

Cumbria in Bloom Town Centre 2014

Name of entry: Silloth Town Centre		Judging Date: 15 th July 2014	
<p>Summary (<i>judges to summarise overall entry</i>): Judges: Alan Heath & Ali Gordon Bill Jefferson, Owen the chair of the friends of Silloth Green and Ken the Groundsman were welcoming and informative, The well prepared portfolio his good aid to judges.</p> <p>Silloth on Solway is a holiday town that is re vitalising itself through care of its heritage and upgrading the facilities to meet current needs. Wide cobbled streets and grand Victorian properties are flanked by the 45 acre green which is a Mecca for family holiday entertainment. National Lottery Grants and hard work from the many community groups have restored and enhanced the visual and leisure features on the green. Looking out over the Solway Firth to Scotland's mountains creates a place for a peaceful holiday.</p>			
SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement			
Assessing year-round horticultural achievement including conservation and natural areas.			
		MAX	ACT.
A1.	Overall Impact – design, layout, use of plants, special features, general presentation	20	18
A2.	Horticulture – cultivation and maintenance of horticultural features, quality of plants, sustainability, new plantings.	15	12
A3.	Business Areas and Premises – retail and shopping areas, leisure sites, transport terminals, car parks, pubs, post offices, tourist areas/attractions, offices, estate agents etc.	15	12
A4.	Open Spaces – town squares, verges and open public spaces	10	8
TOTAL POINTS AWARDED FOR SECTION A 30% of maximum points		60	50
<p>Areas of Achievement: Criffel Street trees have been retained and are cared for. Residents' gardens form the green landscape in the town area. The green is in magnificent condition with planting and maintaining areas of shrubs and floral planters to suit the town style. A new broad beige coloured path sets a boundary and provides for wheelchair use. A new community garden is constructed on one corner of the green with planting by school children and community groups. Stag support tourism in Silloth group, Friends of the Green and Silloth Town Council must be congratulated for their forward thinking and achievements.</p>			
<p>Areas for Improvement: The sunken garden presents a challenge. Many types of roses suffer badly from the salt air. Research the types of roses that will do well in this location or look for different plants.</p> <p>We saw some untidy areas within the town. Try to consult with the land owners to make improvements.</p>			

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

Assessing year-round activities improving environmental responsibility.

		MAX	ACT.
B1.	Resource management – recycling, minimising demand placed on natural resources and any harmful impact on the environment	15	9
B2.	Local heritage –management and development of local heritage and/or identity, inclusive of natural heritage	15	14
B3.	Local environmental quality – management of vacant premises and plots, litter, graffiti, fly-posting, dog fouling etc.	20	16
B4.	Pride of place – management of street furniture, signage, art in the landscape and hard landscaping, appearance of shops and buildings.	20	16
TOTAL POINTS AWARDED FOR SECTION B 35% of maximum points		70	55

Areas of Achievement: The streets are clean. Good evidence of working with community groups and schools.

Street furniture and signs are all in good condition and it is impressive to note that they are of a period style for the town. Building fronts are painted and clean. The enforcement officer is attending to any unattended property. The green, streets, and property forms the hard heritage and the community centre has a museum section. Restoration of the Victorian pagoda gives great views in the dry.

Areas for Improvement: Try to explain the recycling scheme. Continue to work with the Schools and community groups.

SECTION C – Community Involvement

Assessing year-round business community participation

		MAX	ACT.
C1.	Development - development and sustainability of the local initiatives and evidence of on-going projects.	25	23
C2.	Business participation –representative of the town centres size and diversity	25	19
C3.	Year-round involvement –evidence of year-round activity /leisure/entertain,	10	9
C4.	Funding and Support – initiatives to secure on-going support	10	9
TOTAL POINTS AWARDED FOR SECTION C 35% of maximum points		70	60
<p>Areas of Achievement: Projects of new features and restoration are numerous and impressive. To mention the Edwardian Toilets, New water play park, woodland play area, the new community garden and interpretation of the green’s heritage. Volunteers organise annual events The Carnival, Santa Dash, Kite festival and many more regular activities to bring thousands of visitors to Silloth. Congratulate the Friends of Silloth Green for their ongoing fundraising for the upkeep of the green.</p>			
<p>Areas for Improvement: Continue to keep the interest of volunteers and community groups.</p>			
GRAND TOTAL POINTS AWARDED		200 (max.)	165
AWARD ACHIEVED		Silver Gilt	