



Parish Council

Allotment Judging

Objective

Central Swindon North Parish Council (CSNPC) Allotment Awards aim to recognize and celebrate the efforts and achievements of allotment holders in three categories: Best Newcomer, Best in Show, and Most Improved. The awards seek to encourage high standards of allotment maintenance, sustainable practices, and community involvement.

To set out rules for judging CSNPC allotments in the interest of transparency and fairness.

The following comments and rules are extracts of recommendations by the RHS relating to the judging of allotments and tailored to suit our locality, allotment locations and varying sizes.

“The primary purpose of an allotment is to provide crops of vegetables, fruit, flowers and culinary herbs for household use and the more completely a plot fulfils this objective the greater should be the credit accorded to it in competition.”

The judges will be mindful that allotments in CSNPC are of varying sizes and make allowances when judging the following criteria.

Judging Categories:

- **Best Newcomer:** Focuses on newcomers' adaptation and initial success.
- **Best in Show:** Highlights maintained overall excellence and exceptional standards.
- **Most Improved:** Rewards significant progress and development over the year.

Scoring System:

Each judging mark will be scored out of 10 points, with a maximum possible score of 40 points per category (50 points for Best in Show). The scores will be tallied, and the allotment with the highest total score in each category will be declared the winner.

Categories and Judging Criteria

1. Best Newcomer

This category is for individuals or groups who have taken on an allotment within the last 12 months.

Judging Marks:

1. **Overall Condition of the Plot (10 points):**

Assessment of cleanliness, weed control, and general upkeep.
Score: 0 (Poor) to 10 (Excellent)

2. **Cultivation of Crops (10 points):**

75% cultivated. Evaluation of the variety, health, and productivity of the crops or produce.
Score: 0 (Poor) to 10 (Excellent)

3. **Adherence to Terms & Conditions (10 points):**

Compliance with allotment site rules, including maintaining pathways, obtaining permission for structures, and staying within permitted sizes.
Score: 0 (Poor) to 10 (Excellent)

4. **Use of Environmentally Friendly Practices (10 points):**

Consideration of composting, water harvesting and other sustainable practices.
Score: 0 (Poor) to 10 (Excellent)

2. Best in Show

This category is for the overall best allotment, showcasing exceptional quality and maintenance.

Judging Marks:

1. **Overall Condition of the Plot (10 points):**

Immaculately presented, full weed management and high aesthetic appeal.
Score: 0 (Poor) to 10 (Excellent)

2. **Quality of the Crops (10 points):**

Diversity, health, and abundance of the crops produced.
Score: 0 (Poor) to 10 (Excellent)

3. **Adherence to Terms and Conditions (10 points):**

Full compliance with allotment site rules, including maintaining pathways, obtaining permission for structures, and staying within permitted sizes.
Score: 0 (Poor) to 10 (Excellent)

4. **Use of Environmentally Friendly Practices (10 points):**

Implementation of eco-friendly gardening methods and sustainable resource use.

Score: 0 (Poor) to 10 (Excellent)

5. **Wildlife Features (10 points):**

Installation of bird boxes, nectar-rich flowers or plants, insect and mammal habitats

Score: 0 (Poor) to 10 (Excellent)

3. Most Improved

This category recognizes the allotment that has shown the most significant improvement over the past year.

Judging Marks:

1. **Overall Condition of the Plot (10 points):**

Improvement in cleanliness, weed control, and general maintenance.

Score: 0 (Poor) to 10 (Excellent)

2. **Plot cultivation (10 points):**

Achieve a minimum of 75% cultivation. Improvement of the variety, health, and productivity of the crops or produce.

Score: 0 (Poor) to 10 (Excellent)

3. **Condition of Structures and adherence to the Terms & Conditions (10 points):**

Enhancements and repairs to sheds, greenhouses, and other structures. Reinstating pathways.

Score: 0 (Poor) to 10 (Excellent)

4. **Effort and Commitment (10 points):**

Demonstrated dedication to improving the allotment, including time and effort invested.

Score: 0 (Poor) to 10 (Excellent)

Judging Timeline:

A well-maintained plot is attended to all year round, weather permitting.

All plots will be looked at during the initial inspection, where a photo is taken, comment made against the condition and score per each criteria given at the point of viewing.

A second communication will be sent as a reminder to tenant's part way through the season.

Final judging will take place in August.

- **Announcement of Competition:** February
- **Initial Inspection:** April/May (for preliminary assessment)
- **Reminder Announcement of Competition:** June
- **Final Judging:** August
- **Award Ceremony:** Early September

Judging Panel:

The judging panel will consist of:

- 2 Councillors
- 2 CSNPC Officers

Awards:

There will be one award per allotment site in each category. The prize for each category will include:

- A small trophy
- 1 x year of free allotment rental