



Standard Marking Sheet

Name of Entry - Wistaston in Bloom

Judge - Neil Harvey

Date of Assessment - 11th August 2022

Category: Town

MAXIMUM OF 10 POINTS PER SUB SECTION

MAXIMUM OF 10 POINTS PER SUB SECTION									Total marks awarded in sections A, B & C	Medal level awarded in sections A, B & C
A Horticulture 40%	A1	9	A2	9	A3	10	A4	10	38	Gold
B Environment 30%	B1	10	B2	9	B3	10			29	Gold
C Community 30%	C1	9	C2	9	C3	9			27	Gold

Total Score out of 100: 94

Overall Medal Awarded: Gold

Medal Guide: Gold, Excellent 85-100 Points; Silver Gilt, Very Good 75-84 Points; Silver, Good 60-74 Points; Bronze, Satisfactory 50-59 Points. 49 Points and below – certificate of participation.

Introduction and Overall Impression: (Please expand space as required to fit judging comments).

The judge was given a face-to-face presentation and had received beforehand a comprehensive digital portfolio which documented in detail what had been achieved over the previous year. There was also good detail of the various groups and partners who had all contributed to the project. The Portfolio itself was an excellent document and contained a wealth of information for the judge to read. The portfolio was colourful and professional document that supported the entry.

The judge was delighted to meet several community representatives especially the conservation group and the litter picking group. A real community-based initiative.

Judges Feedback Section A – Horticulture: *(Please expand space as required to fit judging comments).*

Wistaston in Bloom have done a fantastic job putting on a show stopping display and colour within the Wistaston area. Beautiful, planted troughs, hanging baskets and flower beds within the town. The plant quality for the summer bedding was excellent, with vibrant colours and plants growing to their full potential.

The enthusiasm of residents and the community volunteers was infectious their love of plants and flowers gave you the feel-good factor and was infectious .

I must stress again the fantastic and impressive work done by the volunteers within the local community and all those involved. Their commitment to the community is commendable and needs to be recognised.

Overall, the horticulture, plant quality, flower displays, and maintenance was fantastic one of the best I have seen. Keep up the excellent work.

Judges Feedback Section B – Environment: *(Please expand space as required to fit judging comments).*

Wistaston Conservation group is an excellent place to visit, which offers the local community and visitors a wide range of natural habitats for wildlife in the extensive heath land. Notice and interpretation boards were of good quality and appropriately designed for their locations and gave visitors information of the site.

The standards of cleanliness throughout the visit was first class with streets free of litter, dog fouling, graffiti, chewing gum, weeds and detritus nowhere to be seen.

The volunteer work done by the team was highly commendable. Especially the litter picking group which has 22 volunteers.

Judges Feedback Section C – Community: *(Please expand space as required to fit judging comments).*

Wistaston has a core Bloom Group who also represents other organisations in the town; they have a programme of activity and community involvement.

Well done to everyone involved, maintain your excellent efforts, thank you for your support for North West in Bloom.

		10-9	8	7-6	5
A1	<u>Overall Impression</u> Taking account of all relevant factors, how strong is the impact of the entry in creating a memorable impression? Are the designs and materials used appropriate to their locations? Emphasis here is on coordination and overall quality.	High impact with excellent attention to detail delivering the desired results in an appropriate and consistent manner.	Most areas are high impact with very good attention to detail although a few areas are inconsistent.	Good overall impact although not always balanced. Some areas make an impact but others need to be more vibrant with better design.	Although generally satisfactory , more attention to detail is required in order to increase impact and improve consistency of design.
A2	<u>Maintenance of Planted Areas</u> Are the areas within the entry maintained to an appropriate standard, including cultivation, weeding, feeding, pruning, grass maintenance, tree management and maintenance?	Excellent standards of cultivation. Very consistent throughout. Horticultural maintenance and general care is outstanding.	Standards are very good with few exceptions. Horticultural maintenance is managed consistently.	Standards of horticultural maintenance are good and fairly consistent. There are a few exceptions where further attention is required.	Standards are generally satisfactory . However, the horticultural maintenance programme requires further attention to detail in some areas.
A3	<u>Plant Selection</u> Are the plants used in the planting schemes suited to their growing conditions and locations and is there year-round interest, where appropriate?	Excellent plant selection with extensive year-round interest, and almost no exceptions.	Plant selection is very good overall with only a few exceptions and ample year-round interest.	Plant selection is generally good , but there is room for improvement in some areas in order to extend year-round interest.	Plant selection is generally satisfactory , however it requires further consideration in order to extend the season and maintain interest.
A4	<u>Plant Quality</u> Are the plants vibrant and grown to their full potential? Are they generally free of pests and diseases?	Plant quality is excellent , plants are very healthy, vigorous and grown to their full potential.	Plant quality is very good , plants are mostly healthy and vigorous, with only a few exceptions.	Plant quality and health is generally good , but not always consistent. Lack of vigour in some areas.	Plant quality and health is generally satisfactory , but could be improved.

		10-9	8	7-6	5
B1	<u>Local Identity & Pride of Place</u> Is there a sense of place, with appropriate acknowledgement of local heritage and its relevance for the community; e.g. art in the landscape, signage and interpretation etc. Consider the pride taken in hard landscape (including streets), open spaces (including grass areas and beaches if appropriate), street furniture maintenance, etc.	Extensive evidence of efforts to highlight/enhance local identity. An excellent impression made about what makes the area unique. Street furniture including litter bins and seating is in excellent condition.	Considerable evidence of efforts to highlight/enhance local identity. A very good impression made about what makes the area unique. Street furniture including litter bins and seating is in very good condition.	Some evidence of efforts to highlight/enhance local identity. A good impression made about what makes the area unique. Street furniture including litter bins and seating is in good condition.	Little evidence of efforts to highlight/enhance local identity. A satisfactory impression made about what makes the area unique. Street furniture including litter bins and seating is in variable condition.
B2	<u>Natural Environment</u> Is there an understanding of what biodiversity means locally, e.g. regarding the protection and conservation of the natural environment and wildlife habitat? Have any provisions been made, e.g. wildflower areas, bat/bird boxes and insect hotels, where applicable aquatic/marine conservation sites. Has an assessment of their effectiveness been made, where possible?	The natural environment is managed to an excellent standard supporting an extensive range of flora and fauna, with little improvement required.	The natural environment is managed to a very good standard supporting a considerable range of flora and fauna; very little effort would lift it to excellent.	The natural environment is managed to a good standard supporting a range of flora and fauna. Requires further work to improve it in places.	The natural environment is managed to a generally satisfactory standard supporting some flora and fauna. Needs significant improvement in places.
B3	<u>Environmental Quality and Resources</u> What has been done to minimise the use of resources, e.g. water, chemicals, pesticides and to implement solutions like recycling, composting etc. To include cleanliness, absence of litter, street weeds, graffiti vandalism, flyposting/temporary signage, chewing gum, and effective dog fouling control measures.	Extensive evidence of resource management initiatives. All areas are cleaned to an excellent standard. There is effective control of street weeds, no graffiti vandalism or flyposting.	Considerable evidence of resource management initiatives. All areas are cleaned to a very good standard. There is very good control of street weeds, very little graffiti vandalism and flyposting.	Some evidence of resource management initiatives. All areas are cleaned to a good standard. There is generally good control of street weeds, but some evidence of graffiti vandalism and flyposting.	Little evidence of resource management initiatives. All areas are cleaned to a satisfactory standard. There is some control of street weeds, but considerable evidence of graffiti vandalism and flyposting.

		10-9	8	7-6	5
C1	<p><u>Year Round Activity and Future Commitment</u></p> <p>Evidence of forward planning and year-round activities, initiatives or events. Highlighting where they are adding value and demonstrating the strengths or uniqueness of the entry.</p>	<p>Excellent evidence of activities taking place throughout the year and of advanced planning. The annual programme of activities is exceptional.</p>	<p>Very good evidence of activities taking place throughout the year and of advanced planning.</p>	<p>Good evidence of activities taking place throughout the year and of advanced planning.</p>	<p>Satisfactory evidence of activities taking place throughout the year and of advanced planning but some areas of improvement needed.</p>
C2	<p><u>Communication, Education, and Awareness</u></p> <p>Use of suitable interpretation, enabling learning and a greater understanding of purpose. Engagement with schools, young people or other groups. Promotion within the immediate area through local and regional communications. Appropriate communications and media involvement evidenced.</p>	<p>Excellent use of signage and interpretation, and evidence of involvement in public awareness and educational programmes. Communications and appropriate media involvement are extremely well evidenced.</p>	<p>Very good use of signage and interpretation, and evidence of involvement in public awareness and educational programmes. Communications and appropriate media involvement are very well evidenced.</p>	<p>Good use of signage and interpretation, and evidence of involvement in public awareness and educational programmes. Communications and appropriate media involvement are well evidenced. A few missed opportunities.</p>	<p>Satisfactory use of signage and interpretation, and evidence of involvement in public awareness and educational programmes. Communications and appropriate media involvement are evidenced but limited and there is room for improvement.</p>
C3	<p><u>Support and Funding</u></p> <p>Has the entry made every effort to engage the support of a wide variety of local groups and organisations? Participation should be representative of the local community. Evidence of fundraising and on-going support from a range of businesses and organisations appropriate to the size of the entry, making it viable and able to continue moving forward.</p>	<p>The range of groups and organisations engaged are an excellent representation of the wider community. Excellent levels of funding to ensure the viability of the entry. Support in all areas is sustainable and outstanding.</p>	<p>The range of groups and organisations engaged are a very good representation of the wider community. Very good levels of funding to ensure the viability of the entry. Support in all areas is very good and will be sustainable over time.</p>	<p>The range of groups and organisations engaged are a good representation of the wider community. Good levels of funding to ensure the viability of the entry. Support in all areas is good and, with effort, will be sustainable over time.</p>	<p>The range of groups and organisations engaged are a satisfactory representation of the wider community. Satisfactory levels of funding to ensure the viability of the entry. Support in all areas is satisfactory and fairly sustainable over time.</p>

Judges/entrants notes

- The new style report and assessment form has rebalanced the existing scoring system to 40:30:30 reflecting the greater importance of the environment and the community.
- The form has expandable sections under overall impression and judges' feedback allowing the judges to provide comprehensive and meaningful comments as much as they deem necessary.