

Hints for Entrants for the Best Kept Village Competition

OVERVIEW – The judges are looking at the entry as a living community and not an artificially manicured museum piece or *the prettiest*. They are looking to see aspects of continuous care.

War Memorial	Is the memorial and its surroundings well cared for?
Shops	Many shops carry information of local events but judges will inspect to see if information is up to date. Are the shop frontages neat and tidy? Are there weeds and an excessive amount of chewing gum spots.
Notice Boards	Are the boards used to provide up to date information. Are they kept neat and tidy? Old notices should be removed.
Bus Shelters, Telephone Kiosks Seats & Benches	Are they clean tidy and in good repair. Disused kiosks are not judged. Are they fit to be sat upon.
Public Conveniences	Are they clean and serviceable? Do taps work if there are basins? Do any lights work?
Public Car Parks	Are they well maintained with any notices clearly displayed? Is there adequate lighting?
Public Houses	Common faults with Pubs are abandoned beer crates, broken garden furniture and poor state of the car park.
Commercial Premises	Judges will remember they are looking at a working environment, but it should be kept reasonably tidy and well maintained.
Civic Centres, Meeting Places	The surroundings should be well maintained with attention to the safety of paths and adequate outside lighting.
Churchyards & Chapels Council Cemeteries	Grass around graves should be reasonably short to help those tending graves or at funerals. If part is kept wild for conservation purposes this should be stated on entry forms.
Children's Playgrounds	Is equipment safe and surrounds satisfactorily maintained. Is there effective control of litter and dog fouling?
Litter Control	Is there an evident litter problem? Is the provision of litter bins adequate? Are they in the right places and emptied regularly.
Open Spaces, Canals, Streams & Ponds	Are they well maintained? Is there adequate safety protection where necessary.