

## CPRE WILTSHIRE AND THE HILLS GROUP BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2020

Inbox



CPRE Admin <admin@cprewiltshire.org.uk>

Tue, 21  
Jan, 14:04

to CPRE

Dear Parish Clerks,

*This email is addressed to the parish clerk as shown on the latest available database of clerks on the Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council websites. Should you no longer hold that role, I should be grateful if you would forward this email to the new clerk and inform me accordingly so that I can update my contact database. Similarly, if you have changed your email address could you let me know the new address? Thank you.*

I should like to draw your attention, and that of your parish councillors and other villagers, to the forthcoming Wiltshire Best Kept Village Competition for 2020. Several of you have already indicated that you will be entering this year but I thought that an early notification to all potential entrants could be helpful. Note that this email is not the invitation to enter; that will follow in February.

**Even though your village might not have entered the BKVC recently, or even at all, please read on. Neither entering the Competition nor preparing for it need be substantial tasks, nor need they be undertaken by your parish council if you can find other villagers to take them on. Please note also that the Competition is for the best kept village, not for the prettiest village. You might also like to know that over the past 13 years, 124 different villages have entered this Competition, over one half of all those eligible. Some enter every year, others quite often, and a few enter very occasionally. It is not true that the same villages win every time, nor that the “prettiest” villages have an advantage. In the past 15 years, 39 different villages have won at district and/or county level.**

Entry is open to all villages/parishes with a population not exceeding 3500 as stated on Wiltshire Council's database or in Swindon Borough Council's area. Any village with a population that exceeds this figure is welcome to apply to enter if there are reasonable circumstances, such as a large housing estate in the parish that is effectively separate from the historic village and which would not be included in the judging area. A parish council that covers several villages is very welcome to submit separate entries for one or more of those villages (and an individual or group from that village could submit the entry directly), as several have been doing for many years. The main competition is judged in three categories:

Small (population up to 300); Medium (population 301 to 1000); and Large (population 1001 to 3500).

Please note the following:

- There is no cost to enter.
- Prizes of £200 to £30, sponsored by The Hills Group, are available for each of the three village size categories.
- There will also be a prize of £150 for the “Best Newcomer” (open to any village that has not entered the BKVC in the previous 5 years i.e. since 2014).
- There will also be a Merit Prize (also of £150) for the village that does not win a major prize this year but which has entered for every one of the past 5 years and has achieved the best overall results in that period.
- Entries can be by email and/or paper.
- **The work required to prepare entry documents need not take long and can of course be shared amongst parish councillors and other villagers.**
- Separate entry invitations, to enter the Laurence Kitching Award (sponsored by Princeton Homes), will be sent to the six villages who won at County level in the past two years.

Most of those who did well in last year’s BKVC benefitted from engaging some of their village community organisations. In this way the work to prepare was shared by many people, rather than being the responsibility of just a few members of the parish council. The other benefits of course are that preparing for judging can bring your community closer together and even be an enjoyable experience, and that your village will look better as a result of the preparation work of its community.

The timings for this year’s competition are similar to those of recent years:

- The invitation to enter will be sent by late-February.
- The entry deadline is 20<sup>th</sup> April. Late entries can create significant and unfair problems for our panel of volunteer judges, and might have to be rejected.
- Judging for the first (District) round will take place from 11th May to 7th June.
- Judging for the second (County) round and for the Laurence Kitching Award will take place in July.
  - The Presentation Day for the major winners will be on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September.

I do hope that you will decide to enter this very worthwhile competition and I look forward to receiving many entries after I send the invitation next month.

Yours sincerely,

*Mike*

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