

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2013 - JUDGES' COMMENTS FULFORD

There was good BKV awareness, particularly through the village news and parish magazine, etc. There were well sited BKV posters on noticeboards and at village entrances.

Judges were impressed by the two excellent displays of children's posters on the village green and by the village hall. The posters were very colourful and imaginative. Well done!

The noticeboards were generally in good condition, but the one opposite the school may need some attention soon. All notices were displayed neatly.

Here was a good range of up-to-date local information, with good coverage of re-cycling details and dog fouling awareness.

The area at the front of the church and the main paths were very well kept, with the bluebell areas and planters at the front door looking very attractive. The newer burial area was very neat and tidy, but although the central area had been cut it did not look so neat. Both noticeboards and gates needed some attention. Unfortunately, two dog messes were seen in May.

The village hall surrounds and car park were very good overall, but unfortunately marred by large amounts of litter by the basketball hoop area in June. The grass and planted areas were very well cared for.

The Shoulder of Mutton public house surrounds and car park were free from weeds, but there were a few bits of litter in June. The litter bins were overflowing and needed emptying, but the frontage planting around the seating area was very attractive, though a few cigarette ends spoiled the overall effect.

The telephone box was excellent inside and out, was free from litter and well cared for.

The bus shelter was in good condition both inside and out, with current bus timetables on display.

Seats and benches were generally in good condition. The one on the village green was particularly good, but the one in front of the village hall had some slats "crumbling". The surrounds to both were very neat and tidy.

There were lovely garden features at Town End and Fulford Road; and the new village sign and memorial well were also distinctive and well cared for.

The war memorial was in good condition with neat and tidy surrounds, although long grass and dying back daffodils detracted from the simple, clean statement of the memorial (June).

The small open spaces were all neat and tidy although some verges needed cutting. The village green looked very good indeed and the area off Highview Road, was well-kept and litter free.

A few private gardens in Highview Road were a bit below par, but the vast majority of gardens were very good; some gardens along Fulford Road and Saverley Green Road were outstanding, showing a pride in their upkeep and good community involvement.

The varied, bright and colourful play equipment was in very good condition, with excellent safety surfaces. The areas were free from litter and dog fouling, with neat grass surrounds. (The May judges expressed some concern about the lack of fencing between the play area and the wooded area at the back)

The map was generally good with a variety of symbols to show BKV features, but there were a few anomalies (eg. the inset detail differed from the main map and there was no local information/noticeboard at Town End). These points can be easily remedial.

There was very little litter seen during judging (except as noted above at the village hall); and no dog fouling (except in the churchyard in May). There was clear evidence of community awareness of and involvement in BKV and judges commented on the range of community activities available.

The pretty planters around the village helped enhance Fulford's appearance, making it a very pleasant village to visit. There was a very good standard of care across the range of BKV features and the judges felt that there was excellent community spirit and involvement throughout the village. This was rewarded by a well-earned Highly Commended this year in the closely fought Small Village category in Stafford District.

Congratulations and good luck in 2014!

John T Perry, MBE
Chairman, BKV Working Group

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