



Translink Ulster in Bloom 2018 Marking Sheet

Cookstown, Town, Mid Ulster District Council

INTRODUCTION

Cookstown plays on its status as a retail capitol for the area, and there are a good range of premises in the town. Cookstown also has some very good public spaces tucked away from the main street, where the main concentration of floral colour has been targeted.

HORTICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT

Areas of Achievement:

Bedding, particularly Lobelia had weathered the drought conditions well and provided some very good shows along the main thoroughfare, including the deep red Begonia used in the schemes. Beds were generally well maintained and provided good colour. The central tree avenue on the main street is developing well and provides a lovely green roof for pedestrians on the main route.

Areas for Improvement:

More planting for the signature beds on the approaches to the town. The main roundabout on the Stewartstown side is becoming dated and could be reviewed for renewal. The main council buildings and the curtilage could do with more floral colour was well.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Areas of Achievement:

The amenity site was well signposted. The streetscape and hard landscaping were of good quality, including near the Burnavon centre. There was also a recycling facility at the supermarket.

Areas for Improvement:

The local authority should consider replacing the miss-spelled sign for the amenity site; it's been there quite some time now! Decorative Hoardings around some of the derelict properties were in need of maintenance as they were themselves falling into disrepair in some places. There were some areas of noxious weeds such as Hogweed seen during the visit.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Areas of Achievement:

Some individual homes had splashes of colour from seasonal planting. The little Greenvale Hotel had some lovely splashes of seasonal colour outside its premises.

Areas for Improvement:

Explicit promotion of the campaign along with much more encouragement for local homeowners and businesses to get involved in using seasonal plant material to enhance their local area.

Judging date: 8th July 2018

Judges: C Mulholland and J Lockhart

For information, based on the RHS Britain in Bloom scoring matrix,
your 2018 Ulster in Bloom entry would sit in the following score band.

Outstanding (Overall 170 – 200 points)	Very Good (Overall 150 – 169 points)	Good (Overall 120 – 149 points)	Average (Overall 100 – 119 points)	Fair (Overall 0 - 99 points)



Translink Ulster in Bloom 2018 Marking Sheet

Dungannon, Town, Mid Ulster District Council

INTRODUCTION

The town of Dungannon benefits from the landscaping investment around the Hill of O'Neill. Dungannon Park is a wonderful oasis and is very well used and cared for, this is an excellent asset for the town.

HORTICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT

Areas of Achievement:

The planting choices around the council offices and in the main roundabout planting (using the metal-framed butterfly structures) were very good. There was good evidence of maintenance, particularly around the Dungannon Park area. The planting schemes viewed during the visit didn't show much evidence of having suffered from the dry conditions at the start of the season.

Areas for Improvement:

Weed control in some planted areas was not completely successful, and some bedding containers were empty at the time of the visit; this might have been due to rescheduled planting dates resulting from the dry conditions. The council offices did not seem to show the same level of horticultural input that other town areas seemed to have.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Areas of Achievement:

On-street recycling was in evidence, which was good. The Dungannon park area was well maintained, well run and well used. This is an excellent asset for the town. There was little evidence of litter around the town.

Areas for Improvement:

Some areas were showing some signs of dereliction.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Areas of Achievement:

There was some evidence of community participation, but it was not clear if this was linked to the UIB competition. The staff at Dungannon Park were very well-versed in what the town's involvement with the competition. The competition was being promoted by the Dungannon Park facility.

Areas for Improvement:

More overt signage promoting the UIB competition would be of benefit, along with increased encouragement among local communities to participate in the campaign.

Judging date: 1st July 2018

Judges: C Mulholland and J Lockhart

For information, based on the RHS Britain in Bloom scoring matrix,
your 2018 Ulster in Bloom entry would sit in the following score band.

Outstanding (Overall 170 – 200 points)	Very Good (Overall 150 – 169 points)	Good (Overall 120 – 149 points)	Average (Overall 100 – 119 points)	Fair (Overall 0 - 99 points)



Translink Ulster in Bloom 2018 Marking Sheet

Magherafelt, Town, Mid Ulster District Council

INTRODUCTION

Magherafelt has a good town centre and has been helped to an extent by the new ring road, which takes through traffic away from the centre. There are plenty of retail opportunities as well as leisure and recreation facilities within easy reach of the town centre.

HORTICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT

Areas of Achievement:

Good to see a good attempt at some picture bedding around the town. The plantings were neatly maintained in general. There was a nice level of attention to detail. Big planters using tree specimens were good too. Roses in permanent planting beds (e.g. Killowen) were giving a good show this year.

Areas for Improvement:

Straddle and manger baskets, whilst neatly planted and well filled, perhaps could have been more plentiful for better effect.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Areas of Achievement:

Plenty of good quality open space, for example down towards the cemetery. Town centre hardscaping was very good quality. There was little evidence of litter or dereliction.

Areas for Improvement:

Greater availability of recycling facilities built into the hardscaping for the town centre would be good.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Areas of Achievement:

Some individual houses, and the Killowen estate had made some efforts to use seasonal floral colour to enhance the local area.

Areas for Improvement:

Much more promotion of the competition and its aims, including the encouragement of local community involvement in local horticultural initiatives to improve the area.

Judging date: 8th July 2018

Judges: C Mulholland and J Lockhart

For information, based on the RHS Britain in Bloom scoring matrix,
your 2018 Ulster in Bloom entry would sit in the following score band.

Outstanding (Overall 170 – 200 points)	Very Good (Overall 150 – 169 points)	Good (Overall 120 – 149 points)	Average (Overall 100 – 119 points)	Fair (Overall 0 - 99 points)



Translink Ulster in Bloom 2018 Marking Sheet

Maghera, Small Town, Mid Ulster District Council

INTRODUCTION

Some good beds – particularly on Bellaghy Road, nice wall baskets.

Walsh's hotel has made a great effort and looks well.

HORTICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT

Areas of Achievement:

Nice bed of begonias opposite the Leisure Centre and on Cookstown Road with another good bed on Bellaghy Road.

Wall baskets good and the hotel has made a great effort with lovely colour combination from Jacks to Helen's coffee shop.

Areas for Improvement:

Need much more impact so more of everything.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Areas of Achievement:

Rural area provides areas for wildlife.

Town is free from litter.

Areas for Improvement:

More active measures could be taken to enhance wildlife and biodiversity.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Areas of Achievement:

Evidence of business support, more evidence of community participation needed.

Areas for Improvement:

Need community participation and promotion of Ulster in Bloom.

Judging date: 19th July 2018

Judges: Joan Hamilton and Pat Cameron

For information, based on the RHS Britain in Bloom scoring matrix,
your 2018 Ulster in Bloom entry would sit in the following score band.

Outstanding (Overall 170 – 200 points)	Very Good (Overall 150 – 169 points)	Good (Overall 120 – 149 points)	Average (Overall 100 – 119 points)	Fair (Overall 0 - 99 points)



Translink Ulster in Bloom 2018 Marking Sheet

Tobermore, Village, Mid Ulster District Council

INTRODUCTION

The town has some good planting; both beds and tubs. A number of private gardens have made a good effort and have lovely displays.

The begonias along the wall in the main street add a lot of colour and are very effective. Unfortunately, there is a lot of weeds in some beds and others have not been planted.

HORTICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT

Areas of Achievement:

Impressive bed on Maghera Road in honour of the BB, some nice half barrel planters, good window bows and tubs.

Lots of colour along top of wall in main street as well as in the sponsored bed.

Some very colourful private gardens.

Fake hedging is effective where it is used.

Areas for Improvement:

Ensure that beds are well maintained and weeded effectively. Also ensure that all planting has taken place before judging as some beds had not been planted.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Areas of Achievement:

The town was very clean, and the location gives good scope for wildlife.

Areas for Improvement:

Look for ways to increase areas of biodiversity (e.g. conservation area or an insect hotel) in order to attract more wildlife.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Areas of Achievement:

Some evidence of sponsorship.

Areas for Improvement:

Encourage community participation and public awareness of Ulster in Bloom (ensure you are using the Ulster in Bloom posters).

Judging date: 20th July 2018

Judges: Joan Hamilton and Pat Cameron

For information, based on the RHS Britain in Bloom scoring matrix,
your 2018 Ulster in Bloom entry would sit in the following score band.

Outstanding (Overall 170 – 200 points)	Very Good (Overall 150 – 169 points)	Good (Overall 120 – 149 points)	Average (Overall 100 – 119 points)	Fair (Overall 0 - 99 points)



Translink Ulster in Bloom 2018 Marking Sheet

Donaghmore, Village, Mid Ulster District Council

INTRODUCTION

Excellent effort by Donaghmore this year.

The main street is awash with colour from tubs, baskets and window boxes and the display at the cross is very impressive.

The quality of the floral exhibits is fantastic and it's good to see the rabbits and the teapot!

The cart and boat are good additions, the train is great and the overall effect of all the displays is WOW!

Good information pack provided for judges.

HORTICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT

Areas of Achievement:

The extent and quality of the floral displays could not be better.

All residences and businesses are involved, the community gardens are well planted and maintained, the wildflower areas are lovely, and the allotments are excellent.

This is all complemented by the features throughout the village such as the soap vats, cart, boat, teapot and rabbits!

The train for Translink's 50 years is just great. It's good to see more innovation in the village displays.

Areas for Improvement:

Continue to be creative in thinking about how to present the displays.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Areas of Achievement:

Good conservation and biodiversity, recycling and celebration of local heritage.

A clean and tidy village.

Areas for Improvement:

Build on current programmes for recycling and celebrating heritage.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Areas of Achievement:

Excellent community participation and public awareness.

Funding and sponsorship well sourced and certainly a visitor will be impressed.

Areas for Improvement:

Continue the good work.

Judging date: 19th July 2018

Judges: Joan Hamilton and Pat Cameron

For information, based on the RHS Britain in Bloom scoring matrix,
your 2018 Ulster in Bloom entry would sit in the following score band.

Outstanding (Overall 170 – 200 points)	Very Good (Overall 150 – 169 points)	Good (Overall 120 – 149 points)	Average (Overall 100 – 119 points)	Fair (Overall 0 - 99 points)



Translink Ulster in Bloom 2018 Marking Sheet

Castlecaulfield, Village, Mid Ulster District Council

INTRODUCTION

The creativity of the In Bloom Group in Castlecaulfield is amazing! This year they have created an Emeline Pankhurst figure to commemorate the anniversary of the suffragette movement, a train surrounded by yellow beds to celebrate Translink's 50 years and a house with ruby window boxes to signify 40 years of Ulster in Bloom as well as a market stall with knitted vegetables and a clock bed.

Add to this Worzel Gummidge beside a bee, recycled pallet beds and a butterfly with excellent floral exhibits throughout the village and you have a wonderful entry in Ulster in Bloom.

Excellent information pack for the judges.

There is little to criticise except that, on the day of judging, some of the beds and features were not in place. Even if we had judged a couple of days later the newly planted beds wouldn't have developed to the standard expected.

HORTICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT

Areas of Achievement:

Innovation and presentation outstanding. The quality of the floral displays generally of the highest order, residential houses and business premises all had good displays and where there was a vacant property it was transformed. Sustainable planting was evident in the Pavilion bed and the housing association beds were very attractive. The special features were all excellent - but the star, we thought, was the figure of a lady with a dog – representing Emeline Pankhurst – to commemorate the suffragette movement - it was wonderful.

Areas for Improvement:

We appreciate that unforeseen circumstances lead to the village not having everything in place by the time of judging, but this had to be taken into account resulting in the loss of a few marks.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Areas of Achievement:

The quality of environmental planting is high and there is a good example of environmental responsibility, recycling is practised, areas are available for wildlife including good wildflower areas.

The use of pallets to create beds is excellent, local heritage celebrated and the village is extremely neat and tidy.

Areas for Improvement:

Continue to do what you are doing!

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Areas of Achievement:

Community participation is high as is public awareness. Funding and sponsorship is evident and there is great impact. A visitor will certainly be impressed.

Areas for Improvement:

Just have beds planted and features in place a little sooner!

Judging date: 19th July 2018

Judges: Joan Hamilton and Pat Cameron

For information, based on the RHS Britain in Bloom scoring matrix,
your 2018 Ulster in Bloom entry would sit in the following score band.

Outstanding (Overall 170 – 200 points)	Very Good (Overall 150 – 169 points)	Good (Overall 120 – 149 points)	Average (Overall 100 – 119 points)	Fair (Overall 0 - 99 points)



Translink Ulster in Bloom 2018 Marking Sheet

Coalisland, Small Town, Mid Ulster District Council

INTRODUCTION

There is little effort made here. There are council baskets at places in the town but no sign of anyone in the community involved.

HORTICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT

Areas of Achievement:

Two nice begonia beds at entrance of town. Open spaces are well maintained.

Areas for Improvement:

The main street is lacking floral displays, maybe add a few planters with a variety of plants, some tall, some medium and some trailing plants make a nice floral display, or use hanging baskets outside residential homes or businesses.

Very overgrown area at Spring Island which should be maintained better.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Areas of Achievement:

Town is clean and tidy.

Areas for Improvement:

Look for ways of providing more for the wildlife e.g. insect hotel and more could be made of the heritage of the town.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Areas of Achievement:

Floral display at entrance of town show council effort.

Areas for Improvement:

Encourage community participation and promote any community participation with signage. Ensure that competition is promoted e.g. posters. Try to get residents and local businesses involved and promote this with signage. Try to improve the overall impact of floral displays and any other initiatives within the town.

Judging date: 19th July 2018

Judges: Joan Hamilton and Pat Cameron

For information, based on the RHS Britain in Bloom scoring matrix,
your 2018 Ulster in Bloom entry would sit in the following score band.

Outstanding (Overall 170 – 200 points)	Very Good (Overall 150 – 169 points)	Good (Overall 120 – 149 points)	Average (Overall 100 – 119 points)	Fair (Overall 0 - 99 points)

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2018 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET FINAL ROUND (Small Village Category)**

Place Name:- Donaghmore

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- August 27, 2018

Weather conditions:- Cloudy, Bright Spells

Category Entered: Small Village (Final Round)

Limits Used: 30/Welcome Sign

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)

*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

JUDGE'S REMARKS – FINAL ROUND JUDGING

SMALL VILLAGE

DONAGHMORE

Date: 27th August 2018

1. **General Appearance** to include approach roads, streets, road signs, car parks, litter bins, public seating, welcome signs and re-cycling.

The lasting impression of the village was of colour - a riot of colour everywhere – from the myriad profusion of flowers and floral decorations. Approach roads were tidy and free of litter with 'Grow Wild' wild flowers along the verges. Hanging baskets, sunflower cut-outs on lamp posts, a "butterflies" mobile and a flower-filled "boat" were added features. Adequate litter bins, good, clean public seating, signage and street lighting, many of which were enhanced by floral decorations. On-street parking. Car park at the GAA ground, which was pristine. The re-cycling point at the Emo garage was clean and tidy, completely free of litter – a credit to the community. It has the additional facility of a laundrette.

2. **General cleanliness and tidiness** to include long and short-term litter, vandalism, graffiti, fly-posting, inappropriate advertising and dog fouling.

The entire village was clean, tidy and without litter, either long-term or fresh. No graffiti, vandalism, fly-posting, inappropriate advertising or dog fouling was seen.

3. **Business Premises (including public transport facilities)** to include decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate) and efforts to improve dereliction.

Business premises were in good repair and well presented, with hanging baskets and planted window boxes. The windows of a derelict building are used to display posters which alleviates its emptiness. The bus shelter was clean and looked freshly painted.

4. **Natural Environment and Open Spaces** to include presentation and management of open spaces and evidence of activities to promote conservation of flora and fauna.

The 11th century High Cross, enhanced by hanging baskets and floral planters, is the dominant feature of the village and is beautifully presented. The adjacent graveyard has been tidied up since last year. Lismore has a small garden area with planters and baskets of flowers, a pergola and an "Exhausted Bee" sculpted from exhaust pipes. The Torrent complex with theatre, youth centre and GAA ground was clean and completely litter-free. It has a planted open space with small replica cross, public seating, litter bin and an "insect hotel" to encourage nature and wildlife. There are wild flowers and marigolds along Pomeroy Road and St Patrick's Primary School had plantings of begonias. The entrance to Brewery Lane Heights has public seating, floral plantings and hanging baskets. Many of the floral decorations in the village have a co-ordinated colour scheme which adds to the attractive appearance. Translink sponsor a train made from old barrels and filled with flowers. A feature cart planted with flowers surrounded by flower beds is sponsored by J.P.S. Constructions.

5. **Presentation of Private Residential Areas** to include house frontages, hanging baskets, planters and gardens.

Residential areas are generally well maintained and presented, many with lovely gardens, festooned with flowers, planters and hanging baskets. No weeds were evident on any of the roads or pavements. The Brewery Court entrance has flowers and hanging baskets. Teapot Row has a topiary "teapot" in one of the gardens.

6. **Judge's discretionary mark and comments** to include evidence of Business and Community Involvement.

The village motto could be "See a space, plant a flower"! The numerous and varied floral decorations throughout the village are evidence of community involvement. Likewise, business sponsored plantings and floral features are proof of business involvement. This village is a credit to its residents, who take obvious pride in presenting it to its very best advantage.

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

1. The pristine roads, general cleanliness, absence of litter and lack of weeds.
2. The profusion of colourful flowers and plantings in every available space.
3. The wildflower plantings and various featured "set pieces" in open spaces.

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

1. Unable to find anything to criticise in this outstandingly presented village.
- 2.
- 3.

Signed: _____

Judge(s)

Date: _____

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2018 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Village Category)**

Place Name:- Donaghmore

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- July 27, 2018

Weather conditions:- Sunny

Category Entered:- Small Village

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)

*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

Date: JUDGES REMARKS

(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

- (1) **General appearance:** to include approach roads, streets, road signs, car parks, litter bins, public seating, , welcome signs and re-cycling.

Everything about this village smacks of summer in full bloom. Approach with colour, clean tidy streets, no litter graffiti vandalism. No weeds on road or pavements. Lots of planted trees, wildflowers. Everything clean. Beautiful seating areas. (They wash the street signs)

- (2) **General cleanliness and tidiness:** to include long and short term litter, vandalism, graffiti, fly posting, inappropriate advertising and dog fouling.

piece of fresh litter. None of the other things listed above. Observed a woman with litter picker picking up flowers that had dropped from baskets. No organic droppings on pavements roads. Amazing landscaping area at garage very tidy seats & benches clean

- (3) **Business Premises** (including public transport facilities) decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate) and efforts to improve dereliction.

Businesses neat tidy. Entrance looked in flowers. Swatches with wooden planters planted c herbs that use in meats. - Delicat house near old cross - windows used for posters & info on horticultural society.

- (4) **Natural Environment and Open Spaces** to include presentation and management of open spaces and evidence of activities to promote conservation of flora and fauna

Wonderful seating areas at home and brewery lane lights (with history on soap making + planters reflecting this). Wild flower beds from home up to Old Cross + at end garage - really good. Old Cross area well landscaped, best flowers on every wall and at streets. Inset hotel at community hub - play area neat tidy.

5) Presentation of Private Residential Areas: including house frontages, hanging baskets, planters and gardens:

lot of effort evident. Some interesting planters especially on "Tarpot Row" - ~~best~~.
lots of planters & boxes.

(6) Judge's discretionary mark and comments: to include evidence of Business and Community Involvement

And amount of planting. / sponsored
but businesses largely did not want
plagues on their beds. There are a couple
people lady deadheading hanging baskets -
part of community group who gave me this info
very active community grp. -

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

- (i) The lack of weeds! Not just enough to have all the flowers. pavements & roads really tidy which combined with no litter is a big plus to the villages hard work.
- (ii) The seating area at home
- (iii) is wonderful

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

- (i) Hard to pick something other than perhaps a litter bin down at Forevery lane?
- (ii)
- (iii)

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2018 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Small Town Category)**

Place Name:- Coalisland

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- June 27, 2018

Weather conditions:- Sunny

Category Entered: Small Town

Limits Used: 30

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)

***For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).**

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

Date: 27th June

Coalisland JUDGES REMARKS

(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

- (1) **General appearance:** to include approach roads, streets, road signs, car parks, litter bins, public seating, welcome signs and re-cycling.

Coalisland is a busy town. Visitors are greeted by welcome signs in Irish beside rectangular flowerbeds which unfortunately resemble freshly covered graves. There are car parks and public seating and litter bins provided. There is a clean and tidy re-cycling area at Railway View on the Derry Road

- (2) **General cleanliness and tidiness:** to include long and short term litter, vandalism, graffiti, fly posting, inappropriate advertising and dog fouling.

There is some short term litter lying about in areas of the town. The carpark at Springisland Shopping Centre is clean and tidy

- (3) **Business Premises** (including public transport facilities) decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate) and efforts to improve dereliction.

There was little outstanding to remark about business premises – a distinct lack of window boxes and hanging baskets

- (4) **Natural Environment and Open Spaces** to include presentation and management of open spaces and evidence of activities to promote conservation of flora and fauna

The Sports Complex is a superb facility with running tracks, fitness machines and a children's play area. The car park is spotless. The GAA Grounds are also beautifully kept.

Coalisland

5) Presentation of Private Residential Areas; including house frontages, hanging baskets, planters and gardens:

There are plenty of attractive private residences, many with well stocked gardens. The public housing area, Canal Place had some fresh litter and overgrown verges.

(6) Judge's discretionary mark and comments; to include evidence of Business and Community Involvement:

There is an attractive mural on a gable wall referring to the town's historic link with coal-mining

NOTE;

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

(i) The Sports complex _____

(ii) Coal-mining mural

(iii)

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

(i) Some attempt at enhancement of the town centre eg planters and hanging baskets

(ii)

(iii)

Jan McComick

Nery McConail

1 July 2018

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2018 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Small Town Category)**

Place Name:- Maghera

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- June 27, 2018

Weather conditions:- Sunny

Category Entered: Small Town

Limits Used: 30

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)

*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

Date: 27th June 2018

JUDGES REMARKS Maghera

(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

- (1) **General appearance:** to include approach roads, streets, road signs, car parks, litter bins, public seating, welcome signs and re-cycling.

Welcome signs in Maghera are accompanied by warning signs about speed bumps. Litter bins and seating are provided. The large car park at St Lurach's Road is clean and tidy. The public toilets are on the whole satisfactory although one cubicle in the gents had a seat missing.

There is an excellent re-cycling amenity site at the Old Railway station block.

- (2) **General cleanliness and tidiness:** to include long and short term litter, vandalism, graffiti, fly posting, inappropriate advertising and dog fouling.

There is no dog-fouling or vandalism evident, but the graffiti scrawled on a wall is still visible from the main car park. There is the odd piece of fresh litter here and there and especially beside the children's play area

- (3) **Business Premises** (including public transport facilities) decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate) and efforts to improve dereliction.

There are several empty properties in the town centre becoming a bit dilapidated. The only attempt at floral enhancement is a bar in the main street decorated with window boxes at the windows and above the entrance. The Garden centre is a model of a clean and inviting business premises. The conversion of the old Railway Station into a business park for office accommodation with plenty of parking is an excellent development.

- (4) **Natural Environment and Open Spaces** to include presentation and management of open spaces and evidence of activities to promote conservation of flora and fauna

A large flowerbed near a housing development had been planted with begonias. These plants had been allowed to die in the heat (This was before the introduction of the hosepipe ban)

The Walled Garden is a splendid development of an existing site, although it could be better signed. We had to enquire how to get to it .We were impressed to see an employee strimming weeds outside the garden itself at 4pm on one of the hottest days in June

Maghera

5) Presentation of Private Residential Areas; including house frontages, hanging baskets, planters and gardens:

Private property is well-maintained on the whole and there are some very attractive gardens,

Judges' Discretionary Mark and comments; to include evidence of Business and Community Involvement:

With the exception of the Walled Garden there is little evidence of community involvement. However we were impressed that the Garden Centre allows parents to use its considerable parking area when picking up their children from the primary school next door

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

(i) *The Walled Garden on the Demesne site* _____

(ii)

(iii)

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

(i) *Some floral enhancements to the main street* _____

(ii) *It would not have been much to ask that residents of nearby properties should have poured a watering- can of water over the begonias to save them, even if the authorities who planted them didn't.*

(iii)

Joe Mc Canell

1 July 2018

Joy Mc Cormick

**BEST KEPT AWARDS 2018 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Medium Town Category)**

Place Name:- Magherafelt

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- July 3, 2018

Weather conditions:- Dry and Sunny

Category Entered: Medium Town

Limits Used: 30

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)
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In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

JUDGES' REMARKS

(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

- (1) General Appearance: to include approach roads, streets, road signs, car parks, litter bins, public seating, welcome signs and re-cycling.**

The primary approaches are nicely presented with well kept flower beds. Directional signage, street names and other nameplates seem satisfactory. There is no shortage of car parking spaces. Re-cycling facilities are available and there is a good supply of litter bins and public seating. The public toilets in the town centre were closed due to vandalism.

- (2) General cleanliness and tidiness: to include long and short term litter, vandalism, graffiti, fly posting, inappropriate advertising and dog fouling.**

Main streets are relatively clean and tidy except for pieces of fresh litter here and there. Unfortunately litter generally is very prevalent in entries off main thoroughfares. Some traces of fly posting was evident in a few places but no sign of graffiti, inappropriate advertising or dog fouling. Vandalism seemed to be confined to the public toilet block.

- (3) Business Premises: (including public transport facilities) decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate) and efforts to improve dereliction.**

Public buildings and business premises are well maintained. Unfortunately a derelict building on Church Street is unsightly and a vacant site on King Street is heavily overgrown and covered with litter. Greenvale Leisure Centre and Meadow Bank Sports Arena, including a children's play park, are very impressive. Public transport is provided from a central depot which was reasonably clean.

- (4) Natural Environment and Open Spaces: to include presentation and management of open spaces and evidence of activities to promote conservation of flora and fauna**

Open spaces generally are kept neat and nicely presented with well placed flower arrangements. A few hanging baskets and flower troughs are put to good effect in some places. The sculpture on the roundabout at the Diamond is most impressive. While judging we saw council employees busy gathering litter.

(5) Presentation of private residential areas including house frontages, hanging baskets, planters and gardens:

The town has a wide variety of residential properties all of which are well kept, some better than others. The majority have nicely presented gardens laid out in lawn and bedding plants. Some frontages have hanging baskets or similar floral displays.

(6) Judges discretionary mark and comments: to include evidence of business and community involvement

An interesting town to visit which, at a glance, looks well. However there is room for improvement by removing pockets of long term litter and eliminating vandalism. There are no "pointers" to suggest business or community involvement in the town's upkeep.

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

- (i) Children's play park
- (ii) Greenvale Leisure Centre
- (iii) Town centre sculpture

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

- (i) Remove litter
- (ii) Deal with vandalism
- (iii) Treat derelict site

Signed:

Shirley Robson R. Robson
(Judge(s))

Please note the name of the judge(s) will remain confidential to NIAC and will not be transmitted to relevant council

Date:

6/4/18

**BEST KEPT AWARDS 2018 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Medium Town Category)**

Place Name:- Dungannon

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- July 27, 2018

Weather conditions:- Dry & Sunny

Category Entered: Medium Town

Limits Used: 30

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)
*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

JUDGES' REMARKS

(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

- (1) General Appearance: to include approach roads, streets, road signs, car parks, litter bins, public seating, welcome signs and re-cycling.**

The main approaches, with nameplates, are neat and quite impressive. Directional signage, street names and place names seem satisfactory. Car parking does not appear to present any problems. A generous supply of litter bins and public seating is provided throughout the town. Re-cycling facilities are available.

- (2) General cleanliness and tidiness: to include long and short term litter, vandalism, graffiti, fly posting, inappropriate advertising and dog fouling.**

General cleanliness fell short of our expectations. Fresh litter was present in a few areas, graffiti was noticed in places and traces of fly posting was also seen here and there. There is no evidence of vandalism, dog fouling or inappropriate advertising.

- (3) Business Premises: (including public transport facilities) decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate) and efforts to improve dereliction.**

Despite some premises looking a bit dull, business properties generally are well maintained. Quite a number display hanging baskets which helps to brighten their appearance. The Hill of the O'Neill and Ranfurly House Complex are great assets to the appearance of Market Square. Unoccupied businesses in Perry Street are effectively camouflaged with trompe l'oeil. Public transport is provided and associated bus shelters are well kept.

- (4) Natural Environment and Open Spaces: to include presentation and management of open spaces and evidence of activities to promote conservation of flora and fauna**

Open spaces, as a whole, are nicely presented. Lots of flower troughs and hanging baskets are put to good use throughout the town. The roundabout at Carland Road is quite an eye catcher. Dungannon Park, Railway Park and children's play park in Black Lane deserves special mention in this regard. While judging we did see a council employee cutting grass.

(5) Presentation of private residential areas including house frontages, hanging baskets, planters and gardens:

By and large residential areas and properties are well kept. However due to the variation in the type of dwellings some are less attractive than others. Many have well tended gardens laid out in lawn, flower beds and shapely shrubs.

(6) Judges discretionary mark and comments: to include evidence of business and community involvement

A very interesting and attractive town which, with a little more effort in eliminating the presence of litter and graffiti, would have little difficulty in ranking among the best. Some sponsorship was noted which suggests a degree of commitment by the community in preserving the good image of the town.

NOTE:

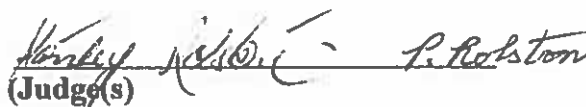
Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

- (i) Dungannon Park
- (ii) Ranfurly Arts Centre
- (iii) Carland Road roundabout

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

- (i) Clean up litter
- (ii) Address graffiti problem
- (iii) Tidy grass verges on lesser approach roads

Signed:


(Judge(s))

Please note the name of the judge(s) will remain confidential to NIAC and will not be transmitted to relevant council

Date:

30/6/18

**BEST KEPT AWARDS 2018 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Medium Town Category)**

Place Name:- Cookstown

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- July 10, 2018

Weather conditions:- Dry & Bright

Category Entered: Medium Town

Limits Used: 40

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)
*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

JUDGES' REMARKS

(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

- (1) General Appearance: to include approach roads, streets, road signs, car parks, litter bins, public seating, welcome signs and re-cycling.**

All the approaches are kept neat and tidy and enhanced by Welcome Signs and floral displays. Directional signage, street names and welcome signs seem satisfactory except that many are badly affected with green algae and need cleaned. There is a good supply of litter bins and public seating throughout the town and car parking is well catered for. Re-cycling facilities are provided off Molesworth Street.

- (2) General cleanliness and tidiness: to include long and short term litter, vandalism, graffiti, fly posting, inappropriate advertising and dog fouling.**

The general cleanliness of the town is not as we expected. Some fresh litter, free standing advertising boards and bits of fly posting were present in places. An unused car park on Burn Road is very untidy. Little spots of graffiti, now painted out, was seen but there is no evidence of vandalism or dog fouling.

- (3) Business Premises: (including public transport facilities) decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate) and efforts to improve dereliction.**

Generally public buildings and business premises are well maintained. Unfortunately derelict property in James Street detracts from the overall appearance of their immediate area. Many buildings in use display hanging baskets. Public transport and associated shelters are kept tidy.

- (4) Natural Environment and Open Spaces: to include presentation and management of open spaces and evidence of activities to promote conservation of flora and fauna**

For the most part open spaces are well kept. The Dungannon Road roundabout with its sculptures and floral displays is quite eye catching. James Street and William Street are attractively presented with shaped trees and stacked flower containers. The children's play park on Fairhill Road is really special. A few open spaces fronting dwellings are in need of attention.

(5) Presentation of private residential areas including house frontages, hanging baskets, planters and gardens:

The vast majority of residential areas are nicely presented. Many homes have their fronts bedecked with hanging baskets, window boxes and tidy gardens. Unfortunately Princess Avenue area fell well below average in tidiness.

(6) Judges discretionary mark and comments: to include evidence of business and community involvement

A nice open and airy town which looks well and is presented to good effect. Although nothing was found to support community involvement in the town's upkeep it is, from the overall appearance, reasonable to assume residents and businesses have an input in how the town is presented.

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

- (i) The tree lined streets
- (ii) Dungannon Road roundabout
- (iii) Children's play park

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

- (i) Eliminate presence of litter
- (ii) Deal with derelict property
- (iii)

Signed:

Harley Rolston
(Judge(s))

Please note the name of the judge(s) will remain confidential to NIAC and will not be transmitted to relevant council

Date:

4/7/18

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2018 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Village Category)**

Place Name:- Tobermore

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- August 4,2018

Weather conditions:- Cloudy

Category Entered:- Small Village

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)

*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

JUDGES REMARKS

(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

(1) General appearance:

This is quite a wide-open village with busy roads running through it. There are some lovely flower displays and the beds around the toilets with a fish structure beside them are very impressive. The approach roads are good just with some fresh litter and over grown grass verges. There are clear speed limit road signs but not welcome signs. There is a small carpark at the business centre and good on street free parking. There are several public benches through the village and some with flower tubs either side and a litter bin beside them.

(2) General cleanliness and tidiness:

There is some long term and fresh litter on the grass and in hedges beside the road. The play area had some fresh litter and there was also graffiti on a building beside the park. Generally, however the village is clean and tidy. There was no sign of vandalism, fly-posting, inappropriate advertising or dog fouling.

(3) Business Premises: decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate):

The business premises all have a good general appearance, there were hanging baskets outside the chip shop and flower tubs at the business centre. There were some cigarette butts around the bus stop but otherwise it was clean and there are lovely flower tubs either side of it. There have also been good efforts to improve the wall behind the bus stop with a realistic image of a wall and hedge that definitely helps the appearance of the area.

(4) Natural Environment and Open Spaces

The play park area and park provide a great facility and there are a couple of tennis courts here too which look in relatively good condition. The landscaped area with picnic benches is also lovely and just had a small amount of fresh litter around it.

(5) Presentation of Private Residential Areas including house frontages and gardens:

Some of the houses on the main road had lovely flower displays and a good appearance. There are though houses that look rundown and one on the main road with two old petrol pumps outside it which spoils the appearance of the rest of the street. Some good attempts have been made to improve dereliction of other residential properties with realistic images of windows and doors put onto them.

(6) Judge's discretionary mark and comments

There are some lovely parts to this village and it is clear there are good efforts from local businesses and the community to look after it. There are impressive flower displays that are being well cared for and the efforts to improve dereliction make a big difference. There are areas for improvement but overall it is well kept.

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

(i) Flower displays around the fish display (beside the public toilets)

(ii) Efforts to improve dereliction beside the Spar with images of hedges and walls

(iii) Public seating with litter bins and flowers beside them

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

(i) Remove graffiti from the building beside the park

(ii) More efforts to improve dereliction

(iii) Reduce litter along the road and in playpark area

Signed:



(Judge(s))

Please note the name of the judge(s) will remain confidential to NIAC and will not be transmitted to relevant council.

Date:

4.8.2018

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2018 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Village Category)**

Place Name:- Castlecaulfield

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- July 27, 2018

Weather conditions:- Sunny

Category Entered:- Small Village

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)

*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

Date: JUDGES REMARKS
(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

- (1) **General appearance:** to include approach roads, streets, road signs, car parks, litter bins, public seating, welcome signs and re-cycling.

Village bordered in flowers. Very large planted areas of tulips, tulips, baskets. Emily Parkhurst - figure. That park immaculate. Some wonderfully planted beds eg "me" bed reflecting green fields of green - flowers growing in beds.

- (2) **General cleanliness and tidiness:** to include long and short term litter, vandalism, graffiti, fly posting, inappropriate advertising and dog fouling.

Some fresh litter but none of the rest of the above.

- (3) **Business Premises** (including public transport facilities) decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate) and efforts to improve dereliction.

Commercial shops tidy. no real effort re flowers etc.

- (4) **Natural Environment and Open Spaces** to include presentation and management of open spaces and evidence of activities to promote conservation of flora and fauna

One main seating area - bordered in flowers, in front of church; other seating benches at Creamery house but sadly hardly in need of a wash/paint. Would not have wanted to sit on it. Park very tidy. Conservation wooded area + (new) wild flower meadow + wild flowers on main road +. (Mottle area) - weeds coming out of walls and litter in ruins.

5) Presentation of Private Residential Areas: including house frontages, hanging baskets, planters and gardens:

Houses largely neat & tidy.
Some had gone to bit of effort with
planting of trees etc.

(6) Judge's discretionary mark and comments: to include evidence of Business and Community Involvement

Very active community groups - they came & made themselves
known some.

Very obvious business sponsorships of all kinds.
Marques with sponsor names abound.

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

(i) Kindly! -

(ii) Effort with new conservation wood.

(iii)

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

(i) Some of seats could perhaps be revarnished/painted

(ii) The sponsor plaques could be perhaps a little smaller.

(iii)

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2018 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET FINAL ROUND (Small Village Category)**

Place Name:- Castlecaulfield

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- August 27, 2018

Weather conditions:- Overcast

Category Entered: Small Village (Final Round)

Limits Used: 30

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)

*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

Date: JUDGES REMARKS
Castlecaulfield 27th August 2018
(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

- (1) **General appearance: to include approach roads, streets, road signs, car parks, litter bins, public seating, welcome signs and re-cycling.**

The approach roads are decorated with flowers. The road from Donaghcloney proudly displays the Best Kept Award from 2017.

On entering the village the first thing one sees is a clock made of flowers under a notice "Sense of Time" and plantings referencing the flax-growing heritage of the town.

There is adequate public seating, with planters of flowers close by. There are planters beside the bus shelter. Even the bus stop sign sports a hanging basket. Litter bins are clean and smart. Car parking is on the streets. Where giant sunflowers decorate lampposts.

- (2) **General cleanliness and tidiness: to include long and short term litter, vandalism, graffiti, fly posting, inappropriate advertising and dog fouling.**

One of the most striking impressions about Castlecaulfield is the complete absence of litter, nor does it suffer from any of the other problems mentioned above.

- (3) **Business Premises (including public transport facilities) decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate) and efforts to improve dereliction.**

Commercial property in the town in good order, but lacks any attempt at enhancement, especially when compared with the explosion of flowers in other areas. The telephone box is pristine.

- (4) **Natural Environment and Open Spaces to include presentation and management of open spaces and evidence of activities to promote conservation of flora and fauna**

The area in front of the church is beautifully planted and tended. There are beds wild flowers along the road edges.

There seems to be a quirky sense of humour at work in Castlecaulfield. Not only is there a large sponsored scarecrow displayed on a wall on the way to Ballygawley, but a silhouette of a blacksmith working at his anvil enhances the very convincing trompe l'oeil cover-up of The Olde Forge. Nearby is an old harrow, a piece of antique farm machinery. At the Donghmore end of the village is the piece de resistance: A topiary statue of Emmeline Pankhurst complete with straw hat, parasol and a topiary dog on a lead. This is to celebrate 100 years of women's suffrage. Brilliant !

The 17th century castle from which the village derives its name is an impressive ruin situated in grounds where the grass is kept neatly mown. There are a couple of planters with flowers, but they look rather sparse in proportion to the huge walls of the derelict building.

5) Presentation of Private Residential Areas; including house frontages, hanging baskets, planters and gardens:

Private houses are well-kept with neat gardens. Some enhanced with planters and window boxes, especially on the Donaghmore road. Caulfield Glen is an attractive development

(6) Judge's discretionary mark and comments; to include evidence of Business and Community Involvement:

Every special planting has a commercial sponsor. The hand of the very active Castlecaulfield Horticultural Society is evident

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

(i)The magnificent floral display outside the church_____

(ii) The quirky displays both floral and otherwise.

(iii)Sponsorship and community involvement.

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

(i)The castle area is a bit empty and dreary especially in contrast to the rest of the village.

(ii)

(iii)



RHS Britain in Bloom UK Finals Marking Sheet 2018

Name of entry: Castlecaulfield	Judging Date: 10 August 2018
Category: Village	Judges: Roger Burnett & Denise James

Horticultural Achievement	Gold
Environmental Responsibility	Gold
Community Participation	Gold
Overall	Gold

Introduction

Castlecaulfield in Bloom is no ordinary entry, having participated in the UK Finals of Britain in Bloom only once in 2016 and then being a finalist in Communities in Bloom last year, they now find themselves once more thrust into the spotlight.

The Bloom initiative in the village is organised by the Castlecaulfield Horticultural Society, which started life in the early 1950s, and for many years has managed an extensive annual show to promote horticulture in the area. The group's activities, however, go far beyond horticulture – they are the social glue that holds this community together.

Working together with Mid Ulster District Council and other agencies, they help support village life. This is very much a 'lived-in' village, where modern practices support old-fashioned values and where everyone is important and social cohesion is crucial. As their Twitter feed suggests #somuchmorethanjusttheflowers – and so it is.

Congratulations to all and thank you for sharing something special.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The choice of seasonal and permanent plants in the horticultural displays throughout the village was exceptional, as was the maintenance.

The Creamery Bridge display, train display, and 'A sense of time' McDonalds bed were all of note. Topped off by the three-dimensional figure of a lady with her dog, set amidst of a sea of colour.

The amount and quality of sustainable planting recently introduced in all areas of the village adds considerable year-round interest to the horticultural content.

Brian the Snail adds humour, as does the crafty market stall with its knitted vegetables and the three-dimensional planted butterfly.

The residential gardens seen on the tour are a credit to the householders, of particular note

was the visit to Fred and Helen Kelly's superb garden.

The work at the walled garden is inspirational; for a village entry to have achieved so much is almost unheard of and is benefitting young and the more mature alike.

All the grass areas were maintained to an exceptionally high standard.

Areas for Development:

The two school gardens were interesting, but were a little disappointing: perhaps think about if it is necessary to visit both noting the time involved. This is an area where the considerable skill available through the work at the walled garden could be extended into the two schools.

Could consideration be given to working with the owners of Parkanaur Manor House, to develop a tree trail that could be used on events such as show days? There is obviously a wealth of tree species and it may be an opportunity to show off these unique specimens.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

The wildflower meadow opposite Creamery Bridge; although work in progress, is starting to develop and adds another dimension to the area.

The considerable amount of heritage features within the village is not only very appropriate but also eye-catching. The high-quality artefacts tastefully decorated with floral enhancements depict the history of the village. The forge was of special note.

The judges enjoyed meeting Sir Toby Caulfield once again. His knowledge of the history of the castle was second to none.

The proposed work at the conservation site is exciting and will no doubt help strengthen this element of the criteria.

The art palettes are a great way of bringing art into the landscape.

Areas for Development:

The judges enjoyed seeing the flax seedbed. This is an area where a little more importance could be placed, as it is so crucial to the heritage of the area.

Once the pavilion gets up and running as Bloom HQ it opens up all sorts of opportunities for extending the work of the group. With its proximity to wide open spaces and the conservation area it could enable the group to expand their educational activities.

The composting and water conservation elements at the walled garden perhaps need reviewing. As the group's activities expand it would be prudent to look at all the facilities to ensure they are still fit for purpose.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The presentation and introduction to the tour were comprehensive and well delivered.

The work of the group in partnering with the Speedwell Trust is exemplary and will be instrumental in helping to bring the community together.

The establishment of the CHS Eco-Buddies is starting to show dividends and is a superb way of engaging with youngsters and engendering a great sense not only of belonging but responsibility in them.

The work at the walled garden is paying off and many seeds of hope are being sown in young minds, building friendships between the generations, passing on skills and knowledge.

The benefits of the Bloom initiative culminated on the day of judging at the conclusion of the tour, a superb celebration of horticulture, environment and community involvement – one where the whole village came together to support the Horticultural Society in all they do.

Areas for Development:

As mentioned in section A, the school gardens are a little lacking in quality, compared with everywhere else. Is it possible to engage with them a little more through your work?

As the drive for perfection evolves, resist the temptation to get too carried away, plan your way forward in a methodical and measured way to ensure the element of great enjoyment stays with you. It's a fun thing to do, now and always.

List of Grounds Maintenance Priority Settlements (as per Grounds Maintenance Delivery Standards Outcomes) – July 2018

Council will aspire to maintain roadside grass verges (approx. one swathe width) within towns and village 30mph limits where these are within the confines of the public road and with a population greater than 300 people based on Census data, subject to availability of resources.

Council will seek to maintain prominent gateways on aerial routes to and from the five largest towns in the district based on population size (i.e. Dungannon, Coalisland, Cookstown, Magherafelt and Maghera). It will endeavour to prioritise the general grounds maintenance standards and provision in these areas where practically possible.

SETTLEMENT	POPULATION SIZE (Census Data)	Road Classification (aerial route)	Speed Zone in settlement (mph)
DUNGANNON	14332	A	30
COOKSTOWN	11620	A	30
MAGHERAFELT	8819	A/B	30
COALISLAND	5700	A	30
MAGHERA	4217	A	30
BALLYGAWLEY	2592	C	30
CASTLEDAWSON	2292	A	30
MONEYMORE	1897	A	30
DRAPERSTOWN	1772	B	30
MOY	1603	A	30
FIVEMILETOWN	1243	A	30
DONAGHMORE	1122	B	30
BELLAGHY	1115	A	30
AUGHNACLOY	1041	A	30
TOBERMORE	823	A	30
POMEROY	789	B	30
BALLYRONAN	711	B	30
CLOGHER	709	A	30
ARDBOE	687	B	30
KILLYMAN	682	B	40
COAGH	662	B	30
CASTLECAULFIELD	659	C	30
STEWARTSTOWN	650	B	30
GULLADUFF	593	A	30
CLADY	567	A	30
UPPERLANDS	561	B	30
NEWMILLS	556	C	30
MOORTOWN	521	B	30
EGLISH	492	B	40

CALEDON	468	B	30
SWATRAGH	438	A	30
BENBURB	409	B	30
GLENONE	403	A	30
AUGHER	305	A	30
BUSH	484	B/C	30
CREAGH	308	U	30

Councillor Seán McPeake
Chair
Mid Ulster District Council
Magherafelt Office
Ballyronan Road
Magherafelt
BT45 6EN

13th November 2018



RE: BRITAIN IN BLOOM 2019

Dear Seán

On behalf of the Northern Ireland Local Government Association, congratulations on your council's continued success in the Translink Ulster in Bloom competition.

To take the success further, we are planning - with your council's support - to nominate Donaghmore to represent Northern Ireland in the 'Village' category of the 2019 Royal Horticultural Society, Britain in Bloom Competition.

This is in addition to Castlecaulfield being selected by the RHS for the 2019 Champion of Champions category. *Please note - all nominations are subject to RHS approval, RHS nomination guidelines attached.*

We believe the Translink Ulster in Bloom Competition has made a major contribution to the environmental and economic improvement of Northern Ireland. In association with Britain in Bloom, it has generated hugely positive coverage for councils and all involved.

It's been a tremendous experience working with your communities, your officers and members on this In Bloom work, so renewed thanks and I look forward to your corporate decision. If this can be provided for decision to Full Council or an appropriate Standing Committee, we'd be most grateful.

Yours sincerely

Derek McCallan

Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Local Government Association

Enclosed: RHS Britain in Bloom nomination guidelines.

CC. Mr Anthony Tohill, Chief Executive, Mr Andrew Cassells, Director of Environment & Property Services and Mr Terry Scullion, Head of Property Services - Mid Ulster District Council.



RHS Britain in Bloom UK Finals 2019

1. The Nomination Process

- Each Region or Nation may nominate up to five entries.
- Nominations can be into any category, but not more than one entry into each.
- Nominations must be from a corresponding Regional category.
 - BIDs, and Town Centres & City Centres can be from any of these three corresponding Regional categories.
 - London Village and Town entries can be entered into the Village or Town category that reflects their electoral role numbers.
- All nominations are provisional until confirmed by the RHS.
- The management of the balancing of entries into categories shall be in the hands of the RHS.
 - No category shall run with less than three entries.
 - Where a category has less than three entries, a second round of nominations may be offered.
 - Second round nominations into undersubscribed categories will be offered out to Regions and Nations based on the total number of core category entries for the previous year, with priority given to those Regions with the highest number of entries.
 - If insufficient entries are nominated into a specific category in a particular year, that category will not run in the UK Finals in that year.
- Category winners will be excluded from re-entering the UK finals for one year.
- Champion of Champions is an invitational category, at the discretion of the RHS and the Chair of National Judges. In order to be considered a nomination must have:
 - Achieved an extremely high standard in the previous year;
 - Maintained a consistently high standard over the last three competitive years;
 - Not entered the Champion of Champions category in the last two years.

2. The 2019 Categories & Judging Allocations

Band/Category	Electoral Roll	Judging Allocation
Villages		
Village	1 - 1,000	1 hour

Large Village	1,001 - 2,500	1 hour 30 minutes
Towns		
Small Town	2,501 - 6,000	2 hours
Town	6,001 - 12,000	2 hours 30 minutes
Large Town	12,001 - 35,000	3 hours
Cities		
Small City	35,001 - 100,000	3 hours 30 minutes
City	100,001 and over	4 hours
Urban		
Urban Community ^a	0 - 25,000	2 hours 30 minutes
BIDs ^b and Town Centres & City Centres	N/A	2 hours
Coastal^c		
Coastal (12,000 and below)	12,000 and below	2 hours 30 minutes
Large Coastal (12,001 and above)	12,001 and above	3 hours

PLEASE NOTE: The above allocations **do not** include the 15-minutes press call nor the 15-minute presentation.

- a. A **BID entry** must be an official business improvement district; a business improvement district is a defined area within which businesses pay an additional tax (or levy) in order to fund projects within the district's boundaries. For a list of bona fide BIDs please visit the UKBIDS website on www.ukbids.org. Town or City Centres are also welcome to enter this category.
- b. An **urban community** must be an identifiable community within a larger conurbation (sometimes described as an urban 'village or town'). It must have its own sense of identity and have its own "Bloom" group (a group dedicated to leading the "in Bloom" initiative locally). An urban community may not have its own Council, or be able to stand alone, but it will have its own 'sense of place'.
- c. A **coastal community** must be an area that actively encourages visitors with a resort, beach and/or harbour (which can be part of a commercial harbour), adjacent to or within easy and reasonable access of the local community.

The area will have facilities providing varied recreational opportunities for visitors. The beach/ harbour will have some of the following: café or restaurant; shop; toilet; public transport; supervision; first aid; public telephone. A coastal resort is described as an area which has substantial visitor accommodation and tourism as an integral part of the local economy.

3. Support and Information

If you require support or additional information about the 2019 nomination process then please do not hesitate to contact the RHS Communities Team via telephone 0207 8213122 or email communities@rhs.org.uk.