



The Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition

Village Entry Rules 2024

Communities working
Together

Rule 1 Any well-defined community within Lancashire is eligible.

Rule 2 The entry may be made by any Local Authority, Parish Council, Voluntary Organisation or group of Residents

Rule 3 The winner of the Champion Class will be the overall winner of the competition.

The Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition consists of 6 classes:

Large Village Class - less than 8000 population with 8 or more Amenities
(see entry form for amenities)

Medium Village Class - less than 2000 population with 6 or more Amenities

Small Village Class - less than 1000 population with 5 or more Amenities

Champion Class

Any winner of the above will enter the champion class for the subsequent 4 competitions.

Hamlet Class less than 400 population with less than 4 Amenities

Urban Community Class

Larger Communities are encouraged to identify an area to enter – they may enter more than 1 area. Each area should be no more than the equivalent of 500 meters x 500 meters.

Rule 4 Entrants may request that small areas subjected to **temporary** disruption be excluded from judging, the reasons for this must be given. Every effort should be made to ensure that such sites are tidied up as soon as possible.

Any verges or other areas left uncut to encourage bees, butterflies & other insects or any wild flower & natural areas should be indicated on the entry form.

If there is a village carnival/fête day the date should be noted on the entry form

- Rule 5** Outstanding Feature Awards - entrants may make **up to a total of 10 entries** with a maximum of **1 entry** per section of the awards. **The consent of the owner/occupier MUST be obtained for each private entry made.** Each entry in this section must be within the recognised area for judging as shown on the map provided.
- Rule 6** All entries, including schools, will be assessed from the pavement or roadside i.e. where there is safe free public access.
- Rule 7** Each village entry must be made on a separate entry form and be accompanied by the appropriate fee.
- Rule 8** **A large-scale map** of maximum size A4 clearly defining the area to be judged must accompany each entry. This map may be a hand drawn one, showing the main roads, which doesn't need to be to scale. The map must show
- 1) the main roads
 - 2) the Outstanding Features which have been entered
 - 3) the Whole villages features as indicated on the entry sheet.
- Copies of Ordnance Survey maps are not useful unless large scale and annotated.
Annotated Google maps must not be used as they do not copy.
- Rule 9** Entries may not be accepted after the closing date stated on the application form unless agreed with the Secretary beforehand
- Rule 10** The Committee reserves the right to review the first-round scores.

AWARDS

1) Whole Village Awards

The winners of the Hamlets, Small, Medium, Large Villages and the Champion Class Villages will receive a plaque showing the name of the village, the village class and the year of the competition.

All certificates and plaques can be retained and displayed within the village for as long as they wish.

The winner of the Champion Class will also receive a trophy donated by the sponsor, the Lancashire Association of Local Councils. The trophy will be held for one year and must be returned to the Secretary in August of the following year.

The runners up in each of the village classes will receive a certificate that can be retained and displayed within the village for as long as they wish.

Highly Commended or Commended certificates may be awarded to villages in any class at the discretion of the Committee.

A certificate can be awarded to the Best First Time Entry, which is for a village that has never entered the competition before or has not entered in the last 10 years. The best one will be the one that scores the highest marks in the First Round of Judging regardless of the village class.

The Committee reserves the right to withhold any award should the standard of entries not be considered high enough. The decision of the invited Finals Judge shall be adhered to.

2) Outstanding Features Awards

These are open to any village entering the main competition and can be used as an incentive to persuade more villages to enter into the spirit of the Competition.

Please remember that these should only be entered if it is an outstanding feature of your village.

The winners of any of the Outstanding Features will receive a certificate they can retain and display for as long as they wish.

The Committee may award a Runner up, Highly Commended or Commended certificate where appropriate.

Joint awards may be given where there is little difference between two or more entries.

The Committee reserves the right to withhold any award should the standard of entries not be considered high enough.

Sections Available

1 Place of Worship & Grounds

The condition of the outside of the buildings, all surrounding grounds, paths, car parks, fencing and notice boards will be judged. The interior of any place of worship will not be judged.

2 School & Grounds (including Children's Nurseries)

The judges will assess the exterior of the building and associated grounds and play areas.

3 Village Pub or Inn / Restaurant (primarily for food and drink)

The judges will assess the building, car park, beer garden, Children's play area, plant/floral decoration and signage.

4 Hotel/Guest House (primarily for guest accommodation)

The judges will assess the building, grounds, car park, plant/floral decoration and signage.

5 Public Hall, Community Centre, Institute, Library, Health Centre, Youth Centre

Any building where members of the community meet, such as village halls, youth clubs, W.I. halls, scout and guide huts, church halls, libraries, health centres. The judges will assess the exterior of the building and the associated grounds and car parks.

6 Public Playing Field / Sports Ground

Open spaces, used by the general public for recreation purposes, which can include football and cricket pitches, tennis courts etc. The judges will assess the general condition of the field and any equipment present on the field including safety. Boundary fences, hedges, buildings & seats will also be judged.

7 Children's Play Area

Any area containing play equipment for use by children. The judges will assess the variety of equipment, safety, condition, boundary fences, seats & bins etc.

8 Industrial or Commercial Premises

This section also includes garages with repair facilities and filling stations but not a shop. Single small businesses only – a holiday home site or business park/complex may not be entered. The judges will assess the building, grounds, railings & signage.

9 Shop

This section includes all premises whose main business is retailing, including post offices and hairdressers & cafes, but excluding large supermarkets and those in Section 8. The judges will assess the building, frontage, surrounds & window display.

10 Residential / Nursing Home / Sheltered Accommodation

Self-contained accommodation such as almshouses or groups of bungalows for vulnerable or elderly with or without a warden system or one main building, which offers communal living accommodation. The judges will assess the exterior of the buildings and associated grounds.

11 Community Notice Board

Any non-commercial board used to display a variety of Community notices and information. The general condition of the notice board & surrounds will be assessed. Notices displayed will be judged for variety, presentation and being up to date. A notice board showing only the name of the park, hall or church, is not eligible, nor are those giving only permanent information, including tourist boards and travel information boards.

12 War Memorial

When in the grounds of a church the War Memorial and its surrounds will be judged separately from the church grounds. Memorial plaques inside churches are not included. Surrounds include grass, flowerbeds & railings.

13 Bowling Green

The judges will have regard to the playing surface of the green and gutters, the surrounds including pavilions, seats, gates, fencing and plant/flowerbeds.

14 Cricket Ground

The section is open to any cricket ground that has a surface reserved for the wickets and a purpose-built pavilion. In addition to the field & pavilion, the scoreboard, sightscreens & surrounding landscape including gates, fencing and hedges will be judged.

15 Public Garden

Gardens with safe access to the public. The judges will enter the garden to assess the flower beds, hedges, lawns, seats, railings & signs.

16 An item of Cultural/Social or Industrial Interest

This gives villages an opportunity to display their heritage.

Parks, Golf courses, fishing lakes and other large areas are not eligible in any section, as they are too difficult to judge.