

Settle

Introduction (introductory remarks from the judges): Settle has a vibrant but rural feel and it's enthusiastic team of in bloom volunteers made up of several different groups make this a good Yorkshire in bloom entry . Throughout the visit we were impressed with the community spirit and how many residents were involved with this initiative that they are all passionate about. The projects that have been undertaken by the group to improve area's in the village have been well planned and steady progress has been made through out the last year, which is evident on their web site.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

The standard of planting on the railway station and some of the planters/window box's around the village

The millennium garden replanting has been well planned and so far includes several different gardening discipline's which give the garden year round interest. The display's of spring bulbs within the Parish church and greenfoot car-park this being one of the gate ways into the village.

The grass cutting organised by the parish council was of a very good quality and the arising's are to be taken to the community composting site at the allotments. This is hoped will release some monies for more plants around the village.

The sustainable beds at the war memorial well planted and maintained.

The police garden bed which was well maintained by the W.I which was full of spring colour.

Areas for Improvement:

Look to encourage more businesses to take up floral displays around the village and in the main square.

Continue with the plans for the allotment poly tunnel and the recycling project.

Look at using the new councillors environmental audit sheet to prompt you whist planning the in bloom route eg; for weeds and dead hanging baskets.

Look at more encouragement of the youth where possible.

Look into engaging social club to being more involved with the bed in there grounds.

Look into including some more residential front gardens on the route.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

Water collection at the railway station and the allotments was impressive having collected 2m3 other the winter which should see them over the summer period as there is no mains water on site.

We did not see any litter/graffiti/ dog fouling on the in bloom route which is impressive considering the size of the entry.

The new signage directing people around the village was informative and factual.

Plans to develop a community compost heap at the allotments which will be up and running for summer judging.

The millennium garden's spring bulb planting was very good and it was nice to see the introduction of fritillarias.

The bird boxes in the millennium garden supplied by Craven Conservation.

Areas for Improvement:

Look at mulching the beds within the millennium garden to reduce weed growth and increase water retention.

Carry on the removal of overgrown shrub beds in the millennium garden to expose the original design, that reflected the local landscape and replant the areas to reflect the local heritage.

Consider some interpretation material/signage for the new planting within the millennium garden.

Look at using the new councillors environmental audit sheet to improve the weed spraying programme within the village.

Continue to plant up the millennium garden with native species.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

The web site has all the events that have happened since last year, to be found in the form of a power-point presentation.

The enthusiastic 50 + volunteers that make up the cultivation in settle group many of which we met on judging day

The support of the parish council and the many local groups given to the in bloom group.

The number of plants given by local residents for the various planting scheme's around the town.

Areas for Improvement:

Look at including the youth from the school on some projects round the village to increase awareness of the campaign.

Consider signage or Hi-Vis jackets with Settle in bloom blazoned across them. To be displayed or worn whilst working on projects around the village to raise your profile and attract more members.

Carry on looking for funding and new project opportunities.

Look into some more window posters in business premises around the village to advertise the in bloom initiative.