

A Best Kept Village

Background

A Best Kept Village is a village that has won one of the annual county competitions in the United Kingdom for its tidiness, appropriateness, and typicality.

The competitions have been nationally organised by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) since the early 1970's.

Criteria

Competing villages fall into one of four groups:-

- a. Villages that have won in the past 5 years;
- b. Villages of a population between 500 and 3 000;
- c. Villages of a population up to 500;
- d. Villages that are new to the competition or have not entered for 10 years.

Process

A panel of anonymous judges, touring between May and June and conducting final judging in July and August, evaluates each village on the following criteria, each of which is upto 10 points :-

- Absence of litter and unsightly refuse dumps on verges;
- Condition of village greens, playing fields, schoolyards, public seats, and notice-boards;
- Condition of public and private buildings, gardens, and allotments;
- Condition of churchyards, cemeteries, and war memorials;
- Condition of public halls, sports facilities, and car parks;
- Cleanliness of public toilets, bus shelters, and telephone kiosks;
- State of footpaths, stiles, field gates, sign posting, ponds, and streams;
- Condition of commercial and business premises, including advertisements and other signs;
- Initiative in the care of the environment of the village;
- Evidence of community spirit and usefulness of village map.

Object

The CPRE makes it clear that the competition is not about finding "the most beautiful village, nor the most ancient, nor the most picturesque, just the one that is best cared for" and "its aim is to involve everyone in the village, encouraging them to take greater pride in their surroundings".

Villages are judged on how clean and well cared for they are, as well as their impact on the environment.

Suggested Aims and Objects of LEPC BKV Group

To actively aim to involve everyone in the village of Little Eaton, encouraging them to take greater pride in their surroundings, by seeking to comply with the 10 criteria listed above, to achieve Best Kept Village standard.