



RHS It's Your Neighbourhood



Entry Name: Ginhall Allotments Leominster

Assessors: David & Lesley Pritchard

Date: 8th July 2023

Introduction: <i>Ginhall allotments – no gin but quite a tonic! There is no requirement for IYN entrants to provide a portfolio of evidence but if they do, and if it is as superb as the one presented here, it is such a positive aid in carrying out an assessment. The portfolio addresses not only the three sections identified on the marking sheet, but it also provides evidence of progression throughout the year. Photographs taken of most of the plots early in the year could be compared with how they look now, in July. This is an excellently documented record of achievement of which plot holders can be proud. The portfolio also records details of management meetings where issues, such as those arising from previous assessments, can be discussed and acted upon. Please ensure all this information is communicated, either on paper or digitally, to everyone concerned.</i>	
Section A - Community Participation (40% or 40 points)	
<i>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.)</i>	
<i>Total points assessed for Section A (out of 40)</i>	34
Section B - Environmental Responsibility (30% or 30 points)	
<i>The group is engaged in environmental activities such as: Conservation (e.g. resources, heritage, wildlife, built environment) Composting Recycling</i>	

<p><i>Creating, maintaining or improving green space</i> <i>Sharing knowledge and skills</i></p> <p><i>The group is engaged in addressing environmental issues such as:</i> <i>Fly-tipping</i> <i>Fly-posting</i> <i>Litter</i> <i>Graffiti</i> <i>Dog fouling</i></p>	
<i>Total points assessed for Section B (out of 30)</i>	23
Section C- Gardening Achievement (30% or 30 points)	
<p><i>The group is employing good gardening practices appropriate to the area, such as:</i> <i>good plant choice</i> <i>Good maintenance, presentation and management</i> <i>Creativity</i> <i>Innovation</i> <i>Overcoming site difficulties</i> <i>Enhancing the area through gardening</i></p>	
<i>Total points assessed for Section C (out of 30)</i>	21
GRAND TOTAL POINTS ASSESSED	78
LEVEL ACHIEVED	THRIVING
<p>Areas of achievement:</p> <p>Community participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Evidence from the portfolio and from discussions on site indicate the strength of site communication.</i> • <i>Improvements to the communal area are an Important reminder of the social dimension to an allotment site.</i> • <i>Productive and cordial links with Leominster in Bloom and the local council are evident.</i> • <i>A range of helpful initiatives such as plant swapping, support for plot holders and for veterans.</i> <p>Environmental responsibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Many of the plots contain a diversity of fruit and vegetables. Plots also feature flowers which encourage pollination - and look nice!</i> • <i>Rainwater butts on most plots and encouragement not to use hosepipes helps to reduce reliance on expensive mains water.</i> • <i>Bird boxes and nesting areas, hedges and the creation of the wildflower area contribute to an environmentally friendly allotment site.</i> • <i>Composting and organic gardening encouraged throughout.</i> <p>Gardening achievement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>High quality of produce grown and clearly thriving through care and attention.</i> • <i>Creation of subplots enable more people to become involved and help to reduce the waiting list. These smaller plots are also excellent for those with limited time or ability to spend on the site.</i> 	

- *Evidence of good preparation such as weed control and soil improvement prior to planting.*
- *Good aftercare of plants through mulching including the use of sheep wool.*

Areas for development:

- *Continue the excellent work in creating the wildlife area so that you can remove the ugly, but up to now necessary, metal fencing and make the area more accessible. Encourage diversity of plants by introducing yellow rattle if unwelcome grasses start to dominate.*
- *Give some thought to introduce some seating areas adjacent to the wildlife area with perhaps some lavender and perfumed climbers close by.*
- *Given the waiting list, continue to pressurise those few who have neglected their plots to either improv, sub-divide, or give them up.*
- *Continue to work with the relevant agencies to identify and if possible, fix the surface water issues at the top of the site.*
- *And, above all, continue to be pro-active in seeking ways in which the site can be developed and improved.*

Results

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