



## Community Council of Staffordshire

Suite 1A/1B The Whitehouse, 3A Chapel Street,  
Stafford, ST16 2BX  
Tel: 01785 242525

Website: [www.staffs.org.uk](http://www.staffs.org.uk)  
Email: [communitycouncil@staffs.org.uk](mailto:communitycouncil@staffs.org.uk)  
Registered Charity No. 1046364  
Company Registration No. 3040693



BKV 2017/JUDGES' COMMENTS LET.DOC

6 September 2017

Mrs J Sadler  
Corner Cottage  
Wootton Road  
Ellastone  
Ashbourne, Staffs, DE6 2HA

Dear Mrs Sadler

### **BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2017**

Thank you for taking part in this year's BKV competition. Many villages enter the competition and put in the hard work which is necessary to satisfy the demands of BKV perhaps feeling that they don't have a real chance of "winning". But they enter and use BKV as a focus for their efforts to maintain and improve the appearance of their village and to "get the community involved" in where they live. That is a reward in itself. However, I also know that a bit of friendly rivalry has developed between some villages over the years and villages will do their very best to come out on top! Whatever your reasons for entering BKV this year, and for making the real effort which BKV requires, I hope that you achieved what you set out to do.

This year's BKV saw rather fewer entries than of late, but the competition was again very closely fought. The "top" villages were only separated by a few marks in some areas and judges did not find it easy to identify the winners. If you did not win top honours in 2017, please don't be too disappointed! I hope that the Judges' Comments, which are enclosed with this letter, will identify where you did particularly well, but also where you could make some improvements in the BKV features to be judged. I hope that you find the comments are fair, constructive and helpful. If you have any questions or comments about them please contact me through the Community Council.

The BKV Working Group, which organises the BKV competition on behalf of the Community Council will be meeting to review this year's competition in late October, but I don't anticipate any radical changes to the format for 2018. We will not firm up anything until later in the year and if you have any comments or suggestions about BKV please let me know, preferably before the beginning of October.

Let me know if you think that there should be any changes, say, to the list of BKV features to be judged, the "split" between Large and Small villages (I think that the change we made last year to make 1500 population the cut-off for small villages has worked satisfactorily) – or indeed anything else. The competition is judged in five areas before the Best Large and Best Small Villages emerge to go through to the County Finals.

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