

Blooming North Muskham

After a couple of meetings in October 2025 to find out about East Midlands in Bloom from Jenni Oliver, it was decided at the North Muskham Parish Council Meeting to enter the competition and funds were made available to get us started and as a Parish Councillor that I would take the lead. Our first meeting was held in the backroom of The Muskham Ferry on Wednesday 12th November and I couldn't believe it when 18 eager volunteers attended. We discussed the way forward and we've worked together as a fantastic team which has grown to 24 members. We have had regular meetings in the Ferry, Allotments and Church.

A WhatsApp group was initiated to make engagement much easier. We have also used our village Magazine, Muskham Messenger email and our village Facebook groups to announce events and plans to the whole community.

Muskham Primary School have played an excellent part and many thanks to the Headteacher Mr. Pearson and his staff.

The judges, John Simpson and Caroline Wright, visited on Thursday 2nd July. Andy Willey and I met them in the car park at the Ferry and walked to the Church where the volunteers were assembled. After coffee/tea and cake I did a presentation of the work we had achieved in such a short time. We then started on our tour of the village as outlined in our portfolio ending back at the Ferry for refreshments.

The judges joined us and continued to chat before they bade their farewell.

I was very impressed with the support from so many people in the village who put planters outside their properties to create a fantastic display.

I received a fantastic email from Caroline the next day saying for a first time entry we exceeded their expectations.

We have to wait until the awards ceremony on 23rd September to find out what we've achieved for all of our hard work.

We have already had a meeting about entering next year!