

JUDGES COMMENTS 2019

KINGSLEY

The Village Hall Facebook pages had posted updates on BKV activities. The local Guide group and the school had been involved and there had been a feature in the local paper. A flyer has been distributed to every household in the village. BKV posters were displayed at entrances to the village, on notice boards and in bus shelters. June judges suggested that posters could also be displayed in private houses. This was a good effort to demonstrate Kingsley's participation in the BKV competition.

Children's posters were displayed at village entrances, in bus shelters and on notice boards. They were colorful and well protected.

The four notice boards were in good condition, with neatly displayed notices. The notice board at the village hall was particularly good, being well placed on decorative slate.

There was a good variety of information on BKV, local activities and recycling. There was nothing seen about dog fouling.

St Werburgh churchyard was extremely well mown in May and the church surrounds were tidy and litter free, with just a few weeds at the side of the path. June judges commented that their visit coincided with a real growth spurt and that the grass "would need mowing very soon". However, all paths and gates were tidy and generally free from weeds. This is a very large churchyard and it must be quite difficult to maintain to a good standard; especially as many tombstones are leaning at an angle and must pose problems for the mowers. The notice board at the Church Street entrance was very smart but contained little information. The notice board at the churchyard entrance was tired and in need of attention, but contained much more information, including a BKV poster.

The village hall is in a prominent position with an attractive drive. It was clean and tidy all round and the car park was weed free, with just a bit of litter in both May and June. May judges commented on the freshly planted hanging baskets and June judges found the adjacent "garden" with its two benches an attractive and well looked after feature.

The bus shelters had clean and tidy surrounds and displayed BKV and children's posters and bus timetables. Some old graffiti was seen which might require specialist cleaner to remove it.

All seats and benches were in good repair, comfortable to sit on, and had tidy and weed free surrounds.

June judges considered the village entrance signs as village features, with their neatly trimmed surrounds and colorful planters. The "historic" lamp post was considered "a little gem", and also the adjacent finger post. With a coat of paint and a general clean up these two features could make even more of a visual impact. May judges suggested that the rose garden could also be considered as a village feature.

The war memorial was most impressive. It was well maintained with an attractive planter and bench. "It is beautifully kept and a credit to those who maintain it and its surrounds", (June judges).

The large public open space was generally well kept, tidy and nicely mown. Unfortunately, one fresh dog mess was seen in May. Judges noted the proposed development of the recreation ground into "Kingsley Venture Valley" and would be interested to see how this develops.

All verges were tidy and weed free. The rose garden was a delightful and well-maintained feature.

Private gardens were generally well kept, but in the centre of the village some appeared 'tired'. Judges considered that overall a good standard was achieved.

The children's play equipment on the recreation ground was limited in scope, but in good condition. Judges noted the bid for funding to provide new equipment.

Judges found the hand drawn map with street names and items to be judged helpful and reasonably accurate. It had a scale and north point and the symbols for BKV feature to be judged were appropriate. Perhaps an inset map to a larger scale of the village hall area would be useful.

The village was largely litter free in both May and June; with only one piece of dog mess seen in May. It is challenging to maintain such a high standard with a busy main road carrying a considerable amount of heavy lorry traffic running through it and those involved in litter picks and village clean ups are to be commended for their efforts. The excellent standard of the verges, the rose garden and the war memorial also demonstrated evidence of great community effort and involvement.

It is good to welcome Kingsley back to the BKV competition after several years' absence, and the ethos driving their entry is to be applauded. A good standard has been achieved, and Kingsley should do well in future years. Congratulation on achieving 'Highly Commended' in the Moorlands/East Staffordshire area of the Best Kept Village Competition. Best wishes for next year.

John T Perry MBE
Chairman, BKV Working Group