

Judges Notes for Summer 2024



Yorkshire Rose awards for Parish & Town Councils

Darley

5 Roses

Overall Impression

1. Excellent facilities in the village, 2 halls, playing fields, pétanque area, football pitch, shop, MUGA, play equipment, several defibrillators.
2. There are some excellent private gardens, obviously some keen gardeners within the village, no wonder there are regular Open Gardens
3. Looking at the web site it appeared a vibrant village with a wide range of community activities and groups to join which helps to bring the community together.
4. The residents of Nidderdale Hill View could remove the tree ties/stakes on the adjacent open space as the trees are large enough not to need the stakes for support.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

1. The Entrance Sign (from Pateley Bridge) is becoming quite dark as it is so close to the sycamore tree, would it be an option to plant shrubs or perennials that prefer shade conditions
2. Some of the street furniture including the interpretation boards could benefit with some maintenance. Would there be an opportunity to fit electric charging points at the playing fields or Memorial Hall Car Park?
3. Would it be better to change the planting in some of the flower boxes to more perennial planting to help with maintenance. The boxes on the Green (on the corner of Low Green and Main Street) are difficult to be appreciated due to the grass left longer for the bulbs/wildflowers.

Easingwold

5 Roses

Overall Impression

- 1) There are good floral displays outside the Tourist Information Centre and planters around the square. Several businesses are involved as well including The WI supported by G H Smith, the baskets and hayricks on The Commercial public House and Hearts Boutique. The planting and café culture gives the town centre a really relaxed feel. There are many noticeboards around the centre with many events and groups listed.
- 2) The yarnbombing by the Easingwold and District Yarnbombers and Men in Sheds using the Olympics theme is splendid and can be spotted around the area.
- 3) The residents are lucky to have the various greenspaces and recreational areas, central green area, Memorial Park, Galtres Centre and Millfield Park which are well maintained. Millfield Park is a real asset to Easingwold with a variety of open space, different habitats for wildlife and facilities. The pond area may be suitable for funding from Yorkshire Wildlife Trust www.ywt.org.uk/news/fully-funded-wildlife-ponds-available-farmers-and-landowners . Millfield Park could easily be entered in the Yorkshire in Bloom, Parks, Public Gardens, Cemeteries & Public Buildings Category.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- 1) Would there be opportunity to create a self-guided walk around Easingwold picking up the local history/heritage of the area?
- 2) The trees near the Galtres Centre, Green area in the centre, memorial park and Millfield Park all could do with some bark mulch around the base but not close up to the stem to help feed the tree and help with water retention.
- 3) Would it be possible to set up a Friends of Millfield Park to help arrange events and look for grant funding?

Flaxby

4 Roses

Overall Impression

- 1) The entrance signs and large container are well planted and colourful.
- 2) The village is clean and tidy.
- 3) There are a several village events but understand that the village is closely linked with Goldsborough and there are more facilities available there.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- 1) In the central green area, there are a couple of options, move the planting further away from under the tree which will suit the style of planting or decide to plant up under the tree with more shade tolerant plants.
- 2) The tree planted for the Platinum jubilee could do with some feed, something like bark chipping around the base of the tree but not close up to the stem

Goldsborough

5 Roses

Overall Impression

- 1) The War Memorial is clean and tidy and a fitting memorial to those who have sacrificed their lives.
- 2) The entrance signs, bus stop, public house The Bay Horse and private gardens were all very colourful, evidently keen gardeners within the village.
- 3) The bus stop had a wide range of notices on the community board including a newsletter from the Bloom group and a suggestion box.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- 1) It was encouraging to see the trees planted between the new development and the cricket pitch. It would be useful to make sure the developer looks after them (regarding maintenance of tree ties and mulching around the trees to help feed and with water retention) to make sure they survive.
- 2) The pond at Midgeley Gate may be suitable for funding from Yorkshire Wildlife Trust www.ywt.org.uk/news/fully-funded-wildlife-ponds-available-farmers-and-landowners
- 3) The allotments look like they are productive although some plots may need reletting.

Malton

5 Roses

Overall Impression

- 1) Good floral features and appropriate seating around the war memorial. The sculpture at Newbiggin and Broughton Road give interest to the area.
- 2) Good sports facilities at the community centre on Malton Road
- 3) Excellent baskets at La Trattoria on Newbiggin

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- 1) The assessor is not sure what the problem with the hanging baskets is, whether it is the compost or feeding regime but it hasn't produced good baskets
- 2) The recently planted trees around Broughton Road would benefit with some bark mulch around the base but not close up to the stem to help feed the tree and help with water retention.
- 3) The barrier baskets and hanging baskets could have a similar colour theme to make more of an impact.

Driffield in Bloom

5 Roses

Overall Impression

1. The floral welcome to the market town of Driffield is excellent. Boxes, baskets and bedding along the entire main street lift the street scene. Many businesses, too numerous to mention all of them, participate in the floral scheme.
2. Seating areas at the Clock Square and along Main Street are clean and tidy and offer shoppers a welcome opportunity to sit and rest under the colourful umbrella installation.
3. Driffield offers a comprehensive range of public facilities from defibs outside the Scout Hut and the Original Keys Pub, clean and tidy public toilets at North End Park. There was very little evidence of litter despite it being a busy weekend. This is complemented by a good range of shops, cafes and restaurants on a vibrant main street.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- 1 The floral welcome to the town was excellent but there only appeared to be one sign at the Railway Station that gave any information about the partnership providing this scheme and there didn't appear to be any mention of floral Driffield on your scrolling electronic notice board at the council offices. Perhaps some thought could be given to adding an item about the floral partnership initiative, to advertise the hard work being done and to encourage volunteers to come forward.
2. Some of the street furniture and bike racks, although adequate, could perhaps benefit from some routine maintenance.
3. The map on the wall of the toilet block at North End Park should be a well-used and useful feature for visitors to the town. However, it is difficult to read as the surface has badly deteriorated. Perhaps a replacement could be considered in future plans.

Muston Parish Council with Muston in Bloom

5 Roses

Overall Impression

1. The small parish of Muston presents an outstanding floral welcome across the whole village from the entrance signs, two village greens, boxes, barrels, raised planters of perennials and the beautiful floral cross in the centre of the village. There is no doubt as you travel through that this is a well-cared for floral village.
2. Public facilities are numerous for a village of this size including a village hall, two village greens, a very tidy churchyard, clean and tidy bus shelter, defib in a repurposed phone box, pub village pump and pond.
3. In addition to the partnership between Muston in Bloom and Muston Parish Council many private houses are adorned with floral baskets and boxes. These enhance the village and complement the In Bloom/Parish Council commitment.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

1. The pond is a great addition to the village and visitors and residents should be able to sit and admire the surroundings. Could some consideration be given to managing the vegetation which is encroaching so there are better views across the pond for visitors and residents to enjoy?
2. The village pump in Hunmanby Street is a lovely feature but, unfortunately, is obscured by the large shrub in front of it. Perhaps some thought could be given to replacing this shrub with something smaller and more in keeping so the pump feature can be seen properly.

3. The church and churchyard are a peaceful, well maintained and beautiful part of the overall village scene. Perhaps some attention could be given to painting the railings at a future date when budgets allow.

Harthill & Woodhall

5 Roses

Overall Impression

1. Street scene and public areas were spotless, even stopped a litter picker out and about on the day of judging. Seasonal hanging baskets, wall boxes, planters added a splash of colour throughout the village.
2. Good use of sustainable planting in areas around the war memorial, main street and Doctors Lane. Public areas around the Village hall, church yard, public houses and shops were well maintained and welcoming.
3. Allotments were well maintained and full of produce. The Recreation ground and the boating lake are a real asset to the village.
4. The wildflower meadow along the verge on the main road into the village was spectacular.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

1. Definitely consider re-entering the competition in future – it was a pleasure to revisit, and find it as good as when you last entered.

Micklethwaite

5 Roses

Overall Impression

1. Micklethwaite is a very small village built on a steep hillside. The road leading into the village was clean and the entry sign was planted with both permanent and annual plants.
2. The lower village green has stone troughs and barrel planters. Even though there had been a village BBQ held here on the 10th August the area looked really good.

There is a small village notice board which is well kept and advertises village events.

3. The upper village green has been well cut and the stones around it painted white. Lovely to see the bench commemorating the village winning The Best Kept Village in 1991. The old telephone box has been recommissioned and now houses a defibrillator. The villages seating areas are excellent. The whole village was litter free.
4. All the property frontages were very good. Micklethwaite looks like it is a lovely place to live.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

1. It is hard to comment on areas for consideration as the village is so well kept and fits into its environment. Perhaps you could consider adding further perennials to your barrel planters.
2. The road sides do have wildflower planting, it may be worth considering looking at adding more towards to bottom of the village.
3. Micklethwaite would make a really good entry into the main competition. This may be worth considering.

Cottingley

2 Roses

Overall Impression

1. Cottingley is a suburban village outside of Bradford.
2. It is clear that this team are keen to improve Cottingley and they have made a good start. The Entrance Stones to the village are well kept. The recreation area is a good communal space. The seating is clean and tidy. The whole area was litter free. The village green is really good, well planted with both perennial and annual plants. There are notice and information boards on the green.
3. In the main part of the town there are good planters and baskets, all bright and welcoming.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

1. If possible contact your local authority re the grass cutting of the verges.
2. On Beckfield Road there is a small green, is it worth asking the few residents there if they would cut it from time to time and possibly put some perennials such as Cranesbill and Alchemilla mollis which over time will spread and fill the edging.
3. Is it possible to consider adding some permanent planting around the entry stones?

It is clear this team are improving pockets of areas in Cottingley

Horsforth

4 Roses

Overall Impression

1. Horsforth is a very busy urban town very close to the centre of Leeds. It is a difficult town to drive around and take in all the work the Horsforth in Bloom team have been involved with.
2. It is commendable that the Horsforth in Bloom team have been around for at least 20 years.
3. The Museum planting scheme is excellent as are the Jubilee Gardens. Public seating was clean, the whole area was litter free. Whilst the team are not responsible for the hanging baskets they add colour to the busy shopping area.
4. It was good to see that sustainable planting has been used in the planters. The planters were in a good condition.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

1. On Town Street there is a black planter which would benefit from some additional plants.
2. It is great to see Horsforth back. Due to the size and area of the town it may be worth considering re-entering back into the main competition. Alternatively; break the areas down into; Jubilee Gardens, as an It's Your Neighbourhood entry as a 'friends of group'. The same for the Museum Garden.
3. There is now a specific entry for the Railway Stations and it may be worth considering entering in this category or again as an IYN 'Friends of Horsforth Station'.
4. Continue with adding permanent plants to your displays