



2026 Anglia in Bloom Campaign Launch

Anglia in Bloom 2026 Campaign



- Why Anglia in Bloom.....
- Why do we do it...
- Who are the Judges?

Most importantly – we enjoy doing it!

Anglia in Bloom 2026 Campaign

- What is changing in 2026?
 - Newsletter
 - New County Championship
 - New Categories for Special Awards
 - New Categories for Virtual Awards
 - New way to enter Virtual Awards
 - New Judges Briefing Document
 - New upload of documents



What makes up the Campaign?



AiB Main
Categories

Special
Awards

It's Your
Neighbourhood

Virtual
Entries

RHS
Community
Awards

Britain in
Bloom

Britain in Bloom

- Nominated by AiB Judges
- National Competition
- Entries for 2026
 - Sawtry – Small Town Category
 - Chatteris – Town Category
 - Dunstable – Large Town Category



RHS Community Engagement Award: Yourspace.Sutton, London



RHS Community Award Winners 2025

RHS Gardening for Wildlife Award: Blackburns Farm Nurseries & Wildlife Centre, North West



RHS Gardening for Young People Award: Trawden Forest Primary School, North West



RHS Sustainable Gardening Award: Transition Town Wellington, South West



RHS Gardening for Health and Wellbeing Award: Erlas Victorian Walled Garden, Wales



Photos: RHS Community Awards

RHS Community Awards

- Nominated by AiB Judges
- Can be IYN or main entry
- Requires the nominator to provide up to 800 words + photos/video

- RHS Community Engagement Award
- RHS Gardening for Wildlife Award
- RHS Gardening for Young People Award
- RHS Sustainable Gardening Award
- RHS Gardening for Health and Wellbeing Award
- RHS Community Award for Parks*
- RHS Commercial or Hospitality Award*
- RHS Community Award for Railway stations*

* = proposed new categories for 2026





Anglia in Bloom Main Entry

Entry categories for 2026: Main entrants



Category	Size (population)	Judging time (hours)
VILLAGE	1-1000	1
LARGE VILLAGE	1001 - 2500	1½
SMALL TOWN	2,501 – 6,000	2
TOWN	6,001 – 12,000	2 ½
LARGE TOWN	12,001 – 35,000	3
SMALL CITY	35,000 – 100,000	3½
CITY	100,001 +	4
URBAN COMMUNITY/ VILLAGE	0 – 25,000	2½
COASTAL	N/A	3
BID-TOWN OR CITY	N/A	2

Category	Judging time (hours)
HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS	3
WILDLIFE AREA/ NATURE RESERVE/ COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE	1½

Additional time for

School visits (max 2) +15 mins

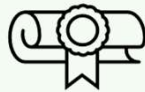
Press + 15mins

Main Entry Awards – Category Winners

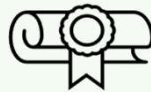


Category (set by BiB)
VILLAGE
LARGE VILLAGE
SMALL TOWN
TOWN
LARGE TOWN
SMALL CITY
CITY
URBAN COMMUNITY/ VILLAGE
COASTAL
BID-TOWN OR CITY

Category (set by AiB)
HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS
WILDLIFE AREA/ NATURE RESERVE/ COUNTY WILDLIFE SITE



Best in Each Category
(the same entry cannot win two years in succession)



Nomination for Britain in Bloom
(BiB categories only)



Main Entry Awards – County Winners



Trial for 2026

No additional charge to enter the County competition



County Winner – top scoring entry in each county.
6 County Winners



Overall Winner – top scoring county winner




Main Entry Requirements

- Check application criteria on the website
- **Type the entry form carefully**
- See AiB Category Fees (2026)

www.angliainbloom.co.uk/campaign-details




 Anglia in Bloom Entry Form
 THIS FORM CAN BE USED FOR MAIN AND ADDITIONAL CATEGORIES ENTERED
 (Separate form for each entry) Please Type all information
 

Name of Entry:		
Number of Young People's Entries included in MAIN judging tour: (Max 2, additional 15 min for each young people's entry to be viewed.)		Please circle as appropriate 1 2
Main Category entered	*Electoral Roll numbers/ Size (as applicable)	Fee Payable
Virtual Category(s) entered:	Fee Payable	
Contact Name 1		
Address		
Contact phone Number	Mobile	Email
Contact Name 2		
Address		
Contact phone Number	Mobile	Email
<p>Disclaimer – Anglia in Bloom reserve the right to use any photographs supplied by Entrants for Publicity, editorial and web content. Privacy Notice: I am aware that for purposes of Anglia in Bloom and IYN my data <u>maybe</u> shared with the RHS and stored and processed in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation.</p>		
Your entry into Anglia in Bloom is invited. Please complete this form and send with your remittance to Mrs. Margaret Spencer (Treasurer) Account – Anglia in Bloom. Account No.90704385, Sort Code 20-62-53 email entry form to Margaret-spencer@esec.uk *PLEASE MAKE SURE THIS INFORMATION IS CORRECT. We will make random checks. Sponsors: Amberol Ltd. , Barcham Trees , J. K Construction , Plant Grow, SB Surveyors, Tudor Environmental, Vertas , Flower Carpet.		

Main Entry Requirements



- Entry forms + fees deadline – **31st May 2026**
- Main Categories may submit **Judges Briefing Notes**
(Not historic parks/gardens or wildlife area/ nature reserve/ county wildlife site categories)
- Judges Briefing Notes (if used) deadline **30th June 2026**
 - Old style portfolios **will not** be accepted
- Entrant notified of Judges in June

- Judging will take place between **6th – 24th July**

Main Entry

- Judging in teams of 2 or 3
- Ensure lead judge knows where to meet, car parking arrangements and a contact phone number for the Judging day
- Details of the route can be given to the judges on arrival – no need to supply in advance
- Time for judging – category entered + additional time for schools (up to 2) and press briefing if used – please keep to time
- Up to 6 photos can be supplied for the Award ceremony



Entrants Hints and Tips: How to Ensure a Smooth- Running Judging Day

See document on website



Entrants' Hints and Tips: How to Ensure a Smooth-running Judging Day



Judging Day is always full on and very busy. These hints and tips are aimed at helping you plan ahead to ensure Judging Day goes as smoothly as possible. Remember Judges are human 😊. Most importantly they are all passionate about the In Bloom movement and definitely want you to achieve the best result possible.

Before Judging Day...

Special Award Categories 2026



- Open to all main entries
- Identified by the entrant as somewhere **special**
- Entrant provides 6 good quality images (jpeg) for each special (not composite)
- **Must be seen on tour**
- Judging team chose their nomination for each special category
- Winner of each special decided by judges vote at the Judges Debrief
- Results at the Awards Day

Special Award Categories 2026



2026 ENTRANTS' SPECIAL AWARDS NOMINATIONS (main category entries only)



Please ensure the table below is filled in with your nominated projects for special awards and given to the judges on the day of their visit.

Please give the judges a USB stick with correctly captioned photographs - six single shot - of each nomination. If photographs are not supplied the nomination will not be considered

It is important that you make sure the judges know and see each special award entry you wish to be considered

NAME OF ENTRANT:

- Type Entry Form if possible
- Hand your entry form and images to the Judges on Judging day



2026 ENTRANTS' SPECIAL AWARDS NOMINATIONS (main category entries only)



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NAME OF ENTRANT:

	NOMINATION	LOCATION
Best community project: could be floral, horticultural artwork, etc.		
Best gardening for wildlife and biodiversity		
Best sustainable garden: could be trees, shrubs, orchards, etc.		
Best Sheltered Housing/Care Home/inclusive Garden		
Best grow your own project		
Best industrial area/ Commercial Area		
Best young people's project (aged under 12 years)		
Best young people's project (aged 12- 18 years)		
Best special feature: 100 years since the first publication of the 'Winnie the Pooh Books'		
George Dawson Award Nominations from entrants and/or judges		

*AA Milne created Winnie the Pooh for his son. The stories were first published in the London Evening News in December 1925

Special Award Categories 2026



Categories	
Best Community Project	Best Young Peoples project (under 12)
Best Gardening for Wildlife and Biodiversity	Best young peoples project aged (12 – 18years)
Best Sustainable Garden	Special Feature 2026
Best Sheltered Housing/ care home/ inclusivity garden	George Dawson Award
Grow your own	Best new entry (Nominated by the judges)
Best industrial or commercial area	

Special Feature 2026 '100 years since the publication of the first Winnie the Pooh books'

A.A. Milne created Winnie the Pooh for his son. The stories were first published in the London Evening News in December 1925



An early illustration by E. H. Shepard

Note: Disney has exclusivity from 1953 onwards and owns the copyright for the Disney Winnie the Pooh

Additional Categories or 'Virtuals' 2026



Category

Public park – any size

Public houses, hotels, restaurants,
retail site

Churchyard – open or closed

Cemeteries / Burial ground

Crematoriums

Special Theme 2026



**Special theme 2026:
FIFA World Cup**



Additional Categories or 'Virtuals' 2026



- Max of 3 entries per 'In Bloom group' per category
- **Entry form and fees by 31st May**
- **10** good quality images as jpeg (not composite) + **100** words
- **OR** Two minute live video (not an image sequence) in a format readily played by Windows Media Player (eg .MP4)
- **Deadline for words + photos or video 30th June**
- Submitted electronically
- **Must not** be seen on tour
- Judged virtually in judging teams

NEW

It's Your Neighbourhood (IYN)

- RHS initiative as a starting point to In Bloom
- Community based
- Fill in the entry form carefully ideally **typed**
- **Submit electronically by 31st May** (ideally)
- Notes on the assessment are on the AiB website



ANGLIA IN BLOOM		
In Your Neighbourhood Entry Form		
Name of In Your Neighbourhood Entry:		
Location of Neighbourhood Entry:		
Contact Name (1):		
Address:		
Land Line Number:	Mobile Number:	Email address:
Contact Name (2):		
Address:		
Land Line Number:	Mobile Number:	Email address:

Disclaimer: Anglia in Bloom/RHS Britain in Bloom reserve the right to use any photographs /details supplied by entrants for publicity, editorial and web content.

Privacy Notice: I am aware that for purposes of Anglia in Bloom and IYN my data maybe shared with the RHS and stored and processed in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation.

Anglia in Bloom will be pleased to receive your It's Your Neighbourhood entry on behalf of RHS Britain in Bloom. IYN is free to enter.

Please complete this form, preferably in block capitals or typed (to make it easier to read, and email entry* to:

Mrs. Margaret Spencer (Treasurer),

Email: Margaret-spencer@esec.uk

*Postal address available on request

It's Your Neighbourhood (IYN)



- **Community** based
- Some IYNs may be assessed as part of the main AiB judging route **but** check with your judging team
- Judges allocated based on area

Level	Description	Points
Level 1	Establishing	0-35
Level 2	Improving	36-52
Level 3	Developing	53-68
Level 4	Thriving	69-85
Level 5	Outstanding	86-100

Judges Briefing Notes



- Why?
- Replaces the portfolio
- Main Categories may submit **Judges Briefing Notes**
(Not historic parks/gardens or wildlife area/ nature reserve/
county wildlife site categories)
- Introduces your entry to the Judges and covers areas the
judges do not see
- Optional and carries no marks
- Submit by **30th June**

Judges Briefing Notes



• What is included

- Introduction to your entry
- 1000 Word – inc. all text in tables and photo captions
- 12 single Photos not more than 2 years old
- Page numbers
- PDF format and < 4Mb

• What it is not included

- Judges Route
- Judges meeting place
- 15 minutes presentation time to introduce your entry
- Noticeboards on the judging day

Content of Judges Briefing Notes



The Front Cover

- Not part of 1000 words/12 pictures.
- Think creatively and use this space effectively

Key People

- Include a table with the key people in your In Bloom group

Introduction to the Entrant

- Give a brief introduction/background to the entry
- What makes your community different?
History, Geography, industry etc
- What has happened during the year?

The Metropolis in Bloom Team 2024/25

Committee	Key tasks and/or links to other community organisations
Chair	Town Council liaison
Meeting Secretary	
Volunteer Co-ordinator	School's liaison
Treasurer	
A. N Other	Litter Pickers
A. N Other	Road Verges
A. N Other	Park Group
A. N Other	Town Team

Structure of Judges Briefing Notes

- Possible structures...
 - In Bloom Pillars of Horticulture, Community and Environment
 - Chronological structure following the seasons
 - The geography of your village or town
 - Use pictures to show what will not be seen on Judging day



Judges Briefing Notes – Using words and pictures

- Use Words for
 - Things which cannot be shown in a picture
 - Brief explanations
- Use photos for
 - Wow factors
 - Highlights
 - Things you are proud of
 - Pictures tell a thousand words



New compost bins behind the High Street. Used for all the organic waste. The resulting compost is used on the flower beds. April 2025



d)



c)

What to include in the Judges Briefing Notes

- Include things not seen on the judging route
 - Seasonal changes like winter planters, spring bulbs, fruit harvests
 - Before and after 'grot spot' transformations
 - Community events, the litter picks, bulb planting, plant sales, school activities
 - Environmental factors – snowdrops, wildlife, the tanks in your self-watering planters, composting



Plant stall June 2025



Winter mulching with cardboard at school allotment February 2025



e)

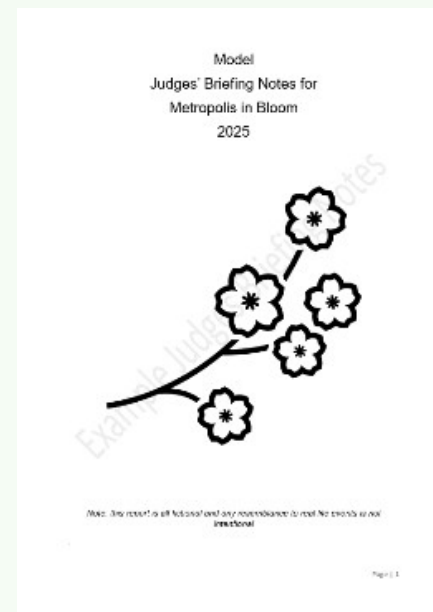
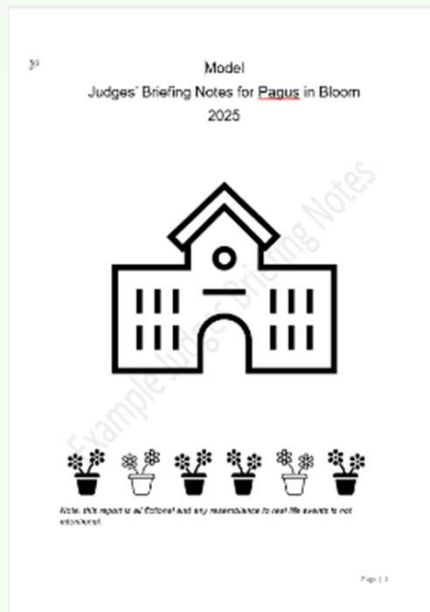
Judges Briefing Notes – summary



- 1000 words and 12 pictures
- Not necessarily on the Judging Route
- Use the front cover effectively
- Be brief and focus on the ‘wow’ factors
- Structure to organise words and photos
- Use words to describe complex points
- Labelled pictures expand on the words

Judges Briefing Notes – more information

- Judges Briefing Notes Guidance document
- Model Briefing Notes





2026 Campaign: Electronic submission



Summary of the 2026 Campaign

Summary of Changes for 2026

- **Newsletters**
- **New County Championship**
- **New Categories for Special Awards**
- **New Categories for Virtual Awards**
- **New way to enter Virtual Awards**
- **New Judges Briefing Document**
- **New upload of documents**
- **New Judges**
- **New Entrants.....**

Key Dates for 2026

Date	Activity
31st May	Deadline for all entry forms and fees* (main entries, Virtual entries, IYN)
30th June	Submission of Judges Briefing Notes (if used), submission of Virtual entries
30th June (or earlier)	Main contact for Judging day, and place to meet to be sent to your Judging team
Judging 6th – 24th July	Judging. Your judging day is deadline for nomination of Special Awards
24th September, St Ives	Awards Ceremony

Anglia in Bloom Campaign 2026

Questions and Answers

Any further questions then please contact one of the judges

*Wishing you all the
very best for the 2026
campaign*



Dunstable



Sawtry

Chatteris

