

## Best Kept Village 2009 – Notes on Marking

### 1a - BKV Publicity & Awareness - 5 Marks

The purpose of publicity is to show awareness of the competition and to inform residents and visitors that the village is taking part in it. Notices should be displayed at entrances to the village, at salient points within it, e.g. in the windows of shops and perhaps private houses. They should be weatherproof, well displayed and kept neat and tidy throughout the judging period. For legal reasons posters must not be fixed to telegraph and electricity poles. Any other means of informing residents about the BKV competition should be made clear on the entry form.

### 1b - Children's Posters - 5 Marks

These indicate children's involvement in the competition and should be original and individual. If there is no school in the village, posters can still be displayed by individual children. (This feature can only be excluded from the marking if there are no children living in the village and this fact must be noted on the entry form). The remarks about the display and tidiness of BKV posters apply equally to children's posters and other notices.

### Supplementary Children's Competition

All villages entering the competition will be invited to submit the best children's poster (in 5-7 and 8-11 age groups) to the BKV Working Group and prizes will be awarded to the two best children's posters in the county. Details will be sent following receipt of your entry form.

The competition will be extended in 2009 by inviting all schools in the 5-11 age group to participate in the Children's competition. This is aimed at widening knowledge of BKV and encouraging children to be interested and, hopefully, involved in the future.

### 1c - Notice Boards – (5 Marks)

Boards should be in a good state of repair and notices displayed neatly.

### 1d - Local Information - 5 Marks

This should be kept up-to-date and should inform residents and visitors of local events and village activities and provide information which may be important. This should include publicity about matters such as recycling arrangements and facilities, dog-fouling and the availability of pooper-scoopers, information about parish council matters, including a list of parish councillors, bus timetables, etc.

### 2a - Recycling Awareness - 3 Marks

Residents should be made aware of the arrangements and facilities for recycling domestic waste. Most local authorities have recycling programmes and arrangements for collecting different items but notices should be displayed to remind residents of these arrangements, the location of the nearest recycling sites and the arrangements for collecting large items.

### 2b - Dog Fouling Awareness - 3 Marks

There should be adequate notices about dog fouling as well as facilities available for the disposal of dog waste. Residents should be made aware of the location of these facilities and the penalties that may be incurred if they allow dog fouling.

### 3 - Church surrounds - 8 Marks

Grass does not have to be cut to lawn standard but should be neat and tidy. Pathways should be clearly defined and trimmed and the edges to graves and headstones kept tidy and shrub areas weeded. Areas of grass kept uncut for conservation reasons and/or wildlife are acceptable but should be clearly identified. The condition of church notice boards will also be taken into account.

### 4a - Communal Buildings - 9 Marks

The surrounds to communal buildings such as village, parish and church halls and their car parks (either attached to them or separate) should be in a good state of repair, clean and tidy and free from litter and weeds.

### 4b - Public Houses – (4 Marks)

The surrounds to public houses, including their car parks, gardens and outdoor smoking areas should be clean, tidy and free from litter and weeds.

### 5a, b, c & d - Telephone Boxes, Bus Shelters, Seating Areas & Village Signs (5a – 2 marks, 5b & c – 3 marks each, 5d – 2marks)

These amenities and their surrounds should be clean and tidy, and free from litter and weeds. Telephone boxes should be clean inside.

5d The cleanliness and “visibility” of village signs (i.e. at the entrance to the village); other local directional signs (e.g. pointing to local features such as the church, village hall, car parks etc); and public footpath finger posts (metal or timber). This section does not include signs erected and maintained by the local highway authority.

### 6 - War Memorial – NOT APPLICABLE TO BISHOPS WOOD

### 7a – Public Open Spaces, Greens, Playing Fields etc (10 marks)

These should be well cared for and well maintained. Ponds, sports grounds, green areas, etc included for marking must be accessible to the public. Private sports areas will not be judged unless they are designated as such on the map. Public footpaths within the village boundary should be shown on the map and should be tidy, unobstructed and signposted. Existing trees and shrub areas should be well cared for. New tree planting will be taken into consideration.

### 7b – Private Gardens (5marks)

These should be neat and well maintained and give an overall impression of the care and pride of the residents in the appearance of the village.

7c – General Cleanliness (10 marks)

Every effort should be made to keep the village free from litter. The absence of litter, weeds, dog-fouling and signs of community effort involved to achieve the general cleanliness of the village and its facilities will all be taken into account.

8a & b – Children’s Play Areas, Play Equipment and Safety Surfaces (8a & b 3 marks each)

Play areas should be safe with adequate fencing, and free from dog-fouling or any dangerous items. Equipment should be well maintained. The safety surfaces should be well maintained and safe to use. (Play equipment in the grounds of public houses will not be taken into account unless specifically requested by the village).

9 – Map (7 marks)

The map is essential for the judges to find their way around the village and locate the features to be judged. It should be up to date, clear, easy to follow and easy to read. See notes on the preparation of the map included on the entry form.

Note: Where a village does not have certain items such as a bus shelter, war memorial etc, this will be taken into account in the marking.