

# Haughton

## Best Kept Village Competition

2017



### *Welcome to Best Kept Village 2017*

In 2016, after our five successive awards as the Best Kept Large Village in Staffordshire, we entered the competition in the Small Village category. We were awarded Joint Second at the presentation in August, a very pleasing result for a first campaign. We are aiming this year to do a little better and to try to gain the top spot in our category. As always, though, the result is less important than our collective efforts to present Haughton as a pleasant environment with a thriving and involved community.

The 2016 judges made many positive comments, concluding that Haughton is “a very pleasant, quiet and relaxed village with great community spirit and involvement.” They praised the roadside verges, bus shelters, benches, War Memorial, children’s posters, Village Hall and pubs. However, although they found no evidence of dog-fouling, they did find litter, notably at the playing field entrance and in the skateboard area.

Our popular Tidy-up sessions will continue in 2017. They provide an opportunity to meet with other residents and help us improve the environment by picking up litter, clearing the grassy areas of windfall twigs, edging grass and chopping down unsightly weeds. It could also bring new friendships, enhance fitness and promote satisfaction in a job well done. Hi-Viz vests, bags and litter-pickers are provided, but many people bring their own brooms, hoes, buckets and edging tools. Tidy-ups are supported by many regulars, but new volunteers are always very welcome. The first Tidy-up of the year will be held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April, starting from the Village Hall at 6.30pm.

If you would like to help but are unable to join a Tidy-up you may be able to take part in another way. You may have spotted a job that needs doing, or an area that seems neglected that you would like to adopt. If you have any suggestions, please contact any member of the parish council.



Another popular way to help is through sponsorship. Businesses and individuals have donated money to fund the campaign. In return, sponsors are awarded a special plaque which is placed in one of the beds, borders or planters which brighten the village in all seasons. If you would like to become a sponsor, please contact Cllr Derek Warbrick on 780592 for more information.



The Best Kept Garden and Hanging Baskets Competition will be held again this year. There is no charge for entry. Front gardens and hanging baskets are viewed from the footpath by independent judges in July and prizes will be awarded at a special Awards Evening, which will be held at Haughton Village Hall on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm. The competition is organised and sponsored by Haughton and District Garden Guild.

A new addition to the competition judging this year is a section for wildlife-friendly areas. There has been an ecology area in the churchyard for several years, which has received much praise from the judges in the past. This, and any other area we identify, will be judged in conjunction with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust as a feature. We have also identified as wildlife-friendly areas the Grassy Lane, with its brook, the small copse at the east end of the playing field and the compost heap in the cemetery.



***Please help to make Haughton look its best for the Best Kept Village Competition 2017***

Visit [www.haughton-staffs.org.uk](http://www.haughton-staffs.org.uk) for further information or contact any member of the Parish Council