

Best Kept Village 2016

Cuddington

Principal Features

1A The graveyard surrounding the Anglican Church of St Nicholas was attractive and sensitively maintained and was judged a few days before the grass was due to be cut. The graveyard at the Baptist Chapel in Dadbrook was plain and neat and tidy and the grass was being mown on the day of the judging.

1B The playing field east of the village was well maintained as was the adjoining pavilion and tennis courts.

1C The children's play area was suitably maintained commensurate with the equipment provided.

1D The area of ponds and the stream at the north end of Tibbys Lane and the immediate surrounding area provided the basis for a conserved habitat which should be encouraged. The largely abandoned allotment gardens, other than the area used for the rearing of poultry, seems to be reverting back to unmanaged meadows the consequence of which may be a valuable future habitat site. The small garden on Dadbrook at Welford Way was also an interesting example of a small public space.

1E The Bernard Hall in Upper Church Street was in remarkably good condition and clearly well cared for and well used.

1F The general environmental features were good. The pump on The Green was well maintained but the chain and posts surrounding it were leaning inwards but provided the protection and emphasis required. In addition there is evidence of personal effort on the part of building owners in this village.

Other features

2A Areas around shops were good, clean, tidy and without weeds and litter.

2B Areas around pubs are sometimes difficult areas to deal with but the area around The Crown was free of cans and bottles and general litter and showed care and attention to detail, for example in the new planting adjacent to the car park.

2C The bus shelters were sound and in good condition although in both cases could have benefitted from being swept more frequently.

2D Notice boards were informative and up to date.

2E The War Memorial was in good condition and received regular attention.

2F The village had the appearance of being cared for by those who lived there and there was evidence to this effect. There was a distinct lack of litter and rubbish. The Cuddington Picture House is operated by volunteers and is an ambitious project. The Methodist Chapel in lower Church Street had a display of flowers at the front which clearly illustrated the point about community involvement as did the general care of house fronts and related areas.