

## **FULFORD – BKV JUDGES' COMMENTS 2012**

BKV awareness was impressive through newsletters, the Stone Gazette and Stafford Newsletter, Parish magazine etc. There were some excellent large posters at village entrances and on village notice boards.

Very colourful children's posters were well displayed on both the front and rear of the notice boards.

The notice boards were all in good condition. There was a new one by the bus shelter, but the one at the village hall needs a little attention.

Local information was good, with details of numerous village hall events and contacts for village groups; but no Parish Council or Councillor contact information.

There was good recycling information, with details of bulky refuse collections prominently displayed.

Dog fouling awareness was excellent, with plenty of disposal bins; and notices on lamp posts and notice boards.

The churchyard was very well cared for considering the wet weather and given the large area involved. There was also a pleasant conservation/wild flower area. The seat by the Millennium Stone appeared unsafe and needed attention.

The village hall surrounds were good, but spoilt by cigarette ends and litter around the car park perimeter in July.

The Shoulder of Mutton surrounds were generally good, apart from a few weeds by the side of the car park entrance and bits of litter in the patio/table area in July. The flower display at the front of the pub was excellent.

The telephone box was clean and tidy, apart from a few cobwebs inside. Outside, growth of a laurel shrub was restricting access.

The bus shelter was clean and tidy with current timetables on display, but the perspex panels were badly scratched.

All seats and benches were in good condition, with tidy surrounds.

The Memorial Well on the village green was good and looked "cared for" and the judges admired the floral baskets on the bridge between the village green and church.

The state of the war memorial varied during judging. Apart from a few weeds in May, it was satisfactory; in June it looked good, but unfortunately, in July it "looked forlorn and neglected".

The small public open spaces were generally very tidy and well-maintained.

Private gardens were all maintained to a high standard. “They show pride and evidence of good community spirit within the village”.(June judges).

All the children’s play equipment was in good condition, but judges found it difficult to find as it was not signposted. The May judges were concerned about the boundary of the play area, which consisted of rocks and nettles, with a ditch below.

All safety surfaces looked new and in excellent condition.

The map was very clear and colourful and judges appreciated the “multi-copies” and lamination. It could be improved by the addition of BKV entry form reference numbers on the map and key.

The village was very clean and tidy throughout the judging period, with evidence of good community spirit pervading. There was very little litter – except for some left by village hall visitors – and no dog mess.

There is a tremendous amount of community spirit in the village and excellent BKV awareness and publicity, children’s posters, recycling and dog fouling awareness. The churchyard was well kept, together with telephone box, bus shelter, play areas and open spaces.

Congratulations on being Highly Commended this year in the Small Village Category in Stafford District, where competition was again extremely fierce! Good luck in 2013!

John T Perry, MBE  
Chairman, BKV Working Group

September 2012