

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2018 – JUDGES' COMMENTS EDINGALE

BKV awareness had been tackled through items in the Village Hall Newsletter and Village Facebook page. There were excellent, bespoke BKV signs at the main village entrances and at other strategic locations in the village. There were also BKV posters on noticeboards, telegraph poles and planters.

There were good displays of children's posters on the noticeboards at the Village Hall, on a new board near the pub, in the bus shelter and at the church. Judges felt that this was a very good effort.

All the noticeboards were in good condition, with notices neatly arranged and weed and litter-free surrounds.

There was a very good range of up-to-date local information, including Parish Council matters, recycling and dog fouling awareness, Police contacts, local organisations, local events and activities. There were notices giving a diary of village and Village Hall events throughout the village – which judges felt was an excellent idea.

The church surrounds were excellent overall throughout the judging period. The grass was well mown, paths and grave areas were neat and tidy and there was some nice planting at the front of the church. There were a few weeds in the gravel at the base of the church, but these were not significant. The seats and benches were sound and their surrounds were tidy. The battle against pigeon mess obviously continues, but whilst judges in May pointed out that one bench under a tree was particularly bad, in June and July judges were impressed by the efforts to deal with the "pigeon nuisance"!

Part of the Village Hall car park has been resurfaced and judges were aware that funds are required to finish the work. Whilst there were some weeds and grass on the "unmade" part of the car park, they had been sprayed out. There were two bits of litter in June. The Village Hall surrounds were very tidy indeed and there were a number of attractive, well maintained planters, good benches and tables and a well mown grass area.

The Black Horse is now open in the evening and at weekends and whilst the car park still needs some improvement, it was tidy enough, apart from a couple of bits of litter in June. The outside drinking area was tidy (but the chippings needed topping up) and there was some nice planting. The pub frontage was tidy and the grass bank to the right of the car park was very well mown.

The TCB was immaculate. The inside was spotless, with two vases of flowers and BKV posters on display. The "glass" sparkled and the surrounding grass was well cut and weed and litter-free, enhanced by planting nearby. Well done!

The brick bus shelter was in good condition and very clean inside. The noticeboard displayed some local information, BKV and children's posters and a bus timetable. The surrounds were very clean and tidy throughout the judging period.

All the seats and benches were in good condition, with tidy surrounds. Edingale continues to battle the problem of pigeon mess but judges could see that the problem was being tackled!

There were a number of very good, well maintained planters throughout the village, all with BKV posters on them. The village sign and the Raddles Lane fingerpost were in very good condition. The old pump was neat and tidy with some well maintained planting (but the judges noted that there were some weeds at the rear in July).

The playing field needed a cut in May and there was lots of dead grass on the surface. In June and July, however, judges said that it was very well mown and there was no litter at all. The large open space off Rowley Close was also very well maintained, with well mown grass, tidy paths, a good bench and some lovely trees.

The small area of open space near Woodyard Drive looked very well mown; and all other incidental open spaces and verges were in excellent order, with no litter. (Judges look forward to the planting of the proposed Community Orchard).

There were a few private gardens which could have been better, but overall gardens were well looked after and the June judges chatted with a number of residents who were working hard on their front gardens!

The young children's play area continues to age well. The equipment was sound and the safety surfaces were generally good – but there was a significant hole at the bottom of the slide and May judges felt that the grass cuttings should have been swept up. The basketball court and shelter were tidy – and showing signs of heavy use. The Adventure play area was good all round, with sound equipment and good wood chip surfaces; but there was some litter here in May.

The map was excellent, with an accurate base, good use of colour and excellent referencing to BKV elements to be judged. Thanks!

Apart from a few bits of litter along Croxall Road in June, no other litter was seen and no dog mess. There was clear evidence of community awareness and effort in respect of BKV and the whole village looked well cared for. Judges were particularly impressed by the condition of all the open spaces, the churchyard and BKV and children's posters in Edingale.

Judges said that it was "a pleasure to visit Edingale" which had "a pleasant, relaxed atmosphere". A lot of hard work had clearly been put into BKV this year; the village was very close to its best again and had a real sparkle. Second place in the Small Village category in the Lichfield/Cannock Chase Area was well deserved. Well done and good luck in 2019.

John T Perry, MBE
Chairman, BKV Working Group

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