



South & South East in Bloom - Parishes 2022

Cliffsend in Bloom

Section A - Community Involvement (40% or 40 points)

The Parish is working towards things such as:

Being inclusive of local people, including Local ownership
 Making a difference to local people & Involving local people in decision-making, communication & implementation
 Representative of the wider local community
 Planning for the future
 Working in partnership with local groups and local organisations (i.e. police, environmental groups etc).
 Working towards access for all.

Total Points Assessed (Out of 40)

25

Section B - Environmental Responsibility (30% or 30 points)

The Parish is engaged in environmental activities such as:

Conserving local habitats & heritage (wildlife, natural landscapes & built environment)
 Home or community composting, Green Recycling
 Creating, maintaining or improving green spaces (Village Greens, parks & pocket parks, verges, woodlands, churchyards etc.).
 The Parish is engaged in addressing environmental issues such as the control of Fly-tipping, Fly-posting, Litter, Graffiti & Dog fouling.

Total Points Assessed (Out of 30)

20

Section C - Gardening/Horticulture/Conservation Achievement (30% or 30 points)

The Parish Council is employing good gardening, horticultural and tree management practices.
 The Parish Council encourages residents to care for their gardens, allotments etc.
 That residential gardens are generally well maintained and mostly enhance the parishes appearance.

Total Points Assessed (Out of 30)

15

GRAND TOTAL POINTS ASSESSED

60

LEVEL ACHIEVED

Silver

Areas of Achievement

The Parish has brought together and is supporting, a growing team of local residents to develop and promote the Cliffsend Parish Council Rewilding Project. They have developed a clear set of goals and objectives to develop ideas and get the whole community involved. Activities range from involving local pre-school children with planting sunflowers for the birds and bees to much longer-term goals involving discussions with Thanet District Council, Kent County Council and the Development Companies bringing hundreds of new homes and residents to the parish. The team of volunteers bring a range of skills to the Project from practical gardening/horticultural knowledge to IT skills. Events and volunteering activities are communicated via the Parish Council website, Facebook and the volunteers and PC members chatting to residents when out on their activities. Recycling was a theme repeated throughout the visit and a way of illustrating the many projects the community are involved with or are planned. Planters made from repurposed old apple crates, have been placed at the end of Primrose and planted with shrubs to encourage insects. The PSCO has worked with the Youth Justice Service to plant and maintain them and other tasks are planned. The Parish try where possible to support local growers when purchasing new plant, shrubs and trees. Old slate tiles are being used for small signs around the village indicating where wildflowers have been planted to improve the habitat for bees, moths and butterflies. A lovely way of letting residents know why an area may appear to have been left 'wild'. The PC are working with KCC and TDC to change the maintenance regime on some verges to allow areas of longer grass and wildflowers to remain until late summer, just maintaining edges more frequently to ensure sightlines for vehicular and pedestrian safety. Bird boxes have been installed and piles of branches left for insect species. In the autumn the PC are going to run classes in the Village Hall showing how bird, bat and hedgehog houses can be made from timber salvaged from old timber pallets. There is no school in Cliffsend but the Wilding Group will be working with the Star Dance Academy based in the village hall to provide craft and wild activities for their summer camp this year. They are also promoting a 'Night under the stars' camping event in the Marjorie Chapman Meadow for younger children who haven't spent a night outside close nature. The Meadow is a central area for many activities but is also carefully maintained with areas of long grass and wildflowers. A new nature trail has been developed through the woodland on the edge of the field and earlier in the year the community held a big clear up removing rubbish and clearing overgrown areas. Litter pickers are handed out to any community member who want to reduce the amount of rubbish on the streets. Many households took part in the 'No mow May' initiative and were surprised to see the amount of wildflowers that appeared in the lawns including orchids. A number of residents had also permanently changed the planting and maintenance in their gardens to encourage more bees, butterflies and insects. Lavender thrives in the local area, and this was a feature in many gardens. Thank you to Beryl for showing me around her garden which had been opened to the village for the Jubilee weekend. Old apple crates had been used for planting a whole variety of plants and vegetables with hanging baskets planted up in red, white and blue decorating the summer house. A range of fruit trees had been planted on the boundary. A fantastic collection of photographs, newspaper cuttings and old postcards had been put along one of the fences to celebrate the rich history of the area and its residents. The PC are working with Orbit Homes on a new development to enhance the wetland habitats that can be formed in the SUDS ponds that have been constructed for water management. Wide verges in the development are being planted with native species to improve the new build landscape. Cliffsend overlooks Pegwell Bay and its location adjoining Sandwich and Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve provides the opportunity to work with other landowners to maintain the landscape for wildlife particularly the Adonis Blue butterfly which is common in the area. The wide path and verge beside the Sandwich Road has been included in future projects from the Jet garage to the Wishing Well near the Viking ship and the planters beside the entrance to field and car park near the ship. A Friday youth group maintains the planter and they have weeded and mulched the bed and lavender is establishing. The adjacent Viking Ship Café has a small garden area beside their outside seating area which is a popular spot for local residents and visitors to visit and possibly a point to show the activities the Rewilding group are involved in and an opportunity to recruit more volunteers. .

Areas for Development

Share knowledge with the many new gardeners in the new housing developments, possibly with simple activities such as seasonal tasks or plant suggestions for attracting wildlife on the Facebook page. If community planters are introduced, this would be an excellent way for some hands-on demonstrations. The maintenance and possible tree planting on land next to the Jet Garage is a future project with a possibility of an art project on the back wall. Litter blown into this corridor from the road is an issue but if more activities take place in the area more volunteers may be found to help with keeping on top of it as they do elsewhere in Cliffsend. With all the activities that are taking place and a group established to deliver the Rewilding Project, it would be useful if one of the volunteers could collect information such as volunteer hours, amount of litter collected, items recycled etc. as this is always useful information if seeking external grant funding for your activities. If the open gardens day is reintroduced next year and there is a good response, then an entry into the main In Bloom competition should certainly be considered.

Results

Level	Description	Points
	Bronze	0 - 35
	Bronze	36 - 52
	Silver	53 - 68
	Silver-Gilt	69 - 85
	Gold	86 - 100