

## HILDERSTONE – BKV JUDGES' COMMENTS 2012

BKV awareness was tackled through regular features in the parish newsletter.

There were plenty of BKV posters on notice boards and bus shelters and an excellent large "special" poster on the village green.

There were very good children's posters in the bus shelters – very good for a village with no school.

All notice boards were in good condition and contained a good range of local information – unfortunately in July some events were a little out of date.

Recycling information was plentiful and very clear.

There were also plenty of dog fouling notices throughout the village.

The churchyard was well maintained with a high standard of mowing, despite the amount of rain! The Remembrance Area was very neat and tidy.

The village hall surrounds were well maintained, except for a few weeds on the edges of the car park in July.

The Roebuck had a good flower display and the car park area was clean and litter free.

Judges were impressed by the way in which the decommissioned telephone box had been used, to display local signs and notices.

The bus shelters were in good condition and generally tidy, although judges felt that they needed a sweep out in May (Creswell Road) and in July. They were put to good use to display children's posters.

All seats and benches were in good condition, with the exception of the one outside the village hall which needed attention.

There was a good sign to the village hall; but judges wondered if signing to the Hilderstone Walkway could be improved.

The War Memorial looked somewhat neglected and was surrounded by long grass and weeds and needs more consistent care and attention.

The small open spaces and Daffodil Bank looked very tidy, and the Village Green was an attractive feature. All the verges were neat and tidy.

With one or two exceptions, private gardens looked colourful and well maintained.

The children's play area equipment was in excellent condition, with newly installed safety surfaces in superb condition.

The map was excellent. It was clear and accurate in every respect. Judges were able to find all features to be judged easily.

Apart from a few bits of litter along the main road in July (which is difficult to remedy with the busy through road) the village looked very neat and tidy; and there was no dog mess. The judges commented particularly on the tidiness of the Hilderstone Walkway area and felt that there was evidence of good community spirit and pride in the village.

Hilderstone did very well this year and achieved a very good standard across a range of BKV features. There was good BKV publicity and awareness, a good display of children's posters, and excellent churchyard and village hall surrounds. Bus shelters and the telephone box had been used to good effect, the children's play area was excellent and there was almost no litter throughout the judging period. Competition was very fierce again in Stafford District, so congratulations on your Second Place in the Small Village Category and good luck in 2013!

John T Perry, MBE  
Chairman, BKV Working Group

September 2012