

WEST AREA COMMITTEE – 11 NOVEMBER 2009

Title of paper:	Britain in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards – Local Success	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Hugh White Director of Sport, Leisure and Parks	Wards affected: Aspley, Bilborough and Leen Valley
Contact Officer(s) and contact details:	Eddie Curry Head of Parks and Open Spaces 0115 915 2733 eddie.curry@nottinghamcity.gov.uk Julie Walker Nottingham in Bloom Partnership Manager 0115 915 2745 julie.walker@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Other officers who have provided input:		
Relevant Council Plan theme(s):		
World Class Nottingham		
Work in Nottingham		
Safer Nottingham		
Neighbourhood Nottingham		x
Family Nottingham		
Healthy Nottingham		
Serving Nottingham Better		
Summary of issues:		
<p>This report informs the Committee of the success of local groups in the Royal Horticultural Society's Britain in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards 2009. Councillors are asked to acknowledge the role played by community Bloom initiatives in improving local pride and community spirit as well as enhancing the environment.</p>		
Recommendations:		
1	That the report be noted.	
2	That the efforts of local people to improve their neighbourhoods be commended.	

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Britain in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards is an initiative for small, resident-led communities aiming to achieve long-term improvements to their local area through horticultural, environmental and cleanliness initiatives.
- 1.2 The Awards are non-competitive, welcoming groups taking the first step towards community regeneration. While entries are not judged against each other, they are visited in the summer by environmental and horticultural experts who provide feedback

and advice on how to develop current activities and encourage ongoing improvements. The assessors look for teamwork and community effort, floral displays, good maintenance, environmental quality (i.e. absence of litter, dog fouling, graffiti, fly-posting and weeds) and overall impression.

1.3 Communities who participate report an increased sense of pride in the area, greater community spirit, and cleaner and greener surroundings for a healthier community. Each community receives an Award of Improvement, Merit, or Outstanding Achievement.

1.4 In 2009, 80 groups from Nottingham were assessed (up from just four last year). Amongst them were 21 groups from West Area, who achieved the following awards:

Albert Avenue Alive - Merit

Beechdale Community Centre – Improvement

Beechdale Road Shops Action Group – Improvement

Bells Lane Community Centre Surprise Club and Whizzkidds - Merit

BELSATRA - Improvement

Blooming Strelley - Merit

Bramerton Road Bungalows improvements – Improvement

Cheslyn Drive - Merit

Denewood TRA - Merit

Friends of King George V Park - Merit

Hadden Park School BTEC Group and the Friends of Strelley Recreation Ground - Merit

KAMRA - Merit

Marchwood Close – Improvement

Naburn Court - Merit

New Whitemoor Baptist Church - Merit

New Whitemoor TRA - Merit

Radford Children's Centre - Merit

Sheila Russell Centre – Towle Memorial Garden - Merit

St Stephen's with St Paul's Church and the Vine Community Centre - Outstanding

WATRA - Improvement

Woodvale, Wollaton Vale - Improvement

1.5 In addition, St Stephen's with St Paul's and the Vine gained the top marks across the City and was awarded the title of Best Community Project in the Nottingham in Bloom Garden Competition.

1.6 Two West Area projects - St Stephen's with St Paul's and Blooming Strelley - are amongst several featured on a ten-minute DVD created by Nottingham in Bloom in partnership with East Midlands in Bloom and the Royal Horticultural Society. This will be used regionally and nationally to inspire and encourage other communities to get involved.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

To acknowledge the efforts of local people in improving their neighbourhoods, taking pride in the area, building community spirit and enhancing the reputation of the area.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

None

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)

There is no cost involved in entering the awards. Groups aiming to expand their activities may approach the Area Committee for a contribution towards their efforts.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS AND EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS)

None

6 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

None

7 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

None