

### HAUGHTON – BKV JUDGES' COMMENTS 2009

BKV publicity posters were excellent (both official and “local” posters) and awareness was enhanced through the parish magazine. Children’s posters were “superb” in both variety and presentation and judges commended the local competition. Notice boards were very well maintained, but local information, although up to date, was perhaps a little sparse in respect of local clubs, activities etc.

Recycling and dog fouling awareness were very good, with good posters and information and dog bins.

The churchyard was neat and tidy, but some areas needed a little more TLC, particularly at the rear of the church and around some gravestones.

The village hall surrounds were very clean and tidy (although in May, the recycling bins obscured the notice board). Both public houses were very good with neat and tidy surrounds and no litter.

The telephone box and bus shelters were all in good order with clean and tidy surrounds. The many seats and benches were all in good repair with neat surrounds. The judges praised those around the war memorial and in the churchyard, but the bench at the playing field needed a bit of attention.

Village signs were clear and there was a good map on the notice board.

The war memorial was of a very high standard with lovely planting, a credit to the village.

Public open spaces were very well-maintained; and private gardens generally excellent, with only one or two exceptions. General cleanliness was also excellent, with virtually no litter evident.

The children’s play equipment was in good order, but the wood-chip surface needed raking and additional chipping was needed to cover hard surfaces.

The map was very nicely presented and easy to follow, but the key did not follow the BKV features to be judged accurately.

Haughton is a very nice, tidy village with a sense of community involvement. Competition in the Stafford district was particularly strong this year and very few marks separated the “top” villages.

An excellent standard has clearly been achieved and the evidence of community effort and involvement is clear. Congratulations on achieving Highly Commended this year, with just a little more attention to the details noted above, Haughton will surely obtain top honours soon. Well done in 2009 and good luck in 2010!

John Perry, MBE  
Chairman, BKV Working Group

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