

## South & South East in Bloom- Villages in Bloom 2019

### **Villages in Bloom**

This is an opportunity for each village to receive a visit and be assessed under a simple competitive criteria. To receive an external third-party validation from an organisation that has been assessing and judging villages, towns, cities and community groups for well over 40 years and who is part of "Britain in Bloom", the national competition organised by the RHS.

This assessment is designed to cause the least disruption to the village community. Just a question of identifying the many well-managed features that make up a well cared for village environment and community and providing feedback suggesting areas of improvements or developments and of course to receive recognition for the achievements.

### **What the assessors would like to see:**

#### **Community Involvement (40% of marks)**

- Assessors would like to understand the level of involvement from the community or voluntary groups or individuals especially in the areas of gardening and conservation.
- Are local people involved in decision-making about the appearance of the village and how decisions are communicated & implemented?
- The level of partnership working with local groups and local organisations.

#### **Environmental Responsibility (30% of marks)**

- What action is being taken to conserve the natural & built environment particularly the protection of local habitats, & heritage buildings?
- Examples of local composting either collected wastes or community composting,
- Evidence of the creation or the maintaining or improving green spaces (Village Greens, parks & pocket parks, verges, woodlands, churchyards etc.).
- The Parish Council is engaged in addressing environmental issues such as the control of fly-tipping, fly-posting, litter, graffiti & dog fouling.

#### **Maintenance - Gardening, Horticulture & Tree Maintenance, Street Furniture (30% of marks)**

- Evidence of delivering good gardening, horticultural and tree management practices.
- Residents care for their gardens, allotments, shop and business frontages etc.
- Residential gardens are generally cared for and enhance the village's appearance.
- Village signs and entrances are welcoming
- Village street furniture (seating, bins, signage etc) is well maintained.