

<b>Overall Impact</b>	<b>Max Points</b>	<b>Actual Points</b>
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Impact – overall impact of horticulture, environmental management & community participation	20	17
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<b>SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement</b>	<b>Max Points</b>	<b>Actual Points</b>
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Assessing year-round horticultural achievement including conservation and natural areas.

Horticultural practice – cultivation and maintenance, quality of plants, sustainability, new planting. -Example: Local Authority or publically owned sites	20	16
Green Spaces – verges, roundabouts, central reservations, parks, country parks and public open spaces	20	17
Residential and Community Gardening – cultivation and maintenance, quality of plants, sustainability, new planting. Example: residential, communal areas, allotments, public buildings (grounds of churches, schools etc.), car parks	20	18
Business Areas and Premises – cultivation and maintenance, quality of plants, sustainability, new planting. Example: retail and shopping areas, leisure sites, transport terminals, car parks, farms, rural businesses, pubs, post offices, tourist areas/attractions, offices, estate agents etc.	20	18

<b>SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility</b>	<b>Max Points</b>	<b>Actual Points</b>
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Assessing year-round activities improving environmental responsibility.

Local heritage –management and development of local heritage and/or identity, inclusive of natural heritage	10	7
Conservation and biodiversity – wildlife areas, natural habitats	10	9
Pride of place – management of street furniture, signage, art in the landscape and hard landscaping	10	9
Resource management – recycling, minimising demand placed on natural resources and any harmful impact on the environment	10	8
Local environmental quality – management of vacant premises and plots, litter, graffiti, fly-posting, dog fouling etc.	10	9

<b>SECTION C – Community Participation</b>	<b>Max Points</b>	<b>Actual Points</b>
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Assessing year-round community participation

Funding and Support – initiatives to secure on-going support for the bloom campaign including local business support, support in kind, voluntary support etc.	10	9
Year-round involvement – schedules of events and supporting evidence of year-round activity (primary evidence to be presented in the portfolio)	10	9

Community participation – community involvement in the “Bloom” initiative	10	9
Communication and education – community awareness and understanding, engagement with schools and young people and/or other community groups, press coverage, publicity materials	10	8
Development and continuity - Development and sustainability of the local bloom initiative and evidence of on-going projects	10	9

<b>Maximum Points Available</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Total Points Awarded</b>	<b>172</b>
<b>Award Nomination</b>	<b>Gold</b>

### Justification & Report

We had a great day that was well managed with an itinerary and portfolio that was emailed in advance. Andrew gave us an informative general introduction to the day at the Town Hall before Sarah and Martin took us on tour where we were introduced to volunteers at every stop. Islington seems to demonstrate a modern sustainable model of local authority working in partnership with many volunteer groups with particular emphasis on ecology, biodiversity volunteering and children's education. The parks and open spaces are well used and popular and consequently show a degree of wear. The antirrhinum and the cosmos in Islington Memorial Garden required dead heading. We were shown evidence of the greening of areas which were previously neglected. These areas are managed and maintained by volunteers with the local authority team undertaking the grass cutting, leaf clearance, litter picking and bin emptying. Having said that, we thought that Arlington Square, although very impressive would be improved by the paths being swept with a stiff broom. We admired the planting and the design of Arlington Square with the compartmentalization of the various uses, such as ball games in one end and the imaginative round beds. Freightliner Farm gave children from an urban environment an opportunity to experience horticulture and agriculture first hand in a most pleasing way and deserves special credit. The Angel BID has also shown initiative by greening up an urban business area with planted bike racks in addition to hanging baskets. We liked the "can do" attitude of the local authority in supporting volunteer initiatives such as the tree pit planting and topiary in Blackstock Triangle Area. Judges should look forward to comparing ecology data from this year and future years from the King Henry's Walk garden and The Ecology Centre. The volunteers that we met were all very eager and keen for their projects to continue and there was evidence shown of future schemes being planned, such as introducing more streets for the tree pit planting and events for Arlington Square. There is a successful imaginative Islington in Bloom campaign with categories which reflect the broad spectrum of entries and due to social media is attracting an increased numbers of participants. The borough was clear of graffiti, dog fouling and nearly all litter. The paths and railings were mainly in good condition and there was informative signage where appropriate. Considering we judged on a Monday without the opportunity for the Borough to prepare fully for our visit, we were satisfied that the standards had been maintained to enable a Gold to be awarded once again.

<b>Results</b>		
<b>Level</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Points</b>
	Certificate	0 - 77
	Bronze	78 - 108
	Silver	109 - 138
	Silver-Gilt	139 - 169
	Gold	170 - 200