

JUDGES' COMMENTS DENSTONE 2019

BKV awareness was tackled through the establishment of a Committee to coordinate BKV activity, the Parish Council Chairman addressing the school assembly and by sending a leaflet to all the householders and to encourage participation in BKV neighbourly support. There were BKV posters and children's posters at village entrances and on noticeboards. Judges also noted what they described as "a nice notice from the BKV Committee to all residents" on the noticeboard in the centre of the village.

There were children's posters in conjunction with BKV posters at all village entrances and elsewhere throughout the village. The June judges thought that there might have been more as there is a school in the village.

All noticeboards were in good condition but one near the war memorial could do with some attention. Notices were displayed neatly.

There was a good range of local information, covering Parish Council matters, recycling and dog fouling awareness, local organisations and events.

The church surrounds were quite good, and grass was tidy (but ready for a cut in June, although the mowing schedule may have been affected by recent wet weather) Graves were tidy, but the June judges felt that they would need more attention soon. Paths were tidy and there was some attractive planting.

The car park and surrounds of the Village Hall were neat and tidy, no weeds or litter. There were some attractive hanging baskets, but the May judges noted what appeared to be recent damage to the fence near to the front door. The May judges said that "The Hall looks very well presented and appeared to be used regularly".

The surrounds of The Tavern were very well presented. There was some attractive, well maintained planting and no litter at all (even at 11:00am on a Sunday, when the May judges visited!)

The TCB is now an excellent information point and book exchange. It was clean inside and well painted, but the surrounding grass was untidy and there were some weeds.

The bus shelter on the main road looked rather neglected with a cracked panel and significant litter inside. The shelter near the Village Hall was in good condition and tidy inside and out.

All seats and benches were in very good condition and their surrounds tidy.

The carved log and fountain were distinctive village features and both well maintained.

Judges described the war memorial as "a delight" and absolutely immaculate. The lovely planted areas were weed and litter free and the paving area was clean.

The playing field was well mown, but the May judges noted that the footpath to the field was becoming obstructed by growth from the base of a tree and that the fences needed attention.

All the small open spaces and verges were well mown and litter free.

There were some gardens which were "below par" in Oak Road, but they were very well maintained throughout the rest of the village.

The equipment and safety surfaces in the play area in the centre of the village were in good condition. Judges understood that the Teen Recreation Area was going to be upgraded to an All Age

Exercise Area, but the June judges felt that it “looked rather unkempt and did not seem to be looked after”.

The map was simple, but clear and easy to follow; and the village centre inset was helpful to judges.

No litter or dog mess was seen (other than in the old bus shelter), there were signs of community awareness and involvement in BKV, illustrated by the beautifully maintained fountain and war memorial and judges felt the “everybody does their bit” to keep the village looking good.

Judges said the Denstone looked very clean and tidy overall and that the village seemed “alive” even on a Sunday morning! The good standards achieved in recent years were maintained in 2019 and the village was very unlucky not to reach the Area Finals in what proved to be a very clearly fought contest this year. Congratulations on a well-earned Highly Commended in 2019 and good luck next year.

John T Perry MBE

Chairman, BKV Working Group