

JUDGES COMMENTS

York Silver Gilt

An excellent tour of the city of York. The entrant had obviously studied the criteria and every aspect of the competition very well. The floral and sustainable planting clearly complimented the magnificent architecture of this wonderful city. The many diverse groups, individuals, local authority staff and personnel that we met during the tour enthused with civic pride. With such an excellent return to the Yorkshire In Bloom campaign and with a concerted effort reflecting the areas for future development, the city of York has all the attributes to achieve gold in the 2008 campaign and could easily aspire to a future national Britain In Bloom entry.

SECTION A – FLORAL DISPLAYS

The judges were particularly impressed by:

1. Many floral tubs and towers and sponsored hanging baskets in and around the city and outer areas.
1. The floral display at the cenotaph and Clifford's Tower.
1. The flower tubs in and around the Fishergate ward.
1. The magnificent floral street, Stonegate, complimented by Mulberry Hall's superb hanging baskets.
2. Many local pubs, restaurants and guest houses all supporting this aspect of the criteria.
2. The floral displays at York Racecourse.
3. Many excellent residential gardens within surrounding villages and the city centre.
4. Floral displays designed by young children, e.g. Rougier Street.
4. Glen Lodge, with its community spirit and involvement, at the other end of the age spectrum.

Areas suggested for future development:

1. Consider identifying additional themed floral displays as part of a young people's campaign.
2. Continue to encourage the business sector in this aspect of the criteria.
3. During a future tour, include a garden competition winner on the route.
4. Identify projects and initiatives to encourage communities and young people.

SECTION B – PERMANENT LANDSCAPING INCLUDING SHRUBS

The judges were particularly impressed by:

1. The Rowntree Park redevelopment and the perennial planting was to a high standard.
1. The re-landscaped roundabouts, making a big difference on the outer ring roads.
2. The Merchant Adventurer's Gardens and the new herb garden at the Treasurer's House were one of the highlights of the visit.
2. Northminster Business Park showed some fine examples of permanent planting and was maintained to a very high standard.
3. The Hartrigg Oaks were well landscaped with quality tree and shrub planting.
3. Some very good examples of residential gardens within the city centre and outer areas.
4. The children's allotment scheme at Low Moor was absolutely amazing with such enthusiasm from all (a key highlight of the visit – keep it up!)
4. York Cemetery and the Buddleia Butterfly Walk.
4. Marriott Hotel Group is to be praised for their voluntary work supporting other gardens and landscaped areas.

Areas suggested for future development:

1. Consider introducing high quality sustainable planting on the outer roundabouts.
1. Continue to improve the overall standard of grass cutting (we appreciate the extreme weather conditions this year).
2. Identify one or two quality pubs and restaurants which support all year round planting.
3. Consider meeting a garden competition winner during any future judging tour.

SECTION C – LOCAL AGENDA 21 AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The judges were particularly impressed by:

1. Nature conservation at York Cemetery.
1. The Wheatlands Community Woodland, especially the variety of wild flowers.
1. The conservation and bio-diversity and the Low Moor Allotments
2. Good practice evidenced at Low Moor Allotments, especially with regard to composting, mulching and the growing of organic produce.
2. Peat-free herb gardens/beds at the Treasurer's House.
2. The waste management policies being implemented by the city council.

Areas suggested for future development:

1. Consider introducing additional interpretation at the Wheatlands Community Woodland, especially identifying varieties of wild flowers.
2. Encourage projects and initiatives for communities and young people in this important aspect of the criteria.

SECTION D – LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

The judges were particularly impressed by:

1. The absence of litter was evident within the city centre and outer areas.
1. The introduction of the “barrow men” initiative is obviously playing its part within the community/residential areas.
2. The overall standard of street furniture was good within the city centre.
3. The young people/student litter campaigns.

Areas suggested for future development:

1. Continue to improve and eradicate weeds from within hard landscaped areas (weather conditions have been a contributing factor this year).
2. Provide evidence to highlight the management of gap sites.
2. Carry out an audit of street furniture, including litter and dog bins, within the outer areas and look to introduce a sustainable maintenance regime.
3. Continue to evidence projects and initiatives to compliment this aspect of the criteria.

SECTION E – PUBLIC AWARENESS

The judges were particularly impressed by:

1. The overall press coverage throughout the spring and summer campaigns.
1. At the end of the tour at the Mansion House we were very impressed with the mix and range of supporters all involved in promoting the efforts of the Yorkshire In Bloom campaign.
2. The support of local ward members to promote the Yorkshire In Bloom ethos.
2. The sponsorship of roundabouts and planters was very evident during the tour – continue the good work.

Areas suggested for future development:

1. Consider the introduction of a children’s poster competition to support the annual campaign.
1. Encourage some of the outer villages to enter the Yorkshire In Bloom campaign, which will clearly compliment the city of York’s overall entry, e.g. Bishopthorpe, New Earswick and Osbaldwick (to name but 3).
1. Consider introducing a press photo shoot during the visit as part of the ongoing publicity campaign for spring and summer.
2. Identify additional evidence to support this aspect of the criteria.