

Model

Judges' Briefing Notes for Newville in Bloom 2026

Note: this report is all fictional and any resemblance to real life events is not intentional.



Winter Containers November 2025

Introduction to Newville

Newville is a charming village in XXXshire, with a history stretching back to the 10th century. It blends rural tranquillity with a rich heritage, featuring many listed buildings, a Grade II* church, and extensive local woodlands with hiking and cycling routes. Today its population is roughly 2,200 and it offers a mix of local amenities, green space and a strong community spirit. It has a range of eateries, pubs and shops which make it a popular destination for walkers, bikers and visitors.

Newville in Bloom Committee

Chair	A N Other
Treasurer	A N Other
Community Contacts	A N Other
Horticulture – Village planters	A N Other
Horticulture – In ground	A N Other
Environment	A N Other

The Committee is supported by a further 10 volunteers with interests in planting, watering and supporting the local school and its allotment amongst other activities. The group meets every month throughout the year.

Horticulture – Perennial and annual borders and containers

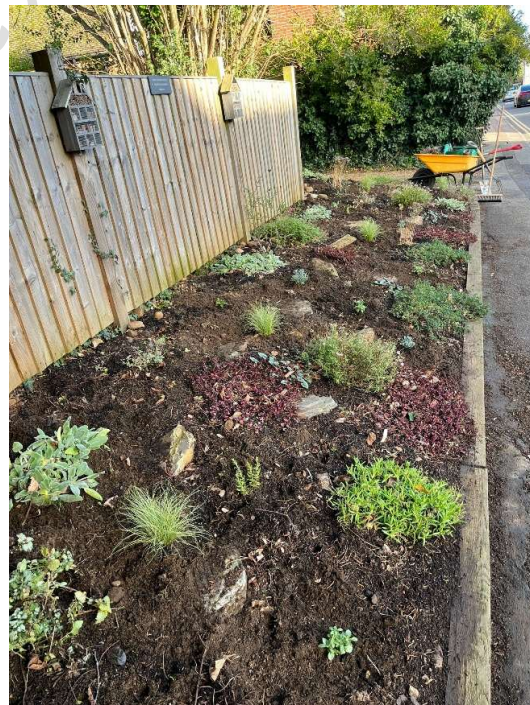
All planting is underpinned by the 'right plant, right place' philosophy, with plants selected for growing medium and aspect. Plants are regularly weeded, deadheaded and watered as necessary. Container plants are fed regularly and borders receive top dressing and a balanced fertiliser seasonally. The group is moving to more perennial planting with plants being recycled in different areas and made available to the neighbourhood for a donation if possible. For example, winter planting includes ferns and Hellebores which can be used in shady borders elsewhere or can be given to residents for a small donation to encourage them to plant perennials and consider where and how they will thrive – see front cover. This type of activity is increasing connections with enthusiastic gardeners in the village.

Mixed borders



The Sensory Garden – *summer 2025*,
installed for the residents of Staunton
House

The Rockery, with spring bulbs above
right and then replanted with drought
tolerant plants below right – *autumn
2025*





Winter container planting at the Village Hall November 2025



Manger on the Green Autumn 2025

The Environment

Newville in Bloom sources plants from local growers, repurposes perennials in different beds within the community depending on the season and grows and divides plants to minimise their carbon footprint and minimise costs. Plants are recycled to make compost and water is collected to reduce water consumption.

The team has created and maintains specific environments to benefit insects, pollinators and birds at two sites in the village, Eleanor Close Wildlife area and The W and has built a new pond to support the environmental activities at the School Allotment. There are two large bug hotels made from pallets, two log piles, two ponds and a hedgehog house. A programme of planting snowdrops, anemones, primroses, early daffodils and cowslips have extended the seasonal availability of pollen and nectar for insects.

Newly built school allotment pond spring 2025



Bug Hotel – May 2025



The surrounding countryside has well-tended hedgerows including hawthorn, crab apples, elder and blackthorn, as well as large holly hedges. Local woodland has large bluebell and snowdrop patches. Veteran oaks are protected by local farmers. Increasingly, farmers are planting cover crops and rotating crops to improve the environment for wildlife.

Layered hawthorn hedge in the village Spring 2025



Winter Aconites March 2025

Recent developments include planting a flower border along the edge of one of the wildlife sites to encourage more pollinators and insects.



Holly hedge – *November 2025*

Community

Newville in Bloom is part of an active local community. It has a strong relationship with the local lower school, preparing the school allotment beds, providing seedlings and seeds, the maintenance of paths and the recent construction of a new wildlife pond. The In Bloomers have recently chosen a new logo from an impressive selection of artwork by the pupils.

The Parish Council and Traders Association both appreciate the efforts of the In Bloomers to help create a welcoming and attractive village for residents and visitors alike. The containers and borders contribute to making the village a destination which attracts custom for local businesses. Traders are themselves encouraged to have displays in containers and are supported by Newville in Bloom in the choice of plants where needed.

Traders and residents alike are encouraged by the Front Doorstep Campaign to follow the colour scheme adopted by the In Bloom team to increase the impact of the floral displays. There is also a village competition organised by the In Bloomers for the best trader display.

This year, it has run an annual plant sale on the Open Gardens Day and organised a talk in conjunction with a local head gardener to raise funds for plants and resources.

The team visited a local open garden together for inspiration and team building for the first time and plans to continue with this type of outing.

Plants from a border undergoing renovation will be available to the community for free or a small donation in October.

Plant stall June 2025



Winter mulching with cardboard at school allotment February 2025



Future Plans

In 2026, in the light of the drought in 2025, the team is undertaking a major review of its activities to assess each project for its value to the community, its sustainability and its horticultural effectiveness. In this way, each activity can be improved to meet the community's goals more efficiently in a way which is kind to the team and the environment. New methods and approaches will be considered and adopted where necessary for the future.