

FULFORD – BKV JUDGES' COMMENTS 2009

Best Kept Village publicity and children's posters were plentiful and well displayed throughout the village, except during May when no children's posters were seen. The Best Kept Village team in the village had made residents aware and invited help with the competition via newsletters and the website in particular, well done! Notice boards were in excellent condition (especially at the village hall) with very good local information.

Recycling and dog fouling awareness were very good.

The churchyard is a large area and was very well looked after with an excellent notice board.

The village hall surrounds were very clean and tidy, with attractive planting at the front. The public house surrounds were "quite clean and tidy" in May, but were untidy with litter in June.

The telephone box was in need of attention, being rather overgrown with ivy. The seats and benches were excellent, having been varnished recently; and the village signs were in good order.

The war memorial in the churchyard would have benefited from a little more care. The May judges felt that the grass could have been better mown and daffodil stalks dealt with.

Public open spaces were well maintained, particularly the village green area. Private gardens were of a very good standard, with one or two exceptions; and general cleanliness was also very good, apart from the pub car park. There was no dog mess and no litter.

The children's play area was in very good condition, with very good safety surfaces. (But judges considered that it was hard to find in relation to where it was shown on the map).

The map was good, but some judges found the key rather small and had difficulty in relating the key to the map and in locating the children's play area. A little more work is needed on the map, but it should not be difficult to make improvements. Would it benefit from being a bit bigger?

Fulford is a well-loved village which showed good community involvement. Competition in the Stafford District was very fierce this year but the village did very well to achieve Highly Commended as a "new entrant". There were signs that the village was "better" in June, than in May, which may suggest an earlier start to preparation for Best Kept Village. That said, however, a very good base has been established, there is much good to build on and if the comments above can be worked on, Fulford should do very well indeed in 2010. Well done in 2009!

John Perry, MBE
Chairman, BKV Working Group

October 2009