



Cumbria
in *Bloom*
"growing neighbourhoods"



CUMBRIA IN BLOOM GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPANTS

Judging Guidelines

Cumbria in Bloom judges the competition on standards appropriate for the Cumbria competition. Awards are made according to the standard attained and can range from gold, silver, silver and bronze. Special Awards are given for outstanding achievements see the special category sheet for details. All entrants receive recognition at the awards ceremony.

For entrants aspiring to become finalists in the Britain in Bloom the standard must meet the more exacting standards of the UK RHS Britain in Bloom competition.

We want the event to be enjoyable to the volunteers. Your entry can be as detailed as you wish and can meet the objectives that you choose. You will always have the choice on whether you wish to be considered as a finalist representative.

How the competition is judged.

There are three aspects to the competition:

Horticultural – Gardening

Environment – How the area looks and cares for wild features/creatures

Community - Active group work

What the Judges are looking for:

- Judges will be looking for the best and show only your best.
- Choose a route that avoids unattractive features
- Provide a route list or if you wish a detailed presentation folder.
- Show photos of before the project starts.
- Show photos of projects that you can-not be seen on the day.
- Show how the community is involved and what events you hold.

For the benefit of the judges the competition is divided into sections

Section Horticulture (50%; max 100 points)

In this section the judges will be looking for your year-round achievements in horticulture (including conservation and natural areas) focusing on 5 key areas:

- A1. Impact
 - A2. Horticultural practice
 - A3. Residential and community gardening
 - A4. Business areas and premises
 - A5. Green spaces
- Consideration will be given to:
 - choice of plants,
 - colour and design,
 - special features,
 - maintenance, and creative ideas,

- Quality of plants,
- is it affordable long term,
- amount of new planting.
- The impact and appearance of front gardens,
- use of allotments,
- community gardens and who and how they are cared for

Where businesses are present judges will be looking for

- Are these areas actively involved in the initiatives of the local bloom campaign?
- Are their efforts in keeping with the overall efforts of the campaign?
- Do they show support for the campaign's goals of improvement/enhancement?
- Support can include: sponsoring displays/planters,
- actively engaging in horticultural efforts on their own premises,
- funding bloom initiatives,
- volunteering/participating in local bloom activities etc.

Floral displays are an important part of the in Bloom Campaign, but **must be proportionate** to the areas of sustainable planting and permanent landscaping within the entry. Floral displays may be present in a number of locations but typically, displays will be located in:

- Publicly owned areas, including parks, publicly owned buildings, roadside areas and roundabouts.
- Housing and residential areas, residential homes, schools, allotments etc.
- Shopping areas, business areas and premises, commercial premises, public houses, hotels, garages, and transport terminals such as bus and train stations.

Judges will wish to see permanent/sustainable planting initiatives as well. Landscaped areas with permanent plantings could include any of the areas outlined above as well as:

- Woodlands, copse, shelterbelts, verges, parks, public open spaces
- Business parks, industrial estates
- Screen planting, near factories/industrial areas, eyesores, vacant premises/plots etc.
- Amenity planting near residential areas, car parks, shopping areas

Section B – Environmental Responsibility (25%: max 50 points)

In this section the judges will be looking for your year-round achievements in 5 key areas:

- B1. Conservation and biodiversity
- B2. Resource management
- B3. Local heritage
- B4. Local environmental quality
- B5. Pride of place

Wildlife areas and natural habitats Efforts are being made to preserve and maintain these areas? Activities to educate the community and encourage them to visit these areas? Activities or plans to re-introduce or restore these areas where they have disappeared or been damaged?

Recycling; minimising demand placed on natural resources; minimising or where possible eliminating any harmful impact on the environment. What have you done to promote the use of recycled products e.g. Compost

Management and development of local heritage and/or identity such as natural heritage, community landmarks/icons, other heritage sites etc. Activities to show care for heritage, absence of litter, graffiti, dog fouling. Evidence of events to bring awareness to banish grot. Street furniture, signage, art in the landscape, fences, way-marking, interpretation, hard landscaping should be kept in a good state of repair.

Section C – Community Participation (25%; max 50 points)

In this section the judges will be looking for your year-round achievements in 5 key areas:

- C1. Development and continuity
- C2. Communication and education
- C3. Community involvement
- C4. Year-round involvement
- C5. Funding and support

The judges will be looking for campaigns which:

- Evidence thoughtful planning of how to maintain the improvements they make and how to develop in the future.
- Have an effective communication and education programme evidenced by the level of awareness and understanding in the community as well as by physical evidence such as informative signs and displays, press clippings, publicity materials etc.
- Evidence a broad base of community involvement across all ages, ethnic and religious backgrounds, and socio-economic groups with a particular effort to engage young people/schools/colleges as appropriate to their community.
- Have a year-round programme of activity to keep their community engaged and at its best throughout the year (not just spring/summer displays and activities).
- Have secured funding/sponsorship and/or support for their activities and the support of government, commercial, corporate, business sectors for their campaign

Remember you do not have to meet all these objectives to enter Cumbria in Bloom!