

CPRE & MVF Best Kept Village In Devon Competition

Aims of the Competition

The object of the competition is to encourage villages possessing a real sense of community to improve their local environment by caring for buildings, clearing litter and promoting schemes to improve the general appearance of the area or to develop, enhance or sustain village amenities. Judges do not look for architectural merit, prettiness or an abundance of flowers but for:

Villages which do the best with what they have

We do not expect neatness for its own sake - for example, nettles can be left where they are not a hazard and churchyards need not be neatly mown. Hedges should not be cut until nesting birds have flown.

The competition is open to villages with a population of 3000 or under and will be judged in 4 groups.

- Villages that have won in the past 5 years
- Villages of a population between 500 and 3000
- Villages of a population up to 500
- Villages that are new to the competition or have not entered for 10 years

Villages in groups (b) (c) and (d) which win their group will automatically be moved to group (a) in the following year. Villages in group (a) which do not win for 5 years will then go back to group (b) or (c).

Judging Schedule

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| 1. General tidiness. Absence of litter and unsightly refuse on dumps and verges. | 10 |
| 2. Private buildings. Condition of houses, gardens and allotments, including hedges,walls, fences and outhouses. | 10 |
| 3. Public buildings. Condition and cleanliness of public halls, sports pavilions and sheds, bus shelters, telephone kiosks,public toilets and notice boards. | 10 |
| 4. Public open spaces. Condition of village greens,playing fields, school yards,public seats and car parks. | 10 |
| 5. The village environment. State of footpaths, stiles,field gates,signposting,ponds and streams. | 10 |
| 6. Condition of churchyards, cemeteries and war memorials. | 10 |
| 7. Commercial and business premises. Condition of hotels, B&Bs, restaurants, private sports clubs etc, including advertising and signage. | 10 |
| 8. Initiative in the care and enhancement of village amenities. Composting, recycling, public planters, beds and gardens, public woodlands and other schemes. Facilities or initiatives for children, young people, the elderly etc. | 10 |
| 9. Evidence of good village communications. Quality of hand drawn village map with all features, to be judged, clearly marked. Notice boards, easy to read, up-to-date, plentiful contents. BKV posters displayed. Quality of village website and village magazine information. | 10 |
| 10. Evidence of community spirit. | 10 |

Awards

The Large Village winner in group (a) will receive The CPRE Pertwee Bowl for Past Winners.

The Small Village winner in group (a) will win a shield (please note a new award for 2013)

The winners in groups (b) (c) and (d) will each receive a CPRE shield. These will be held for one year.

Certificates will be awarded to winners and runners-up in each group.

Group winners will also receive a 'Best Kept Village' road sign and Mole Valley Farmers vouchers to the value of £100.

Judging will take place during May, June and July, with final judging in July and August