



Best Kept Village (BKV) competition 2026

1. Background.

If we go by previous years, about mid-February the Parish Clerk will receive an application form from Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), inviting us to submit our application by mid-April, in readiness for judging for our District in Wiltshire. We came 2nd in our District in 2025. Those who come 1st in their District go forward to be judged for winner of Wiltshire Council.

2. Proposal

Last year the DH&S Community Committee managed the activities together with the Clerk (Kate) and a representative of the PC (Philippa). Be ready to prepare for our submission and implement activities in time for judging.

3. Discussion points

- Are we agreed to enter again in 2026?
- If so, are we agreed to manage it in the same way as before, as above?
- Can we consider funding plants and flowers etc.
- Find ways to better engage with the community on this project, than we did in 2025. Are the village 'tidy ups' enough?
- Assign monitors to oversee sections of the Parish?
- Can we update the PC three notice boards to DH&S. Perhaps a simple new name plaque fixed over the existing CWPC lettering?

5. Further information

However, some of the negative responses from the 2025 Judges related to plants and flowers: *"The Hall is clearly the heart of the community and both it and the surrounding grassed areas were very neat. However, the flower bed to the front we felt would benefit from weeding and some more plants/flowers.*

There were several planters around the village and while some were full of flowers the wall planters by the telephone box and the planter next to the Methodist chapel were empty/neglected". There may be a requirement to purchase some flowers and hanging baskets etc to address this issue.

6. Recommendation.

The Parish Council are asked to consider if they wish to support the 2026 entry, unleash the combined PC & CC working group and progress decisions above.

Cllr Martin Handyside