’s play area was delightful”; with equipment in good condition, excellent safety surfaces and well mown grass surrounds.

The map was clear, accurate and easy to use, with clear symbols.

Very little litter was seen (except where noted above); and no dog mess. There was good evidence of BKV awareness and involvement of residents in the village throughout the judging period.

Fulford was described by judges as “a pleasure to visit – even on a damp day in July”. (The extra copies of the laminated map were appreciated then!) There was again a great deal to praise in Fulford this year and in the very closely contested Small Village category in the Stafford Area the village was unlucky not to reach the Area Finals. Judges were convinced, however, that Fulford would be competing for “top honours” again very soon. Congratulations on achieving Highly Commended this year, keep up the good work and good luck in 2017.

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Chairman, BKV Working Group

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