

## **BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2017 – JUDGES’ COMMENTS FULFORD**

Measures taken to publicise BKV awareness included items in The Stone Gazette, the village newsletter, church magazine, the village website and emails to residents. There were many BKV posters throughout the village, together with impressive bespoke banners at village entrance signs.

There were good displays of children’s posters at the Village Green and the Village Hall – and other small displays at a variety of sites throughout the village. The posters were of a high standard and related to subjects which were very relevant to the BKV competition. Well done to all those involved.

All the noticeboards were in good condition, with neatly displayed notices.

Good local information was displayed on the noticeboards, including Parish Council matters, village activities and groups (with contact details and venues etc) and details about bulky refuse, recycling and dog fouling.

St Nicholas’ churchyard was pretty well maintained overall (grass was being mown when the June judges visited). It may be worth considering designated wildlife/conservation areas which could be left unmown to reduce the amount of “close grass cutting”. The car park was tidy and the noticeboard was in good condition.

The Village Hall surrounds and car park were very neat and tidy with a number of attractive planted areas. There were small amounts of litter in May.

The Shoulder of Mutton car park was very tidy and free of weeds. The beer garden looked attractive and well cared for, with its community herb garden providing a nice touch.

The operational telephone box was very clean and tidy inside, but the surrounds were rather weedy. There was a BKV poster inside it.

The bus shelter was clean and tidy inside, with a current timetable on display. The surrounds were litter and weed free.

All the varied seats and benches were in good condition; but some on the Village Green will need painting soon. All had good clean, weed and litter free surrounds.

The village well was being renovated; the village sign was an attractive feature which enhanced the Village Green and there were some nice, colourful planters around the village, including the ones on the bridge railings.

The war memorial was in good condition, but the surrounds were untidy. It looked rather uncared for.

The Village Green was very well mown and tidy all round in both May and June. The small verges were all well maintained and cared for.

The overall standard of private gardens was very good and judges saw no poor ones.

The children's play area was in a delightful setting, and all the equipment was well maintained and in good condition. The safety surfaces were good and the area was clean and litter free.

The map was generally clear, functional and easy to follow, but the war memorial symbol was rather unclear.

Fulford is a neat and tidy village, with very little litter and no dog fouling seen during judging. There was good evidence of community involvement, especially the numerous social events and BKV campaigns throughout the year and the many colourful planters around the village.

Fulford is clearly a well loved village with evidence of a strong community involvement and pride. Judges enjoyed their visits and felt that there was much to be admired in the village. The Small Village category in the Stafford area was again closely contested and Fulford only just missed out in reaching the Area Finals. With just a bit more attention to detail and some improvements in the overall appearance of the churchyard Fulford should soon be "back near top". Well done on achieving Highly Commended in 2017.

John T Perry, MBE  
Chairman, BKV Working Group

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