

Agenda Item 9

Best Kept Garden Competition 2018:

Overview: Entries this year were down in comparison to the previous year and continues a steady decline seen over the last few years. This year's drop in entries may be due to the prolonged dry spell over six weeks which have made gardening more difficult and left many feeling that their gardens were not up to their usual standard, whilst others particularly in the Business and Community classes failed to enter this year.

The Council received 21 entries which covered 41 classes and despite the lack of rain all gardens were in remarkable condition. Deciding on a day to judge is always problematic as last year the cold spring and wet summer left many plants still in bud at the time of judging whilst this years prolonged sunshine and lack of rainfall having the opposite effect with many plants past their best.

If the Competition is to continue and thrive in the long term it needs to attract more entrants with further consideration of the judging date which should perhaps not be a fixed weekend as has been the practice in the past.

The Competition was judged on the 28th July with Cllrs. R. Oliver, S. Nike, P Thompson and Mrs. E. Lord forming the judging panel; the judging followed a night of heavy rain and was carried out on a showery, blustery day.

Photography was difficult and the deluge of rain that followed the completion of the judging precluded follow up shots the following morning.

Results: The Judges were impressed with the quality of the entries and the amount of work needed to keep the plants in good order through the recent heat wave and drought. There were many categories where it was difficult to choose the winners and in some cases equal placings were awarded.

The McGregor Cup Best Overall Garden: Mrs. A. Ashworth

The Gerry Lund Memorial Bowl Best Allotment/Veg Plot: Mrs. J. Coates

The Shelagh Derwent Bowl for best Community/Street: Higherford Residents Action Group.

Large Garden: 1st Mrs. V. Austin, 2nd Mrs. A. Ticehurst

Medium Garden: 1st Mrs. B. Parker, 2nd Mr. J. Harrison
Equal 3rd Mrs. J. Hartley & Mr. B. Wilkinson

Small Garden/Backyard: 1st Mrs. A. Ashworth, 2nd Mrs. G. Knowles,
3rd Mr. S. Millington.

Large Hanging Basket: 1st NP Sher Eye Care Centre 2nd Mrs. G. Knowles
3rd Mrs. B. Parker

Small Hanging Basket: 1st Mrs. J. Dugdale, Equal 2nd Mrs. B. Parker &
Mrs. J. Coates, 3rd Mrs J. Hartley

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Allotment/Vegetable Plot: 1st Mrs. J. Coates, 2nd Mr. D. Lambert

Business: 1st NP Sher Eye Care Centre, 2nd Winston Private Club,
3rd Broden Lloyd

Community/Street: 1st Higherford Residents Action Group,
2nd St. Clement Court

Presentation Night: A presentation night has been arranged for Wednesday 22nd August starting at 7.30pm where light refreshments will be served.