

RHS, 80 Vincent Square, London, SW1P 2PE
Tel: 020 7821 3118 E: katiedraper@rhs.org.uk



B Hosken
Operation Services
Penwith District Council
St Clare
Penzance
TR18 3QN

17th December 2008

Dear Finalists,

Firstly I would like to congratulate you all in being selected to represent your region in next year's RHS Britain in Bloom UK Finals! I hope you are as excited as we are about the coming year and that you enjoy the journey through the competition from now until next September.

RHS Britain in Bloom has undergone several developments over the past months as a result of the Britain in Bloom Survey and Consultation carried out in February 2008 and in response to the need to ensure the future of the campaign by reinforcing its relevance to today's society. Please find an outline of these developments here below.

First, the core pillars of RHS Britain in Bloom have been sharpened to more clearly portray what the campaign is all about. The **new core pillars** of Britain in Bloom are:

- Horticultural Achievement
- Environmental Responsibility
- Community Participation

Second, the judging criteria have been restructured to be in line with the new core pillars and to provide a greater degree of transparency and clarity to all concerned. The **new marking sheets** and judging guidelines are also simpler and easier to use and understand. Although the new 2009 marking sheet does look significantly different to the 2008 version, we were able to achieve this result without actually adding or removing anything significant from the former marking sheets. The marked improvements were achieved by reorganising and allocating slightly different significance (points) to the 2008 criteria. In order to allow you some extra time to get familiar with the new marking sheets and guidelines I am attaching them with this email. More information will of course be provided at the Finalist's Seminar and copies of this information will be included in the Finalist Manual.

The third development for 2009 is that the Unannounced Judging has been discontinued in favour of **restructuring both the portfolio and the 15-minute presentation** on judging day to evidence year-round working and the full scope of local "in Bloom" initiatives. New guidelines have been developed for the portfolio and the presentation to clearly outline how these opportunities should be used by entrants. Further information concerning the above can be found in the Finalist Manual that will be distributed at the end of January.

And last but not least, it has been decided that the theme for 2009 will be the same as 2008; Local Roots. Again more information about the theme will be provided in the Finalist Manual. Please find attached the new judging guidelines, criteria and marking sheets along with some key dates for your diary in 2009. Also for your information here is a list of all finalists taking part in Britain in Bloom 2009. (Please note: We are still waiting for confirmation of some finalists so this list is not complete. Please also note thus far there have been no Small Village nominees and we are still awaiting conformation from the rest of the Champion of Champions nominees)

VILLAGE

Appleton Wiske	Yorkshire
Chipping	North West
Duffus	Scotland
Filby	Anglia
Rosliston	East Midlands
Scarva	Translink Ulster
Tarrington	Heart of England

LARGE VILLAGE

Barwick in Elmet	Yorkshire
Broughshane	Translink Ulster
East Hagbourne	Thames & Chilterns
Kinneswood	Scotland
Kirby Stephen	Cumbria
Limpsfield	South East
St. Andrews	Guernsey
Usk	Wales
Wedmore	South West

SMALL TOWN

Grouville	Jersey
Ilkley	Yorkshire
Liphook	Southern
Pitlochry	Scotland
Ramsey	Isle of Man
Tetbury	Heart of England

TOWN

Oakham	East Midlands
Rustington	South East
Thornbury	South West

LARGE TOWN/SMALL CITY (12 – 35K)

Bury	North West
Coleraine	Translink Ulster
Glenrothes	Scotland
Kendal	Cumbria
Wisbech	Anglia

LARGE TOWN/SMALL CITY (35 – 100K)

Bedford	Anglia
Chester	North West
Harrogate	Yorkshire

Londonderry
Newcastle-under-Lyme

Translink Ulster
Heart of England

CITY

London Borough of Islington
Newport
Plymouth

London
Wales
South West

LARGE CITY

Edinburgh
London Borough of Croydon

Scotland
London

COASTAL (12K & BELOW)

Hayle
Hunstanton
Lytham
St. Brelade
Swanage

South West
Anglia
North West
Jersey
Southern

COASTAL (12K & ABOVE)

Bangor
Bridlington
Cleethorpes
Colwyn Bay
Herne Bay
St. Andrews

Translink Ulster
Yorkshire
East Midlands
Wales
South East
Scotland

URBAN COMMUNITY

Aldwick, Bognor Regis
Birmingham City Centre
Dulwich, London
Kippax, Leeds
Manchester City Centre
Moor (Oxmoor, Huntingdon)
Port Marine & Village Quarter, Portishead
Uddingston, Glasgow

South East
Heart of England
London
Yorkshire
North West
Anglia
South West
Scotland

CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

Falkland
Ravenfield

Scotland
Yorkshire

If you have any questions regarding this email please don't hesitate to contact me. I will be away from the office from Monday 22nd until the 5th January. The only thing left to say is I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and a happy new year!

Kind regards



Katie Draper
Acting Community Campaigns Coordinator
The Royal Horticultural Society