

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2016 – JUDGES’ COMMENTS DENSTONE AND STUBWOOD

BKV awareness was tackled through items on the Parish and Church websites. There was a good display of BKV posters throughout both villages and at village entrances.

There were a number of children’s posters in the phone box, no noticeboards and in the bus shelters. However, judges felt that they might have seen rather more, given that there is a school in Denstone

Noticeboards were in good condition but judges felt that the Parish Council board needed “repainting” (or is it that it is ageing gracefully?). The Denstone board was slightly damaged and ivy was encroaching on the Parish board. Notices were neatly displayed.

There was a good spread of up-to-date local information, on Parish matters, local events and activities, dog fouling and recycling awareness.

The large churchyard was very tidy, with well mown grass, neat paths and tidy grave areas; however, judges felt that the seats and benches needed attention. The tiny surrounds of the chapel in Stubwood were excellent.

The surrounds and carpark of the Village Hall were very good, with no litter and just a few weeds at the rear in May. “It looked a well looked after area.” (June judges).

The surrounds of The Tavern were well cared for, with no litter and some good planting, although the May judges said that the planting was rather weedy. Judges felt that the pub was a real community feature and said that the food was good too!

(Both phone boxes have been de-commissioned and are now judged as village features, see below).

Both bus shelters in Denstone were in good condition. Their surrounds were tidy. The Stubwood shelter still seemed to be “hidden away” and may well be redundant.

The seats and benches were generally sound, but those in the Teen Recreation Area needed “a good clean up” (June judges).

The Village Fountain and Jubilee Seat were commended by the judges as real assets to the village. The former telephone boxes have been put to good uses to display information and posters in Denstone and as a paramedic information point and newspaper drop in Stubwood.

The war memorial was very well maintained and “a credit to the village” (May judges). Although the timber posts need some attention, the lovely planting was very well looked after.

The playing field was well maintained throughout the judging period, but there was a bit of litter in June.

The tennis courts, bowling green, verges and other incidental open spaces were all neat and tidy and litter-free.

All the private gardens were maintained to a really good standard; “a credit to both villages” (June judges).

The play equipment and safety surfaces in the younger children’s play area were very good and there was no litter. The Teen Recreation Area had very good equipment and was tidy throughout judging. “It looked a lot of fun!” (May judges)

The map was clear, accurate and easy to follow in all respects.

No litter or dog mess was seen in either village throughout the competition. Judges found it rather difficult to assess the degree of community involvement, but concluded that as both villages looked so neat and tidy overall “there must have been a team of volunteers involved” (June judges).

Judges again enjoyed their visits to Denstone and Stubwood and were generally impressed by the overall appearance of both villages. Some noticeboards and seats/benches could have been better, but Denstone and Stubwood’s commitment to BKV is very much appreciated and judges felt that the villages will be “at the top again soon”. Without reaching the heights of last year, Highly Commended in 2016 was well deserved. Well done this year and good luck in 2017.

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Chairman, BKV Working Group

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