

## Best Kept Village Competition Haughton Update March 2016

In 2015, Haughton won the Best Kept Large Village in Staffordshire for the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. Haughton Parish Council has again agreed to enter the 2016 Best Kept Village (BKV) competition in Staffordshire, organised by the Community Council.

Rule changes for the qualifying status, means Haughton will be in the Small Village category this year. The break off point between small and large village is now 1500 residents (compared with 1000 previously).

This change does not alter our approach with objectives remaining the same to develop strong community spirit, make Haughton a better place to live, strive for success and have fun!

We shall be competing for 3 prizes of Best Small Village and the Best Overall village in Stafford area ( with the prize of the totem pole ), followed, if successful, by Best Kept Small Village in Staffordshire.

April is a critical period for action so that the village is looking at its best by 1st May when judging commences.

Organised litter picks / tidy up sessions will be held every 2 weeks during the summer months (April to July). Specific dates will be advertised shortly and volunteers will meet at Village Hall car park at 6.30 pm. Hi Vis jackets, litter pickers and bags will be supplied.

Progress continued last year in containing the problem of dog fouling. Dog owners responded to the request to use the bags and bins provided. We look forward to ongoing support in this critical area.

Several working parties will be set up to focus on important issues of cleanliness, planting of flower beds, pots/troughs and tractor tyres, appearance of bus shelters, benches, litter bins, war memorial etc.

We look forward to the ongoing support of our sponsors who provide vital funding for the campaign including the purchase of plants etc.

If you are interested in becoming directly involved with BKV effort or have any comments, please contact Peter Lawrence (780620) or any member of the Parish Council. Alternatively, just take pride in your own garden and surroundings and put any litter in the bins provided.

For more information, please refer to the website: www.haughton-staffs.org.uk