



## **Caerphilly in Bloom Competition Guidance notes for preliminary judging**

These notes are intended to be helpful to those engaged in the judging of the Caerphilly In Bloom Competition.

### ***First Impressions***

- Does the garden of the property stand out along side its neighbours?
- Is there an outstanding colourful display?
- Are there features of interest or innovation present?

### ***Weed Control - Are weeds present?***

- If present are they pernicious weeds or simply annual weed seedlings.
- Is there evidence of weed control?
- Have mulches been used to suppress weed growth? (Mulches can include compost/peat/gravels)

### ***Colour Co-ordination***

- Is there a clear theme?
- Do the colours chosen contrast and compliment one another?
- Foliage plants used in the garden; do their colour or foliage contrast and complement with other flowering plants?
- Does the colour of planters and pots compliment the colour of the plants used?

### **Condition of Plants and Lawn Areas**

- Are the plants healthy and grown to their full potential?

### ***Is there evidence of watering and feeding?***

- Have flowering plants been deadheaded where necessary?
- Have plants been tided or staked where necessary?
- Have lawns been mown tidily?
- Are moss or weeds present in lawns?

### **Maximum use of Available Spaces**

#### ***Has the entrant made good use of available space?***

- Have flat roofs and windowsills been used to full effect?
- Have other items such as pergolas, wheelbarrows, barrels been used to maximise space and create effect?

## **Additional points to look for when Judging Schools**

***A portfolio must be provided showing evidence of pupil planning and involvement in the following areas:***

- Level of Pupil classroom participation
- Level of Pupil participation on maintenance and setting up projects
- Area projects linked to National curriculum e.g. science, biology, technology and art

## **Wild Life Gardens**

- Has the design been well thought through?
- Dead wood for animals and insects, plants planted to encourage insects
- Is it maintained and not left to its own devices?
- Are there marginal plants if a pond is present?

## **Additional Hints & Tips**

- Remove dead foliage to prevent build up and spread of diseases
- Remove faded flower blooms to encourage new flowers
- Never water foliage of tubs or baskets while in full sun
- Water hanging baskets twice per day during sunny weather
- Always feed hanging baskets at least once per week
- Use old oranges cut in half to trap slugs in your borders

## **Wildlife Allotments:**

- Collect rainwater
- Compost your own waste
- Use artificial nest boxes - Bumblebee, hedgehog, butterfly, ladybird, etc.
- Leave some areas to grow wild
- Create some log piles to provide hibernation sites for wildlife
- Create a wildlife pond (No Fish!)
- The use of native wildflowers
- The use of companion planting
- Alternatives to chemicals - Go Organic!
- The use of native trees and hedgerows - around site boundary
- Use recycled materials - tyres for planters, etc

## **Wildlife Gardens:**

- Collect rainwater
- Compost your own waste
- Use artificial nest boxes - bird, bat, frog and toad, etc.
- Leave some areas to grow wild
- Create some log piles to provide hibernation sites for wildlife
- Create a wildlife pond (No Fish!) and/or a bog garden
- The use of native wildflowers
- Alternatives to chemicals - no slug pellets!
- The use of native trees and hedgerows
- Use recycled materials - tyres for planters, etc