



The countryside charity
Nottinghamshire



Rules and Conditions of Entry

Entry Criteria

Entry to the Competition is free. Entries are invited from towns and villages in Nottinghamshire with a population of less than 10,000. Entries will be placed into one of four categories determined by population size. The aim will be to put a roughly equal number of villages into each category with Section A including the largest villages, Section B the next largest, Section C the next largest, and Section D the smallest.

The online **Entry Form**, together with an uploaded **map of the village** should be submitted before the closing date of **17th May 2024**. A simple sketch map or an Ordnance Survey map downloaded to A4 size will suffice.

Judging Times

Preliminary Round – between Monday 3rd June and Sunday 30th June 2024.

The village with the highest judges' scores in each section will be declared the Winner of that section and entered into the **Final Round**. The Runners-up in each section will also be chosen.

All entrants will be notified by email of the results of the Preliminary Round before the start of the Final Round.

Certificates of Merit may be awarded to other villages in the Preliminary Round for any particular effort or feature which has impressed the judges.

Final Round - between Monday, 8th July and Wednesday 31st July 2024.

The winning village in each section will be judged here for the **'Best of Notts' Award**. The winner will be announced at the AGM of the Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils.

Marking Schedules

Each village will be allocated marks under the following headings:

- **Domestic** e.g. Houses, Gardens, Hedges, Frontages
- **Community Facilities** e.g. bus shelters and stops, telephone kiosks, playing fields, playgrounds and equipment, village hall, village green, verges and gutters, stream or pond, churches and churchyards, notice boards and notices, footpath map/stiles/signs, street furniture, school and surroundings.
- **Commercial Enterprises and Services** e.g. petrol stations and forecourts, shops and advertisements, inns and parking areas, farm buildings and farmyards, work entrances.
- **Obvious Community Effort**

The types of features included in the above lists are for illustration only. A village is not judged for the number of features it contains, but **for evidence of pride and involvement**.

The judges' mark is final and cannot be altered.



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Excluded Sites

Judges are aware that all villages have areas within their boundaries that are beyond their control which may be detrimental to the village scene. These may be placed on the entry form for exclusion. For instance, some villages maintain certain areas to encourage wildlife, such as verges containing attractive or unusual plants. Other sites, for example those owned by commercial organisations or public bodies, which do not fall within the direct control of the village and which are not maintained properly may be excluded. In this instance every effort should be made to approach the owners to encourage them to maintain the site. All areas listed for exclusion should be clearly described on the entry form together with the reasons. These sites will be excluded at the discretion of the judges. No highways can be excluded.

Village Boundaries

A number of villages do not have clearly defined boundaries. In order to assist the judges, so that your village is covered properly, please supply a map or sketch map no larger than A4, indicating the boundary and drawing attention to any public features such as village hall, play area etc.. Where there is heavy through traffic or large farm vehicles manoeuvring down narrow lanes, some indication of safe places to park would be helpful to the judges.

Prizes and Awards

The Winning Village in each section receives:

- A cheque for £125 to be spent for the benefit of the village
- A framed certificate
- A commemorative sign, which is erected on the village green or other prominent site, to be retained for one year

The Runners-up in each section receive:

- A cheque for £50 to be spent for the benefit of the village
- A framed certificate

Certificates of Merit can be awarded in the preliminary round for any particular effort or feature which has impressed the judges.

The 'Best of Nottinghamshire' Award - the winning village will receive:

- A cheque for £1000 to be spent for the benefit of the village
- A framed certificate

Cheques and certificates will be presented at the AGM of the Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils in October. Arrangements will also be made for winning villages to receive their commemorative plaques. The Competition organisers will arrange for an official representative to present at an unveiling of the plaque, if required. Members of the judging panel will also be pleased to receive invitations to attend the ceremony.