

## Hints for Entrants

### Overview

It is important to stress that in keeping with the aims of the CPRE Devon the judges will look at a community as a useable living entity that promotes preservation of sustainable, rural aspects of the countryside, including urban green spaces and not just a pristine open outdoor space.

The purpose of the competition is to reward evidence of community pride and embrace proper care for the focal points of outdoor community life. Try to encourage the wider community to get involved, including children and young people.

The competition will be judged entirely by volunteers. New judges are always welcome. If you know of anybody willing to help or would like more information on what is involved please contact the CPRE by email at: [secretary@cpredevon.org.uk](mailto:secretary@cpredevon.org.uk) or contact 01392 966737

### Judging Categories

It is important to emphasise that for all categories judging is based on external inspection, but if areas are enclosed for security or other reasons at certain times and accompanied visits are needed please ensure contact details are provided.

The judges will be briefed to pay attention to the following (if applicable) when assessing each judging category:

#### 1. Notice Boards

Are the boards being used to provide up-to-date information?

Are they satisfactorily maintained?

Are contact names and relevant organisations publicly displayed?

Is there anything to say that the community has entered the competition?

Posters designed by local children might be appealing.

#### 2. Playing Fields/Sports Grounds

Maintenance of fields (grass cutting) associated buildings and perimeter. Is there effective control of litter and dog fouling?



### **3. Children's Playgrounds**

As above for litter and dog fouling. Is the equipment and surrounds satisfactorily maintained?

### **4. Village Hall/ Community Centres/Dr's Surgeries**

The maintenance of the exterior and surrounds. Is there a notice of how to book the facilities and who manages it?

### **5. Churchyard and Cemetery**

Parish Council-run cemeteries as well as churchyards are included here. If part of the churchyard is left to grow wild for conservation purposes is there a notice to this effect?

### **6. War Memorial**

Is it tidy with the memorial inscriptions clearly legible?

### **7. Village Green or Public Open Space**

Is it maintained and kept tidy?

### **8. Shops/Postal Services/Libraries**

Many shops display information on community events and meetings. This is good, but the judges will check that the displays are up-to-date. Are any external displays sympathetically presented (e.g. uncluttered), are local goods promoted and where practicable are external facades and spaces utilised aesthetically?

### **9. Public Houses/ Cafés**

As above for events and information. Other problems can include the state of outside furniture and car parks.

### **10. School/Pre-School/Play Group**

Judges do not normally go into school premises – their main concern is the upkeep of perimeter fencing/hedges etc. Please note however if an entry includes part of the school grounds, such as a pupil maintained produce garden then accompanied access will be required

### **11. Grounds of Business Premises**

Are they tidy – the judges will appreciate they are looking at a working environment.

### **12. Bus Shelters /Telephone Kiosks/Benches**

Are they tidy and in good repair? Do they have a timetable/information on services?



### **13. Streets/Footpaths**

What improvements have been made by the community over and above statutory requirements or responsibilities of Local Authorities or Government Departments?  
Are they attractive within their setting?

### **14. Ponds/Water Features**

Are they free of litter and within reason safe?

### **15. Public Transport/ Ring and Ride or Similar**

Are facilities well sign posted or advertised and are they well supported by the community?

### **16. A Special Feature of “Our Outdoors”**

How does your entry reflect the category entered? Would a visitor find a specific feature thought provoking or original?