

CPRE “OUR OUTDOORS” COMPETITION 2016

The ‘Devon Best Kept Village’ competition was run by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) Devon for many years, but in 2014 a decision was made to reconsider, modernise and launch a replacement competition. CPRE Devon branch considered it was time to change course slightly and champion the overall ‘Outdoors’. In 2016 the contest will be thrown open to all community organisations in both the rural areas of Devon as well as the urban development.

CPRE Devon does not just embrace green fields and rolling hills but recognises that parks, open spaces, sea fronts, riversides and canal paths etc., also form integral parts of the comprehensive mosaic that make up our countryside.

CPRE Devon therefore is inviting all Parish and Town Councils, Schools, Community Leaders and those responsible for volunteer organisations to enter the “**Our Outdoors – 2016 Competition.**” There are **THREE** categories and entries will be judged between 31 July 2016 and 31 August 2016. The winning entries in each category will be presented with a one year CPRE Membership, a Certificate, a Plaque and a cheque for £200. Results will be announced by 30 September 2016.

To take part organisations should simply study the rules, decide which category to enter then complete and post the appropriate entry form by the 30th June 2016 to:

Mr I Buxton
CPRE – Our Outdoors Competition
Valley View
Quoditch, Ashwater
Beaworthy
Devon
EX21 5BY

A ‘community’ can be a single club, such as a gardening society or a group coming together just to enter the competition. Communities come from all sections of society and the aim is to encourage sustainable community spirit by bringing people together with the common goal of becoming ‘**Outdoor Community Champions.**’



It is an opportunity for people of all ages and from all walks of life to work together to bring about improvements in their community by promoting social cohesion and increased focus on **'The Great Outdoors'** and above all improving understanding of the importance of preserving and sustaining our countryside for future generations to enjoy.

Entry Categories

1. Most creative and distinctive planted outdoor space
2. Most improved and innovative outdoor location (a before and after description would be useful)
3. 'Our Outdoors' as a special sustainable place in the community

Please choose **one** category only per entry.

The judges will be looking for evidence of pride in the community, displayed by attractiveness (not necessarily manicured hedges and verges) of outdoor space and people support (cohesion and actions as well as words).

This competition is all about encouraging and rewarding vibrant, enterprising communities that care for their outdoor spaces.

For judging purposes the competition is divided into **TWO** elements, profile and judges inspection.

1. Profile – this comprises five broad questions on the themes of:

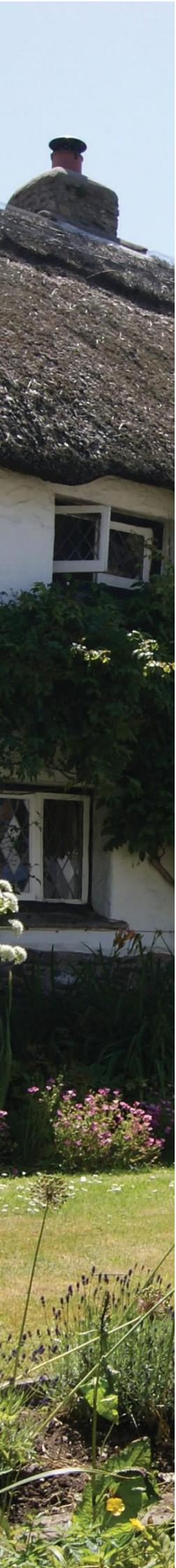
- A. Community
- B. Businesses and Services
- C. Environment
- D. Change and the Future
- E. A Special Place.

These questions provide the flexibility to describe your entry in your own words. Not all questions will apply to your category entry, so be selective but descriptive. This is your opportunity to "sell" your community space, so please make use of it.

Remember this is a snapshot profile; please keep to the word limit for each question and note that no other supporting documents are required.

2. Judges' Inspection - every community will be visited by our volunteer judges. Judging will be based on the individual category entered **AND** the answer(s) to the appropriate PROFILE QUESTION(S) described above.

The "Hints for Entrants" section will give you an idea of what the judges will be looking for.



To enter please tick clearly on the Entry Form the category being entered.

There is space on the Entry Form for you to highlight any improvements being made to your community but not yet complete as well as to notify the judges of any features detrimental to the local character that are outside of the control of the community.

Trophies – awards will be made based on the following size of the communities:

- Trophy 1 (Communities with a population/membership over 500)
- Trophy 2 (Communities with a population/membership over 150, less than 500)
- Trophy 3 (Communities with a population/membership under 150)

Prizes will be awarded at the Judges' discretion.