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| **Standard Marking Sheet** | | | **Name of Entry Tewkesbury** | | | | | | | | |
| **Judges Janet Gwinnett, Mark Wiltshire** | | | | | | | | |
| **Date of Assessment 4th July 2022** | | | | | | | | |
| **Category:**  Village / Large Village / Small Town / Town / Large Town / Small City / City / Small Coastal / Large Coastal. (Indicate appropriate category). | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **MAXIMUM OF 10 POINTS PER SUB SECTION** | | | | | | | | | | **Total marks awarded in sections A, B & C** | **Medal level awarded in sections A, B & C** |
| **A Horticulture 40%** | **A1** | **8** | | **A2** | **7** | **A3** | **9** | **A4** | **9** | **33** | **Silver Gilt** |
| **B Environment 30%** | **B1** | **9** | | **B2** | **10** | **B3** | **8** |  | | **27** | **Gold** |
| **C Community 30%** | **C1** | **9** | | **C2** | **10** | **C3** | **8** |  | | **27** | **Gold** |

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| **Total Score out of 100: 87** | **Overall Medal Awarded: Gold** |
| **Medal Guide: Gold, Excellent 85-100 Points; Silver Gilt, Very Good 75-84 Points; Silver, Good 60-74 Points; Bronze, Satisfactory 50-59 Points. 49 Points and below – certificate of participation.** | |
| ***Introduction and Overall Impression:*** *(Please expand space as required to fit judging comments).*  **Tewkesbury in Bloom and its supporters have embraced the challenges provided by regular flooding and those that Covid lockdowns have left in a very impressive way. The team have taken on extra jobs as the council have reduced their maintenance input. The town is a pleasure to visit with its colourful displays and historic medieval banners, which brighten up the streets and enhance the appearance of so many buildings. Signage and interpretation boards are well placed around the town to enhance the experience of locals and tourists alike in this unique and historic town. The small TiB team have a wonderful range of contrasting displays including their new street planters, the garden at Marina Court, the Little Lock Garden, King Johns Bridge, the Town Hall and Anglo American Gardens, the Secret Garden, the Victoria Pleasure Gardens and so much more including a wonderful display at the caravan site. The colour scheme has been chosen to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. The Nature Reserve and the Ham are a very special and unique feature for the involvement of all. A well deserved Gold for Tewkesbury.** | |

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| ***Judges Feedback Section A – Horticulture:*** *(Please expand space as required to fit judging comments).*  **The town is colourful and welcoming with vibrant planting in carefully positioned well maintained self-watering planters using peat free compost and Alpaca poo!.**  **Marina Court is an immaculate garden providing a relaxing space to visitors and residents. The garden is well planned and maintained using the ‘right plant, right place’ principle superbly.**  **The Little Garden by the lock is a pretty garden to pass through despite the constant battle with dog mess. It is good to see the bee hotel and some pollinator friendly planting. Perhaps some thought to perennial planting under the trees would help with long term sustainability.**  **The Town Hall garden is managed to enhance opportunities for wildlife, pollinator insects and butterflies, and explanatory labelling is provided using recycled materials.**  **The Victoria Garden has coped a particularly difficult flooding season this year after storm Eunice and others, using careful plant selection and the roses flourish. The garden is moving towards perennial displays and year round interest.**  **The Secret Garden is a real treasure maintained to provide a peaceful setting.** | | | | | |
| ***Judges Feedback Section B – Environment:*** *(Please expand space as required to fit judging comments).*  **Tewkesbury offers a unique environment with its well managed nature reserve and Ham. Rapid progress is being made here with the help of government funding. The Green Lung project offers free workshops in a wide variety of topics which are available to all throughout the year.**  **The people ofTewkesbury are very fortunate to have a conservation project such as this on their doorsteps complete with breeding Curlews. What a fantastic asset to the town. Citizen Science encourages education and opportunities to learn about and enjoy the special habitats to be found here. An eel pass is under development and the improving habitat has seen the return of Otters. These habitats are surveyed and monitored to great effect- very impressive!**  **There is careful consideration given to choice of plants in the display areas and this is demonstrated in the Town hall garden where plants are chosen carefully with sustainability in mind.** | | | | | |
| ***Judges Feedback Section C – Community:*** *(Please expand space as required to fit judging comments).*  **Tewkesbury offers a very impressive range of events throughout the year offering entertainment and interest to all. There is a strong sense of community and the people here clearly appreciate the benefits that they have. The history of the town is never forgotten with excellent signage and interpretation boards throughout the town . Support from a wide range of groups is clearly in eveidence. It is good to see the provision of new sectioned pots which enable smaller sponsors to contribute. The town uses grants effectively with ongoing plans for the future. Social media is used to ask for support in weeding and planting.** | | | | | |
|  |  | **10-9** | **8** | **7-6** | **5** |
| **A1** | **Overall Impression**  Taking account of all relevant factors, how strong is the impact of the entry in creating a memorable impression? Are designs and materials used appropriate to their locations? Emphasis here is on coordination and overall quality. | High impact with **excellent** attention to detail delivering the desired results in an appropriate and consistent manner. | Most areas are high impact with **very good** attention to detail although some inconsistencies. | **Good** overall impact although not always balanced. Some areas make an impact but others need to be more vibrant with better design. | Although generally **satisfactory**, more attention to detail is required in order to increase impact and improve consistency of design. |
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| **A2** | **Maintenance of Planted Areas**  Are the areas within the entry maintained to an appropriate standard, including cultivation, weeding, feeding, pruning, grass maintenance, tree management and maintenance?  *(See B3 for maintenance techniques)* | **Excellent** standards of cultivation. Very consistent throughout. Horticultural maintenance and general care is outstanding. | Standards are **very good** with few exceptions. Horticultural maintenance is managed consistently. | Standards of horticultural maintenance are **good** and fairly consistent. A few exceptions where further attention is required. | Standards are generally **satisfactory**. However, the horticultural maintenance programme requires further attention to detail in some areas. |
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| **A3** | **Plant Selection**  Are the plants or trees, used in the planting schemes, suited to their growing conditions, locations and purposes?  Is there a diverse range of plant-species to attract a variety of insects and wildlife? Is there year-round interest, where appropriate? | **Excellent** plant selection with extensive year-round interest, and almost no exceptions. | Plant selection is **very good** overall with only a few exceptions and ample year-round interest. | Plant selection is generally **good**, but there is room for improvement in some areas in order to extend year-round interest. | Plant selection is generally **satisfactory**, however it requires further consideration in order to extend the season and maintain interest. |
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| **A4** | **Plant Quality**  Are the plants or trees vibrant and grown to their full potential? Are they generally free of pests and diseases? | Plant quality is **excellent**, plants are very healthy, vigorous and grown to their full potential. | Plant quality is **very good,** plants are mostly healthy and vigorous, with only a few exceptions. | Plant quality and health is generally **good**,but not always consistent. Lack of vigour in some areas. | Plant quality and health is generally **satisfactory**,but could be improved. |
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|  |  | **10-9** | **8** | **7-6** | **5** |
| **B1** | **Local Identity & Pride of Place**  Is there a sense of place, with appropriate acknowledgement of local heritage (including biodiversity) and its relevance for the community; e.g. art in the landscape, signage, interpretation, etc.  Consider the pride taken in hard landscape (including streets), open spaces (including grass areas, wild areas and beaches if appropriate), street furniture maintenance, etc.  To include cleanliness, absence of litter, graffiti vandalism, flyposting/temporary signage, chewing gum, and effective dog fouling control measures. | Extensive evidence of efforts to highlight/enhance local identity. An **excellent** impression made about what makes the area unique.  Street furniture including litter bins and seating is in excellent condition. | Considerable evidence of efforts to highlight/enhance local identity. A **very good** impression made about what makes the area unique.  Street furniture including litter bins and seating is in very good condition. | Some evidence of efforts to highlight/enhance local identity. A **good** impression made about what makes the area unique.  Street furniture including litter bins and seating is in goodcondition. | Little evidence of efforts to highlight/enhance local identity. A **satisfactory** impression made about what makes the area unique.  Street furniture including litter bins and seating is in variable condition. |
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| **B2** | **Natural Environment**  Is there an understanding of what biodiversity means locally? Have efforts been made to create, restore or maintain appropriate habitats to support wildlife?  What has been done to assess the effectiveness of any interventions? E.g. through surveys.  Is nature being considered in all activities, rather than just restricting wildlife-friendly practices to a specific project or area? | The natural environment is managed to an **excellent** standard supporting an extensive range of flora and fauna, with little improvement required. Extensive effort to assess the impact of interventions.  Nature is considered across all activities. | The natural environment is managed to a **very good** standard across the whole entry, supporting a considerable range of flora and fauna.  Considerable effort to assess the impact of interventions.  Nature is considered across most activities.  Very little effort would lift it to excellent. | The natural environment is managed to a **good** standard supporting a range of flora and fauna.  Some effort to assess the impact of interventions.  Nature is considered across some activities.  Requires further work to improve it in places. | The natural environment is managed to a generally **satisfactory** standard supporting some flora and fauna.  Little effort to assess the impact of interventions.  Nature is considered across very few activities.  Needs significant improvement in places. |
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| **B3** | **Environmental Management**  Have steps been taken to employ sustainable or ecological gardening practices? E.g. Avoiding chemicals like pesticides and using other biological and physical controls like hand weeding or companion planting. Eliminating the use of peat, implementing solutions like composting, reducing the use of plastics and recycling those used. Taking measures to minimise the use of water.  Where local environmental issues have been identified, have plants or greening solutions been considered, e.g. as rain gardens, green roofs/walls, or as barriers for pollution? | **Excellent** evidence of sustainable gardening practices, including the conservation of resources and minimising negative impacts.  Extensive use of plants or greening solutions to address local environmental issues. | **Very good** evidence of sustainable gardening practices, including the conservation of resources and minimising negative impacts.  Considerable use of plants or greening solutions to address local environmental issues. | **Good** evidence of sustainable gardening practices, including the conservation of resources and minimising negative impacts.  Some use of plants or greening solutions to address local environmental issues. | **Satisfactory** evidence of effort to garden sustainably, conserve resource and minimise negative impacts.  Little use of plants or greening solutions to address local environmental issues. |
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|  |  | **10-9** | **8** | **7-6** | **5** |
| **C1** | **Year Round Activity and Future Commitment**  Evidence of forward planning and year-round activities, initiatives or events, highlighting where they are adding value and demonstrating the strengths or uniqueness of the entry. | **Excellent** evidence of activities taking place throughout the year and of advanced planning. The annual programme of activities is exceptional. | **Very good** evidence of activities taking place throughout the year and of advanced planning. | **Good** evidence of activities taking place throughout the year and of advanced planning. | **Satisfactory** evidence of activities taking place throughout the year and of advanced planning but some areas of improvement needed. |
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| **C2** | **Communication, Education, and Awareness**  Use of suitable interpretation, enabling learning and a greater understanding of purpose, and environmental importance. Engagement with schools, young people or other groups. Promotion within the immediate area through local and regional communications. Appropriate communications and media involvement evidenced. | **Excellent** use of signage and interpretation, and evidence of involvement in public awareness and educational programmes.  Communications and appropriate media involvement are extremely well evidenced. | **Very good** use of signage and interpretation, and evidence of involvement in public awareness and educational programmes.  Communications and appropriate media involvement are very well evidenced. | **Good** use of signage and interpretation, and evidence of involvement in public awareness and educational programmes.  Communications and appropriate media involvement are well evidenced. A few missed opportunities. | **Satisfactory** use of signage and interpretation, and evidence of involvement in public awareness and educational programmes.  Communications and appropriate media involvement are evidenced but limited and there is room for improvement. |
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| **C3** | **Support and Funding**  Has the entry made every effort to be inclusive, and engage the support of a wide variety of local groups and organisations? Participation should be representative of the local community.  Evidence of fundraising and on-going support from a range of businesses and organisations appropriate to the size of the entry, making it viable and able to continue moving forward. | The range of groups and organisations engaged are an **excellent** representation of the wider community. Excellent levels of funding to ensure the viability of the entry. Support in all areas is sustainable and outstanding. | The range of groups and organisations engaged are a **very** **good** representation of the wider community. Very good levels of funding to ensure the viability of the entry. Support in all areas is very good and will be sustainable over time. | The range of groups and organisations engaged are a **good** representation of the wider community. Good levels of funding to ensure the viability of the entry. Support in all areas is good and, with effort, will be sustainable over time. | The range of groups and organisations engaged are a **satisfactory** representation of the wider community. Satisfactory levels of funding to ensure the viability of the entry. Support in all areas is satisfactory and fairly sustainable over time. |
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**Judges/Entrants notes:**

* The form has expandable sections under overall impression and judges’ feedback allowing the judges to provide comprehensive and meaningful comments as much as they deem necessary.
* **Maintenance of Planted Areas:** The maintenance schedule should take account of biodiversity needs through the seasons; these will vary depending upon setting and location. Examples could include avoiding hedge trimming in nesting season or leaving some grass longer at certain times of year etc.
* **Plant Selection:** Prioritising perennial or pollinator-friendly plants is encouraged where appropriate. If annual bedding is used, groups should carefully consider the provenance and buy from local nurseries that do not use peat, or, if possible, to grow their own.
* **Natural Environment**:
  + The use of sustainable practices and materials should be encouraged wherever possible.
  + When creating, restoring or maintaining habitats to support wildlife, any features should be appropriate to the particular place. They could be as varied as ponds, ‘dead’ hedges, or the connection of several habitats to make ‘pollinator pathways’. When used inappropriately something as simple as a bug hotel can become a bird feeder.
  + Assessing the effectiveness of interventions is incredibly important and all groups should be encouraged to measure their impact. This can be through a simple survey, or through contributing to a broader citizen science project or national monitoring scheme.
* **Environmental Management:** 
  + Groups should minimise their use of plastic, choosing alternative materials where possible, and where unavoidable switching to better plastics such as recycled, recyclable or compostable products. Groups should repeatedly re-use items like plant pots and trays.
  + Groups are encouraged to identify local environmental issues, and tackle them, using plants. These can be very simple or low-cost interventions, e.g. adding a green roof to a bin store, or planting a hedge to reduce pollution near a main road.