



**RHS Britain in Bloom
UK Finals Marking Sheet 2018**

Name of entry: Kingsbridge	Judging Date: 6 August 2018
Category: Small Town	Judges: Kim Parish & Lesley Jelleyman

Horticultural Achievement	Gold
Environmental Responsibility	Gold
Community Participation	Gold
Overall	Gold

Introduction (*introductory remarks from the judges*):

An excellent portfolio and presentation that covered all the criteria before the judging started. Judging started with a wow; meeting the mayor, Cllr Anne Balkwill, the welcome by town crier Roger Pinder, the enthusiastic Kingsbridge In Bloom team and amazing, welcoming horticultural exhibits on the town square.

The tour didn't just start on a 'wow', but was a continuous stream of highs throughout. The Bloom team, lead by Graham Price, demonstrate exactly what Bloom can achieve in 10 years – you have completely transformed your town. The inspiration and dedication not only of the Bloom team, but the close partnership and support from the town council, local businesses and sponsorship, has made this possible.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Areas of Achievement:

Every element of this section was of gold standard, which is a huge testament to what a community can achieve. It is a credit to your team that you have taken on even more in 2018 by taking over the beds previously planted by South Hams.

It is fantastic to see the support from Cat Saunders from the National Trust, both in hosting propagation workshop with Kingsbridge in Bloom and joining the team to plant the rejuvenated hot bed in Britton's Field.

Your choice plants and their placement was very appropriate and showed your vision for the future and ensuring the schemes remain sustainable for you to continue to manage such a large area. It is difficult to pick particular areas as the judges saw continuous horticultural excellence. Of special note were the flower towers, new hay cart, the raised beds at Britton's Park, and all the planting on the town square and along the estuary.

Areas for Development:

What you have achieved for this season is incredible. You need to ensure that you do not overstretch yourselves. The judges feel that your choice of sustainable planting will ensure

you can continue to maintain the same high standards, particularly having such a large hands-on team that are out working 50 weeks a year, but are just a little concerned that you have such a large workload.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Areas of Achievement:

Another Gold throughout. You have demonstrated that losing local authority funding doesn't mean your environmental quality has to suffer. The judges appreciate how hard this is for groups to achieve as it means lots of fundraising for materials and a huge number of volunteer hours.

The judges commend you for taking on the maintenance of your street furniture: this is no mean feat.

The route was spotless throughout. The judges were impressed that you have retained a daily street cleaner and have regular visits from the street sweeper.

Your local heritage is outstanding with your use of interpretation boards, historic photo exhibition and carefully commissioned sculpture.

The town has continued to develop its art throughout the town and the judges saw many amazing examples. These included the carefully restored hay cart, mosaic murals, schooner and poppies, together with many others.

Areas for Development:

You should be commended on the number of meadow areas you have introduced throughout the town. The judges appreciate what a difficult season 2018 has been for everyone. The judges realise the meadows had gone over a little but feel this is primarily due to them not being watered. We realise how stretched as a group you must have been trying to maintain all your areas, but feel having made the investment into both annual and perennial meadows these should have been watered.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Areas of Achievement:

Gold again! The judges have never scored this section so highly. You have an immensely dedicated team who work tirelessly throughout the year and through the entire town.

As a team you have taken on even more for 2018 to ensure your town has quality horticultural displays and isn't reliant on others, which have let you down in the past.

Throughout the tour the judges saw a great number of consistently quality interpretation signs. Your publicity is fantastic and the judges saw great examples of local press coverage, Facebook, your award-winning website and signage. It is great to have this recorded every year in a scrapbook.

This has all been made possible through the fundraising you undertake and support of the council, businesses, sponsors and residents. The judges were impressed at the sponsorship of the new meadows from your Tesco store and hope they continue to fund them.

Areas for Development:

The judges appreciate the teacher at Kingsbridge Community Primary School taking time out of her holiday to come into the school to meet us, but were disappointed not to have met any children. It is the school holidays but with a school of 500 pupils the judges feel if should

have been possible to have some children to talk to about the work they do. Should this really prove too difficult, there are alternative ways to see the children. For example, recording them talking to the judges and then playing it on the day. Children from the town could have also met judges at other locations.

It would be great if the Co-op in Kingsbridge could emulate the support the judges have seen at other towns, and perhaps this could help fund the watering of the meadow beds.