



HARROGATE AND DISTRICT ALLOTMENT FEDERATION

2023 Harrogate Site Judging

SITE JUDGING

- To take into account the different sizes of sites, the proportion of poor plots to good/satisfactory plots should be used when comparing sites.
- To evidence community links, good communication, good management sites could compile a pack of information for the judges to include, newsletters, copies of policy documents, short resumé of the year etc.

Mark Scheme

Horticulture

These marks are awarded for cultivation and maintenance.

Range and quality of plants across the plots A fully-cultivated site with a full range of crops including vegetables, fruit and flowers; well-cared for, colourful and weed-free will score well. **35 marks**

Maintenance – e.g. maintenance of paths, hedges, fences, structures on plots and on site. A tidy, well-maintained site will score well. **10 marks**

Environmental Responsibility

These marks are awarded for promoting biodiversity and sustainability.

Water Harvesting – the prevalence of water butts etc. to collect rainwater **5 marks**

Composting - evidence of compost bins producing compost (not just rubbish piles) **5 marks**

Managed biodiversity – wildlife habitats, evidence of recycle & reuse **10 marks**

Community Participation

These marks reflect the human involvement and social activity.

Events – on site for plot holders (e.g. BBQs, picnics, working parties) and events open to the local community **5 marks**

Communication – evidence of good communication with plot holders e.g. newsletter, regular emails or means of contacting plot holders without email, noticeboards etc. **5 marks**

Community outreach – links with charity groups, schools etc. **5 marks**

Overall Impression

A well-managed, well-maintained and well-cultivated site will create the best impression and achieve the highest marks. **20 marks**

Overall total 100marks

The judges' form will have a space for them to report **Areas of Achievement** and **Areas for Consideration / Improvement**.

PLOT JUDGING

- Sites will identify their top 2/3 plots as before for the judges to consider for top plot. The judges can consider other plots on the site, but only after they have looked at the plots identified by the site.

Horticulture

Crop Variety and quality of crops **30 marks**

Environment

Compost heap, Water harvesting, biodiversity **20 marks**

Maintenance

State of footpaths, structures, cleanliness (weed-free) **20 marks**

Overall impression **30 marks**

Overall total **100 marks**

Again, judges can identify **Areas of Achievement** and **Areas for Consideration**.

AWARD BOUNDARIES

It was agreed that we will have three awards – gold, silver, bronze with an improvement category.

Gold **80 – 100 marks**

Silver **70 – 79 marks**

Bronze **60 – 69 marks**

Improvement category **below 60 marks**