

 **RHS It’s Your Neighbourhood**

 **Assessment Form 2018**

**Entry Name: Allotments - Leominster**

**Assessors: David and Lesley Pritchard Date: 3rd. July 2021**

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| **Introduction:**The allotments are situated in a pleasant rural setting on the outskirts of thetown. The majority of the plots are well maintained and there is an effective management structure which ensures good maintenance. A detailed portfolio helped with our assessment as it gave clear evidence of achievement and progress matched to the criteria on the assessment form. |
| ***Section A - Community Participation*** *(40% or 40 points)* |
| *The group is working towards things such as:**Being inclusive of local people**Local ownership and direction**Making a difference to local people**Involving local people with planning, decision-making, communication & implementation**Representative of the local community**Getting support (e.g. from local council, grant aid, sponsorship, in-kind aid etc.)**Planning for the future**Working in partnership with other organisations (i.e. police, community support officers, environmental groups etc.)* |
| *Total points assessed for Section A (out of 40)* | *31* |
| ***Section B - Environmental Responsibility*** *(30% or 30 points)* |
| *The group is engaged in environmental activities such as:**Conservation (e.g. resources, heritage, wildlife, built environment)**Composting**Recycling**Creating, maintaining or improving green space**Sharing knowledge and skills**The group is engaged in addressing environmental issues such as:**Fly-tipping**Fly-posting**Litter**Graffiti**Dog fouling* |
| *Total points assessed for Section B (out of 30)* | *18* |
| ***Section C- Gardening Achievement*** *(30% or 30 points)* |
| *The group is employing good gardening practices appropriate to the area, such as:**good plant choice**Good maintenance, presentation and management**Creativity**Innovation**Overcoming site difficulties**Enhancing the area through gardening* |
| *Total points assessed for Section C (out of 30)* | *17* |
| ***GRAND TOTAL POINTS ASSESSED*** |  **66** |
| ***Level achieved*** | **ADVANCING**  |
| ***Areas of achievement.*** **Community participation.*** Detailed records maintained and shared with plotholders including minutes of committee meetings and information updates.
* Well established links with local town council and Leominster in Bloom.
* Community shed with a kitchen, first aid equipment and a beautifully maintained community area which will provide a focus for allotment events.
* Inexperienced plotholders can be mentored and given friendly, helpful advice.
* Useful and informative website established for the allotment.

**Environmental responsibility.*** Rainwater butts on the majority of plots.
* Strong emphasis on encouraging organic gardening.
* Imaginative use of sheep fleece to deter slugs and other unwanted creatures.
* Composting carried out discreetly on many of the plots.
* Good variety of crops and flowers which support companion planting.

**Gardening Achievement*** Excellent quality produce noted on most plots.
* Small, manageable allotment strips and starter plots available.
* Wise choice of dwarf stock fruit trees to prevent overshading of other growing areas.
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| ***Areas for development:***The last 18 months have been particularly challenging for us all, and it is to your credit that you have not only maintained the site but have continued to seek ways in which to improve it. The areas for development identified below, arose from our discussions during the visit.* Continue the difficult task of ensuring that all plots are fully utilised especially as there is a waiting list.
* Continue to persuade all plotholders to follow your example and garden organically and make maximum use of rainwater butts rather than mains water.
* Encourage efforts to include more bat and bird boxes and bug hotels across the site.
* Follow through the plans to install a large notice board on the community shed.
* Consider whether to set out a (sponsored?) flower arrangement near the entrance gate.
* Introduce the excellent plans for encouraging veterans to visit the site enabling them to maintain social links.
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**Results**

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| **Level** | **Description** | **Points** |
| Level 1 | Establishing | 0-35 |
| Level 2 | Improving | 36-52 |
| Level 3  | Advancing | 53-68 |
| Level 4  | Thriving | 69-85 |
| Level 5  | Outstanding | 86-100 |