



BRITAIN
IN BLOOM
with the RHS

GUERNSEY

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FLORAL
GUERNSEY

FOUNDATION
HERM • ALDERNEY • SARK

Creating Islands of Flowers

Guernsey in Bloom Competitions and Awards Communities Guide 2024



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Support for the Communities

The Floral Guernsey Foundation is a charity run by volunteers committed to the vision of creating Islands of Flowers. We recognise the all - important role that the community plays in fulfilling this vision and so we dedicate the bulk of our available funding to support the islands' communities. We also offer support in the form of guidance and advice. Please email us if you have any queries. Grants are available to help fund the enhancements that will make all the difference. We believe that the Community Competition is an opportunity to make a high-profile contribution to your community, so we give a higher grant for entrants. If you feel unable to enter the full Competition at this time, you can still get a grant. Details are on page 16. Take a look too at the Community Awards Competition p11. There is almost certainly something there for you.

The Community Competition

The competition is open to all the parishes and islands of the Bailiwick. The aim is to encourage all sectors of the community to work together to improve and re-generate their local environments through imaginative planting of trees, shrubs and flowers, attractive landscaping, conservation of natural amenities and wildlife, recycling projects and cleanliness initiatives. Grants are provided to help fund these improvements, together with practical advice where possible.

The competition is judged in July and the winner will be presented with the Lady Dorey Trophy at our Awards Evening in September. Subject to Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) approval, all entrants will have the opportunity of representing the Bailiwick in the Britain in Bloom campaign. They will be competing with other communities from all parts of the UK.

What are the benefits?

- ☀️ Raise awareness of local issues such as sustainability, recycling, minimising waste and energy conservation and encourage people to take an active role in preserving their own environments.
 - ☀️ Increase pride in where we live.
 - ☀️ Boost the local economy through increased tourism.
 - ☀️ Regenerate run down and neglected areas.
-
- ☀️ Stimulate voluntary work and co-operation between local community groups.
 - ☀️ Achieve long-term enhancement of the local environment through sustainable planting, floral displays, preserve wildlife habitat and improved levels of cleanliness.



The Community Competition, Getting Started

A community is usually the whole of a parish, but there is no reason why it shouldn't be a part of a parish or a joint venture between parishes as long as it comprises of a group of individual properties such as private gardens, public buildings, schools and commercial premises.

Growing a Winning Entry

The first step is to form an enthusiastic local action committee, called a "Bloom Group" in the UK.

Ideally, the committee's members will represent the whole community, with representatives from the parish douzaine, local businesses, voluntary and other organisations, residents and gardening interests.

The role of the committee is to encourage participation, attract support and sponsorship, provide advice and keep an eye on standards, quality and progress.

Community involvement

Get support from the local community by informing them of your intentions to put together a 'Guernsey in Bloom' entry by using social media, leafleting, calling at homes, or through a parishioners group or parish magazine

Put up posters in local shops, supermarkets and parish notice boards.

Ask local traders, hotels and offices to get involved.

Send out a press release to our local media giving details of whom to contact and how people can get involved.

Use social media such as Facebook

Once you have gathered support, work towards brightening up your local environment, identifying a few key areas

that will repay attention. Don't overstretch your resources.

Look for opportunities to work with small local communities by encouraging them to enter the Small Community Awards. Details on next page.

It's not all about flowers

Of course horticultural excellence is important, however, issues relating to environmental quality and sustainability are also high on the agenda.

Set up community clean-up projects to focus on untidy areas.

Promote sustainable gardening by encouraging people to plant shrubs or other perennials that do not need to be watered daily.

See if there is an area that can be used for nature conservation projects, monitoring, education and work programmes.

Sponsorship and funding

A grant will be paid, but you will need to generate more funding by arranging fund-raising events and by attracting sponsorship/benefits in kind from local businesses.

Remember that fund raising events can attract valuable publicity for your cause. You will need a dedicated bank account in order to receive the grant assistance.

Small Community Awards

These awards recognise the efforts and commitment of small groups of residents or businesses or a mixture of both. A small community could be a few people in a close or estate or on a road, as long as there is a recognisable area where people can be seen to be making an effort.

Please contact Floral Guernsey for advice on an entry and to find out what help is available. This could include assistance with publicity, advice on horticultural queries and help with funding.

All entrants will receive a certificate, with an award given to the best overall entrant.

Judging will take place at about the same time as the main Community Competition in early July. If a small community forms part of the main competition judging route, it will still need to be entered separately into the Small Community competition.

How to Enter

Communities can be nominated through their parish bloom groups or they may nominate themselves to info@floralguernsey.co.uk

Closing date for entries will be April 22nd 2024. Any late entries will be accommodated if possible, but entry cannot be guaranteed.



Community Competition Entry and Categories.

The competition is open to all communities in Guernsey, Alderney, Sark and Herm.

The competition entry forms will be emailed to you. Please fill in and email to info@floralguernsey.co.uk

Final submission of entries must be received by Monday April 22nd 2024.

3 copies of the portfolio (optional, see later) together with an outline of the judging route including start and finish points must be received by **Monday 3rd June 2024.**

How the competition is judged

Floral Guernsey will select a panel of 2 judges consisting of a local experienced judge and a National Britain in Bloom judge. Judging takes place in early July. You will be informed of the date and time in early June to give you time to finalise your route and arrangements.

The categories and time allowances are the same as those used in the Britain in Bloom National Finals.

In addition to the time allocations shown, you can add 15 minutes for press or media opportunities and 15 minutes to discuss the portfolio.

Categories	Population	Judging Time
Village	1 - 1,000	1 hour 15 minutes
Large Village	1,001 - 2,500	1 hour 30 minutes
Small Town	2,501 - 6,000	2 hours
Town	6,001-12,000	2 hours 30 minutes
Large Town	12,001 - 35,000	3 hours
Coastal	Any size	3 hours

A **Coastal Community** must be an area that actively encourages visitors with a resort, beach and/or harbour (which can be part of a commercial harbour), adjacent to or within easy and reasonable access of the local community. The area will have facilities providing varied recreational activities for visitors. The beach/harbour will have some of the following: café or restaurant; shop; toilet; public transport; supervision; first aid; public telephone. A coastal resort is described as an area that has substantial visitor accommodation and tourism as an integral part of the local economy.

The Judges Route and Tour

The Judging Route

Be sure to show the judges all aspects of the 3 main groups of criteria:

Horticulture, Environmental and Community. Use the marking sheet to check you have everything covered.

Choosing the best route and tour leaders is essential. Often communities have all the features needed for a successful entry, but don't show them off to best effect on the day.

Plan and time your route carefully. Bear in mind that Judges will want to stop to ask questions, take notes and photographs, so build in enough time on your route.

Make sure that everyone in your parish knows about it. Tell everyone on the route and get them involved. Inform the media.

If you would like advice on planning the route, please contact us.

While it is important to get everyone involved from the parish school to individuals with front gardens, you will increase the impact of your efforts by concentrating on your best areas. Prior to the judges visit, walk the route yourselves, filling in the marking sheet afterwards. This will help you to identify any work areas.

Arrange for the judges to meet people with specialised knowledge along the route to explain any projects, such as nature conservation schemes etc. Brief them thoroughly on what you want them to talk about and make sure they keep to their allocated time. Do allow enough time for these stops. It may be appropriate to pick up & drop off specialists to talk to judges in the vehicle between stops.

Notify Street Cleaning to ask for their cooperation.

The Judging Tour

It is best to start with a 15 minute presentation, introducing your tour guides and pointing out anything that is of particular importance, such as features in the portfolio and things that may not be seen on the tour.

A good opportunity for a static display of activities and brief talks by experts.

Prepare an itinerary to give to the judges on arrival, noting the main points on the judging route and the names and roles of the people they will meet. Leave a space for the judges to make their own comments against each point. This itinerary is best set out in landscape format.

You will be expected to provide your own vehicle for the judging tour. The vehicle should include some form of poster to indicate what the vehicle is being used for whilst the judging is taking place.

It is suggested that two guides accompany the judges through the tour to share the presentation and answer questions. Another person should be used as the vehicle driver.

Have someone to act as a 'trouble-shooter' travelling ahead of the tour vehicle to ensure people are on station and ready for the judges. He/she should keep in touch with one of the tour guides by mobile phone.

End of tour

Final impressions are important. Aim to finish at an interesting venue where you can invite all your volunteers and any VIPs. Offer refreshments and encourage a relaxed atmosphere where the judges can talk to people and ask any final questions.

The Portfolio

What is a Portfolio?

It's optional, but as time is limited on the judging tour, some information is best presented in printed form to be given to the judges in advance, so that they are briefed about who they are going to meet, where they are going to go and what they are going to see.

Keep it brief and keep to the point; the judges need to see just the relevant information. Use the criteria shown in the judging score sheet for guidance. There are no points awarded for the portfolio.

Be sure to present the following information in your portfolio:

1. Parish overview; any unique or interesting features that are relevant.
2. Your team; names and duties.
3. Your achievements in the last year with a calendar of activities.
4. Plans for the future.
5. Funding; where does the money or resources come from. Names of sponsors.
6. Names of other organisations that you are involved with. How is the community involved? Roles for young people?
7. A map of the route together with names of people the judges will meet along the way. Note you may need to update this just before judging if circumstances change.

You may wish to enlarge this basic information by including more detailed

records of what you have done to comply with the judging criteria shown on the judges' marking sheets. Photographs and other printed articles can be added to make a more complete record of parish activities. As well as giving more information to the judges, the document may be a useful aid in letting other parishioners or potential sponsors see what you have achieved and how you intend to enhance the parish in the future.

It could also be saleable as a parish guide, perhaps modified with extra copy and advertising.

The portfolio can be in electronic or hard copy form, but the judges prefer to have a hard copy that they can consult and annotate before and during the tour.

Other Records

Press cuttings, letters, flyers and other publicity, together with photos that were not included in the portfolio, should be collected throughout the year and used to make a display for the judges to view at the start or end of the tour. This avoids overloading the portfolio.

How many copies and who wants them?

Please send the portfolio to info@floralguernsey.co.uk then we will send one copy to each of the 2 judges and keep one for Floral Guernsey. Closing date:

Monday 3rd June 2024.

Judging

An example of the marking sheet is on pages 15 -20. Do study the criteria carefully. Too often, the judges are unable to allocate marks in a particular section simply because the tour hasn't included anything relevant to that section, or the tour guides have not pointed it out. Note particularly that the weighting of the points for the sections Horticulture, Environment and Community is in the ratio of 40:30:30. **Just remember that it isn't "All about flowers".**

Judging of entries will take place between:

Sunday 30th June – Friday 5th July 2024.

Entrants will be expected to maintain their displays both before and after this time. All entrants will be informed of the actual day of judging by 3rd June; the time of judging will be advised about 3 weeks before the event.

When is the Awards Evening?

Representatives of each community will be invited to the Floral Guernsey Community Competition Awards Evening, which is scheduled to be held on

Thursday 19th September 2024 at Les Cotils

All entrants will receive an award. The results of the competition, including the overall winner, will not be announced until this event.

Britain in Bloom

This is the National version of our Community Competition, organised by the Royal Horticultural Society. Regions across the UK will be nominating entrants from their regional competitions.

One or more of our Community Competition entrants will be invited to represent the Bailiwick in the Britain in Bloom National Finals in the year 2025.

The Winner

The Lady Dorey Trophy will be presented to the entry attaining the highest score.

Douzaine Rooms and Constables' Offices Competition

Douzaine Rooms and Constables' Offices.

Douzaine rooms have a vital role within any parish community in the Bailiwick of Guernsey. They are a shop window for the parish, so their appearance is important.

All parishes are eligible to enter, whether they have entered the main Community Competition or not. Judging day will be the first week of July 2024.

For those parishes entering the Community Competition, you may wish to show the judges the Douzaine room as

well.

This award will be presented to the Best Douzaine Room at the Awards Evening on 12th September at Les Cotils.

Entry date:

To register your entry please complete and return the entry form available from info@floralguernsey.co.uk

The closing date is no later than **22nd April 2024.**

Below is an example of the Douzaine marking sheet and points awarded.

Best Douzaine Room Award marking sheet

Judging criteria:	Possible marks
Colour and overall effect	20
Condition and cultivation	15
Design	20
Variety of plants	10
Cleanliness and maintenance of grounds	15
Impact of display	20
Total	100
Award	

Douzaine Awards	
Gold	85—100
Silver Gilt	72—84
Silver	60—71
Bronze	50—59

How to Enter.

These awards are open to all communities, a chance to recognise outstanding people and features. If you have entered the Community Competition, the judges will score your Community Award entries during the tour, but you may wish to point them out as you go.

Beach and Coastal Kiosk Award

Best Douzaine Room and Constables' Office Award – see page 10

Best Floral Displays

Best Local Environment

Cleanliness and appearance of roads and public places, including hard landscaping and street furniture such as benches, litter bins etc.

Best New Project

Care Homes Award

Community Award – Ossie Falla Trophy

An award for an outstanding contribution from either an individual or a team of volunteers.

Conservation and Wildlife Award

Awarded for a project that recognises, protects and/or restores aspects of the natural environment and wildlife.

Floral Guernsey Theme Award

The theme for 2024 is “RHS 60 Years of Bloom”. See <https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/britain-in-bloom> for ideas?

Heritage Award

Awarded to the community that best encourages activities and links to recognize and celebrate their unique local history.

Horticultural Excellence

Presented in recognition of high standards of horticulture, including design, appropriate choice of plants, culture and maintenance.

Most Improved Feature

For improvements to existing features.

Schools Award

Presented to the school that best reflects the aims of the competition – horticulture, environment and community. Please note that the judges will want to speak with the children involved.

Small Community Award – See page 5

Tourism Award

Young Peoples Award

Awarded for an outstanding contribution by young people working on, or involved in a community project. Ages up to 25 are eligible, with particular interest in those in secondary education aged between 11 and 18.

The Joc Watts Award

Awarded to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to Floral Guernsey, awarded by the Floral Guernsey Foundation.

Judges' Commendations

In addition to making the above Awards, the judges will note other outstanding features during the tour, including individuals who stand out and properties such as business premises and private gardens. Commendation certificates will be awarded to the community representatives to pass on to those individual recipients the judges deem worthy of recognition.

Simply the Best Award

Given by the judges to the entry that has impressed them most throughout the competition.

For advice and to find out more please contact info@floralguernsey.co.uk

Please email your nominations to info@floralguernsey.co.uk

Closing date **Monday 3rd June 2024.**

The awards will be presented at our Awards Evening at Les Cotils, 19th September.

Floral Guernsey Grants

Grants are awarded to help fund enhancements within the islands and parish communities. All projects must be visible or have free access to the general public. The grants are given for the purchase of materials and services only and not to be used for labour costs. Britain in Bloom finalists may get an additional grant to help with any extra expenses.

The Floral Guernsey Foundation is subject to audit. All grant money needs to be accounted for. If you are applying for a grant, please make sure you are able to meet the terms and conditions below.

Community Competitions Grant

Subject to the conditions set out above, the grant will be paid as soon as the completed application form has been received and approved.

Top up Grant

In addition to the above grants, Communities can also apply for a 'top up' grant as a sponsorship match. Sponsorship can be cash, materials or labour provided by a commercial company that would normally be charged. The aim is to encourage the organisation of fund-raising activities and events. Such events also have the positive benefit of getting publicity for your group. 'Windfall' donations will not qualify for sponsorship matching.

The maximum amount top up is limited to £1000. This grant is paid retrospectively in January, subject to satisfactory proof of sponsorship being received with the accounts by the set date in December.

Other Grants

Some other enhancements which are not covered by the Community grants may be eligible for support, provided they are in the

spirit of improving or maintaining attractive features. Currently, we are supporting beach and coastal kiosks. Other projects such as Small Communities would be welcome to apply.

Terms and Conditions

Please read carefully!

The applicant must:

- Set up a dedicated bank account. Floral Guernsey may ask to see copies of bank statements to reconcile financial activities.
- Return the completed application form by the set date in April. Include a brief description of the enhancement and maintenance plans, together with an estimate of likely costs.
- Keep records and receipts for goods purchased.
- Keep records of activities and projects undertaken during the year, including photographic records.
- Copies of these records must be sent to Floral Guernsey by the set date in December. If you wish to claim a top up grant, please include all details of sponsorship received.
- Unspent grant should be returned at the same time. You may apply for a roll over for a project that is still to be completed.

Dates for 2024

Registration and Applications for grants:
22nd April

Submission of accounts and application for top up grant: **11th November**

All correspondence and queries should be addressed to info@floralguernsey.co.uk

Grant Amounts for Communities

Category	Population Range	Community Names	Grant for Communities entering competition	Grant for Communities not entering competition	Grant for Britain in Bloom Finalists
Village Small Village	1,000 and under	Torteval Sark Herm	£1,125	£750	As for competition entrants plus extra as explained below.
Large Village	1,001 – 2,500	Forest St Pierre du Bois St Saviour St Andrew Alderney	£1,500	£1,000	
Town, Small Town	2,501 – 12,000	Castel St Martin St Sampson Vale	£1,875	£1,250	
Large Town	12,001 – 35,000	St Peter Port	£2,250	£1,500	

The above amounts are subject to availability and may have to be reduced in line with any reductions in States funding for Floral Guernsey. We may reduce the amount of grant to a community in the case where there is unspent balance from the previous year.

Britain in Bloom entrants will receive an extra grant to help with extra expenses according to the circumstances.

DATA PROTECTION


Floral Guernsey stores the information that you give when applying for a grant. Names and email addresses only may be shared among all the community groups, but will not be passed to other parties. Details of bank accounts and financial records are stored safely and kept confidential. Please contact info@floralguernsey.co.uk if you have any queries about the safety of your data.

In applying for a grant, you undertake to accept these conditions.

Checklist and Key Dates

Deadline Dates 2023	Task	Date task completed
Monday 22 nd April	Application for grants and entries for the Community Competition	
Monday 22 nd April	Registration of entries for Best Douzaine Room Award and Small Community Competition	
Monday 3 rd June	Actual Judging dates for Community, Douzaine and Small Community competitions to be notified to entrants	
Monday 3 rd June	Start and finish points of your route for the Community Competition Entries for Community Awards	
Monday 3 rd June	Send 3 x hard copies or email your portfolio to info@floralguernsey.co.uk	
Sunday 30 th June – Friday 5 th July	Community Competition Judging Douzaine Room Judging	
Monday 22 nd July	Return all trophies to the competition organiser. You will be advised of the address for the drop off.	
Thursday 19 th September	Awards Evening at Les Cotils	
Monday 9 th December	Grants – Send in your reconciliation of income and expenditure to info@floralguernsey.co.uk If claiming top up grant, include all details of sponsorship raised. Return any unused grant money or apply for rollover.	

Contact: Floral Guernsey Admin. Email: info@floralguernsey.co.uk

	Standard Marking Sheet	Name of Entry
		Judges
		Date of Assessment

Category: Village / Large Village / Small Town / Town / Large Town / Small City / City / Coastal. (Indicate appropriate category).

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		A2		A3		A4		
B Environment 30%	B1		B2		B3				
C Community 30%	C1		C2		C3				

Total Score out of 100:	Overall Medal Awarded:
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.	

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

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

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

		10-9	8	7-6	5
A1	<p><u>Overall Impression</u></p> <p>Taking account of all relevant factors, how strong is the impact of the entry in creating a memorable impression? Are designs and materials used appropriate to their locations? Emphasis here is on coordination and overall quality.</p>	<p>High impact with excellent attention to detail delivering the desired results in an appropriate and consistent manner.</p>	<p>Most areas are high impact with very good attention to detail although some inconsistencies.</p>	<p>Good overall impact although not always balanced. Some areas make an impact but others need to be more vibrant with better design.</p>	<p>Although generally satisfactory, more attention to detail is required in order to increase impact and improve consistency of design.</p>
A2	<p><u>Maintenance of Planted Areas</u></p> <p>Are the areas within the entry maintained to an appropriate standard, including cultivation, weeding, feeding, pruning, grass maintenance, tree management and maintenance? (See B3 for maintenance techniques)</p>	<p>Excellent standards of cultivation. Very consistent throughout. Horticultural maintenance and general care is outstanding.</p>	<p>Standards are very good with few exceptions. Horticultural maintenance is managed consistently.</p>	<p>Standards of horticultural maintenance are good and fairly consistent. A few exceptions where further attention is required.</p>	<p>Standards are generally satisfactory. However, the horticultural maintenance programme requires further attention to detail in some areas.</p>

A3	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Plant Selection</u></p> <p>Are the plants or trees, used in the planting schemes, suited to their growing conditions, locations and purposes? Is there a diverse range of plant-species to attract a variety of insects and wildlife? Is there year-round interest, where appropriate?</p>	<p>Excellent plant selection with extensive year-round interest, and almost no exceptions.</p>	<p>Plant selection is very good overall with only a few exceptions and ample year-round interest.</p>	<p>Plant selection is generally good, but there is room for improvement in some areas in order to extend year-round interest.</p>	<p>Plant selection is generally satisfactory, however it requires further consideration in order to extend the season and maintain interest.</p>
A4	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Plant Quality</u></p> <p>Are the plants or trees vibrant and grown to their full potential? Are they generally free of pests and diseases?</p>	<p>Plant quality is excellent, plants are very healthy, vigorous and grown to their full potential.</p>	<p>Plant quality is very good, plants are mostly healthy and vigorous, with only a few exceptions.</p>	<p>Plant quality and health is generally good, but not always consistent. Lack of vigour in some areas.</p>	<p>Plant quality and health is generally satisfactory, but could be improved.</p>
		10-9	8	7-6	5
B1	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Local Identity & Pride of Place</u></p> <p>Is there a sense of place, with appropriate acknowledgement of local heritage (including biodiversity) and its relevance for the community; e.g. art in the landscape, signage, interpretation, etc. Consider the pride taken in hard landscape (including streets), open spaces (including grass areas, wild areas and beaches if appropriate), street furniture maintenance, etc. To include cleanliness, absence of litter, graffiti vandalism, flyposting/temporary signage, chewing gum, and effective dog fouling control measures.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>

B2	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Natural Environment</u></p> <p>Is there an understanding of what biodiversity means locally? Have efforts been made to create, restore or maintain appropriate habitats to support wildlife? What has been done to assess the effectiveness of any interventions? E.g. through surveys.</p> <p>Is nature being considered in all activities, rather than just restricting wildlife-friendly practices to a specific project or area?</p>	<p>The natural environment is managed to an excellent standard supporting an extensive range of flora and fauna, with little improvement required.</p> <p>Extensive effort to assess the impact of interventions.</p> <p>Nature is considered across all activities.</p>	<p>The natural environment is managed to a very good standard across the whole entry, supporting a considerable range of flora and fauna.</p> <p>Considerable effort to assess the impact of interventions.</p> <p>Nature is considered across most activities.</p> <p>Very little effort would lift it to excellent.</p>	<p>The natural environment is managed to a good standard supporting a range of flora and fauna.</p> <p>Some effort to assess the impact of interventions.</p> <p>Nature is considered across some activities.</p> <p>Requires further work to improve it in places.</p>	<p>The natural environment is managed to a generally satisfactory standard supporting some flora and fauna.</p> <p>Little effort to assess the impact of interventions.</p> <p>Nature is considered across very few activities.</p> <p>Needs significant improvement in places.</p>
B3	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Environmental Management</u></p> <p>Have steps been taken to employ sustainable or ecological gardening practices? E.g. Avoiding chemicals like pesticides and using other biological and physical controls like hand weeding or companion planting. Eliminating the use of peat, implementing solutions like composting, reducing the use of plastics and recycling those used. Taking measures to minimise the use of water. Where local environmental issues have been identified, have plants or greening solutions been considered, e.g. as rain gardens, green roofs/walls, or as barriers for pollution?</p>	<p>Excellent evidence of sustainable gardening practices, including the conservation of resources and minimising negative impacts.</p> <p>Extensive use of plants or greening solutions to address local environmental issues.</p>	<p>Very good evidence of sustainable gardening practices, including the conservation of resources and minimising negative impacts.</p> <p>Considerable use of plants or greening solutions to address local environmental issues.</p>	<p>Good evidence of sustainable gardening practices, including the conservation of resources and minimising negative impacts.</p> <p>Some use of plants or greening solutions to address local environmental issues.</p>	<p>Satisfactory evidence of effort to garden sustainably, conserve resource and minimise negative impacts.</p> <p>Little use of plants or greening solutions to address local environmental issues.</p>

		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, 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 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, and environmental importance. 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, 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 signage and interpretation, evidence of 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 be inclusive, and 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>

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Judges/Entrants notes:

- 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.
- **Maintenance of Planted Areas:** The maintenance schedule should take account of biodiversity needs through the seasons; these will vary depending upon setting and location. Examples could include avoiding hedge trimming in nesting season or leaving some grass longer at certain times of year etc.
- **Plant Selection:** Prioritising perennial or pollinator-friendly plants is encouraged where appropriate. If annual bedding is used, groups should carefully consider the provenance and buy from local nurseries that do not use peat, or, if possible, to grow their own.
- **Natural Environment:**
 - The use of sustainable practices and materials should be encouraged wherever possible.
 - When creating, restoring or maintaining habitats to support wildlife, any features should be appropriate to the particular place. They could be as varied as ponds, 'dead' hedges, or the connection of several habitats to make 'pollinator pathways'. When used inappropriately something as simple as a bug hotel can become a bird feeder.
 - Assessing the effectiveness of interventions is incredibly important and all groups should be encouraged to measure their impact. This can be through a simple survey, or through contributing to a broader citizen science project or national monitoring scheme.
- **Environmental Management:**
 - Groups should minimise their use of plastic, choosing alternative materials where possible, and where unavoidable switching to better plastics such as recycled, recyclable or compostable products. Groups should repeatedly re-use items like plant pots and trays.
 - Groups are encouraged to identify local environmental issues, and tackle them, using plants. These can be very simple or low-cost interventions, e.g. adding a green roof to a bin store, or planting a hedge to reduce pollution near a main road.