

PROTECT WILTSHIRE

The CPRE Wiltshire & The Hills Group Best Kept Village Competition 2018

60th YEAR

Sponsored by The Hills Group

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

President: Mrs Sarah Rose Troughton, *HM Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire*

Branch Chairman: Anne Henshaw

Branch Project Officer and BKVC Organiser: Mike Manson

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All Wiltshire Parish Councils (by email)

16 February 2018

Dear Parish Councillors,

I am writing to invite your village to enter the 2018 CPRE Wiltshire & The Hills Group Best Kept Village Competition.

This evergreen competition is designed to foster pride in our beautiful Wiltshire countryside and its unique patchwork quilt of villages and is open to every village in Wiltshire. It also incorporates many of the valuable proposals made by Wiltshire Council, BKVC judges and past participating villages over the years. Please note that entry to the Competition does not necessarily involve a large amount of work and is quite easy if the workload is shared amongst several people and groups.

As usual, the County winners for the previous two years are not eligible for entry to the main competition, but will shortly be invited to enter the **Laurence Kitching Winner of Winners Competition**. They were:

2016	Large – The Winterbournes	Medium – All Cannings	Small – Rushall
2017	Large – Great Bedwyn	Medium – Mildenhall	Small – Tollard Royal

The three main categories in *The Best Kept Village Competition* are:

Large villages with a population of	1,001 or more
Medium villages with a population of	301 to 1,000
Small villages and hamlets with a population of	300 or less

Any village with an official population slightly greater than 3500 which has been a recent entrant into the BKVC should contact the CPRE Wiltshire Project Officer to discuss a possible entry. For example their population might come within the 3500 limit by excluding a large estate that has been built within the parish boundary but which is in many respects a separate conurbation and not an integral part of the original village.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors there are numerous valuable prizes. The many possible rewards include:

- **Best Kept** Large, Medium and Small Village: **£200 cash prize** (plus CPRE standard, Hills and Wiltshire Council plaques and CPRE certificate)
- **Runner Up** Large, Medium and Small Village: **£100 cash prize** (plus CPRE certificate)
- **Third Place** Large, Medium and Small Village: **£60 cash prize** (plus CPRE certificate)
- **Fourth Place** Large, Medium and Small Village: **£30 cash prize** (plus CPRE certificate)
- **Best Newcomer** Village: **£150 cash prize** (plus CPRE certificate) awarded to a village that has not entered in the past 5 years.
- **Merit Certificate: £150 cash prize** (plus CPRE certificate) awarded to a village showing consistent outstanding effort in their preparation

Once again this year we will not automatically be offering short seminars for newcomers or those villages which would like more information on BKVC 2018. This is due to the very low attendance at these seminars in recent years. Instead we have added additional information to the Guidelines (which have been further enhanced this year) and Top Tips included in this invitation pack. However, if you would like to receive such a briefing or if you simply wish to clarify any points, please contact the CPRE Wiltshire office by email or telephone. We will be happy to arrange briefings for one or more villages if there is sufficient demand.

We look forward to receiving your entry form for the Best Kept Village Competition. As in the past there is no charge to enter. This year entries can be sent by either post or electronically but please ensure that all documents sent by e-mail will print out clearly.

The closing date for entering the competition is Friday 20th April 2017.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Henshaw

Anne Henshaw
Branch Chairman

Enclosures:

1. Entry Form
2. Entry Guidelines
3. Top Tips
4. Example of a Village Map
5. Blank Marking Sheet

