

JUDGE'S GUIDELINES – VILLAGES

The following information will assist you in carrying out the judging systematically and efficiently.

A maximum mark of 10 can be awarded for categories 1, 2, 3 and 4 and a maximum mark of 5 can be awarded in categories 5 – 16 based on the following scales:

Excellent	10	5
Very Good	8-9	4
Good	6-7	3
Fair	4-5	2
Poor	2-3	1
Very Poor	0-1	0

(Please note no ½ marks to be awarded)

The judges will assess the villages/towns from any place normally open to the public but will in no circumstances intrude into private property. The judges will mark the following categories:

1. Condition of Village Green/Village Centre and/or Main Streets

To obtain maximum marks the standard of maintenance should be high, with regular grass cutting, neat verges and weeding where appropriate. In the case of Village Centre/Main Street (i.e. villages with no green or little green) verges and paths should be tidy and weed free with an overall good general appearance.

2. Absence of litter generally

It is clearly the job of the whole community to tackle the litter problem. Every effort should be made to ensure that any pieces of paper etc. particularly gathering in kerbs or roadside verges, have been removed. Maximum points should only be awarded where no litter at all is visible.

3. Condition of hedges, fences and walls, especially those adjacent to and surrounding buildings and gardens

These are normally factors in the private sphere and high marks should be awarded where every effort has been made to keep hedges well cut and maintained walls and fences.

4. Conditions of Churchyards, Burial Grounds and Chapel Gardens

Church/Chapel gardens and Burial grounds should be well cared for with neat and tidy grassed areas. Neglected gardens and grounds should be marked low.

5. Condition of flower and vegetable gardens

Nothing will show better than the state of the gardens the degree in which everyone in the village/town is co-operating in the "Best Kept Village/Town Competition". Here is the opportunity for everyone to show pride in their village/town. High marks should be awarded for a majority of well-tended gardens.

6. Appearance if garages, outbuildings and sheds

Once again this is an opportunity for everyone to participate in the Competition by keeping outbuildings and sheds tidy and well maintained.

7. Condition of Industrial Estates in the Town

This is very much a matter for the private individual. Farmyards should be tidy and unobtrusive and any obvious scrap vehicles in farmyards should be marked low.

8. Cleanliness and absence of rubbish in ponds and streams flowing through or by the village

Streams should be kept free from rubbish and where feasible the grass cut without detracting from the natural beauty of the stream. Flower planting may also enhance the area.

9. Condition of Town Community Buildings, other public buildings and War Memorials and surrounding areas

These are places in which there should be a special pride in the Town. Community Buildings should be well maintained and grassed areas cut and once again there should be an absence of litter.

10. Condition and cleanliness of bus shelters and surrounding areas

This should be well maintained, clean and free from litter and graffiti.

11. Cleanliness of telephone kiosks and surrounding areas

Telephone kiosks should be clean, tidy and free from litter.

12. Appearance of Post Office and/or Shops

Post Offices and shops should be well maintained. Where appropriate, an attractive window display should receive good marks.

13. Appearance of Inns/Public House/Guest Houses

There are now an increasing number of Guest Houses in villages/towns in addition to the usual Inns/Public Houses. All these should be well maintained with tidy car parks (where appropriate) to receive high marks.

14. Condition and situation of seats

Village/Town seats should be well maintained and situated at good vantage points for residents and visitors to enjoy.

15. Condition of Notice boards and display of public notices

Notice boards should be well maintained and notices displayed should be of a nature relevant to the Parish and/or its community. Marks should be deducted for any out of date notices still displayed.

16. Display of tubs and hanging baskets at private houses, public houses etc.

The display of tubs and hanging baskets in the village/town adds considerably to the prettiness of cottages and houses and to a village/town as a whole. However, it is not expected that every property should provide this display and maximum marks or high marks should be awarded for the overall effect of such displays.

Certain villages/towns have a natural charm and beauty but are not necessarily of the highest standard. So far as possible what you have to judge is the effort communities have made to keep their village/town as clean, tidy and attractive as possible in all respects. Allowances should be made in respect of major roads running through or near to villages e.g. Catterick, and also for such things as gypsy sites which, if untidy, cannot fairly be blamed on the village/town.

If you wish to make any comments, please make these in the space provided on the Marking Sheets. Ideas for improvement of village/towns will be welcomed.