

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2016 – JUDGES’ COMMENTS HILDERSTONE

BKV awareness was tackled through articles in the Parish magazine and the Parish website. There was a good selection of BKV signs and posters, all in designated locations, throughout the village.

There were good, colourful and creative displays of children’s posters at the village hall and in the bus shelter. Judges felt that this was a very good effort for a village without its own school. Well done to all those concerned.

The noticeboards adjacent to the village hall, the play area and outside the church were all in good condition; but the one on the main road outside the village hall is in need of attention. All notices were neatly displayed.

There was plenty of up to date local information, including village organisations, activities and contacts, recycling and dog fouling awareness, film nights, WI meetings and Parish Council meeting dates.

The grass in the churchyard was very well mown and maintained to a high standard, benches were in a fair condition; but the inner noticeboard will need attention soon. The car park was very clean and tidy with colourful borders; and the June judges said that “ it was quite the best church carpark we have seen”.

There was some weed growth on the edges of the village hall carpark, otherwise it was tidy and litter free. There were welcoming planters by the hall entrance and hanging troughs with floral displays.

The Roebuck car park and surrounds were clean, tidy and litter free.

Both bus shelters were in good condition and contained a good display of children’s posters. But both needed sweeping out in May and June to remove debris which had probably been blown in by the passing traffic. There was also some ivy making inroads into the Cresswell Road shelter.

All the well sited seats and benches were in good condition, with very tidy, weed and litter free surrounds.

The village gateway planter on Hilderstone Road was obscured by weed growth around it in June; but the map of Hilderstone Walkway was an interesting feature. The former telephone box/information point was a good feature, with a fascinating laminated information booklet inside. It will need a coat of paint soon.

The War Memorial surrounds were very neat and tidy and free from weeds and litter. It was well maintained throughout the competition.

All the verges and small open spaces were well maintained, but the “Village Green” (perhaps more of a Village Garden?) needed some attention to deal with encroaching weeds and brambles. The wildflower mix was just coming out on Daffodil Bank in May and it looked very attractive.

All private gardens were maintained to a high standard.

The children's play area, with its delightful "hill feature", had some excellent imaginative equipment and very good safety surfaces. It was free from litter and dog mess. However, in June the grass was extremely long and looked as though it had not been mown for some time.

The laminated map was excellent, it was clear, accurate and easy to follow, with a very good key. The June judges said: "A good map makes judging so much easier and rewarding".

Hilderstone copes well with the heavily trafficked main road which runs through it and the village was virtually litter free. No dog mess was seen throughout the judging period. Community effort is evident in the village and effective in tackling the demands of BKV competition.

Judges said that "Hilderstone seems to be a tightly knit community which copes very well with the heavy volume of traffic which passes through it". It was clear that a considerable amount of hard work had been put into BKV again this year and Hilderstone thoroughly deserved to be Highly Commended in 2016. Good luck in 2017.

John T Perry, MBE
Chairman, BKV Working Group

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