

With the introduction of the new criteria the judges feel the number of stops on the tour could be reduced and a little longer spent at others, concentrating on the best of your horticulture. An example is that the tour visited two parks.

The judges saw some very well maintained baskets, planters and beds. However, there was some inconsistency in the standard. The judges appreciate the volume and difficulties with cuts but perhaps this could be addressed by engaging partners or adjusting the route.

### **SECTION B – Environment**

The town was spotless thanks to the efforts of the Wimborne in Bloom volunteers who make a really difference to the environment – it really shows the additional hours you put in

Congratulations on your plastic-free status. It's an initiative you have only recently started and are the 32<sup>nd</sup> in the country to achieve this. The passion of Sarah Wise was infectious. You have several programmes within the town, which are great to see; plastic-free, war on waste, litter pick stations, litter picking and the river cleans. David Emes was inspirational and the increase in volunteers is impressive as was the volume of waste. Boomerang Bags is a lovely idea for 2020.

It was good to see the use of meadows and differential mowing which were clearly defined in some area but perhaps needs an increase in species to maximise diversity in some area and greater definition or a symbol/signage so wildlife areas are clearly recognised. You may need to look at reducing the soil fertility and look at preparation to aid establishment.

It was refreshing to walk through the underpass. Not only was it neat and tidy, but also the mural really lifted the area and gave lots of information about the history of your town, explaining your heritage.

The judges note from the 2018 judges' feedback and the progress update given during the tour you plan to update your interpretation signage. As part of this the judges would recommend including perhaps a heritage trail. You have a fantastic history but other than the mural the judges didn't see anything on the tour. This could be signage but could use modern technology.

The river is a fantastic asset and the clean-up work being undertaken is great but it would be good to see this extended further to include a management plan. Perhaps adjust the tour to visit a more naturalistic area of the river or perhaps develop a project on the Waitrose site.

### **SECTION C – Community**

The judges congratulate you on your exciting and wide range of events and fundraising activities. You have a very full calendar and for a small town your turnover and sustainable fund raising initiatives are excellent.

You have a great relationship with the Business Improvement District, the town council, local businesses and other partners that share similar aims and vision. This means as a town you have a large number of community members that support you.