

 <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">Urban Marking Sheet</p>	<b>Name of Entry</b>
	<b>Judges</b>
	<b>Date of Assessment</b>

**Category:** BID, Town Centre or City Centre / Urban Community (Indicate appropriate category)

MAXIMUM OF 10 POINTS PER SUB SECTION								Total marks in sections A, B & C	Medal level in sections A, B & C
A Horticulture 40%	A1		A2		A3		A4		
B Environment 30%	B1		B2		B3				
C Community 30%	C1		C2		C3				

<b>Total Score out of 100:</b>	<b>Overall Medal Awarded:</b>
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**Medal Guide: Gold, Excellent 85-100 Points; Silver Gilt, Very Good 75-84 Points; Silver, Good 60-74 Points; Bronze, Satisfactory 50-59 Points. 49 Points and below – certificate of participation.**

*Introduction and Overall Impression: (Please expand space as required to fit judging comments).*

**Judges Feedback Section A – Horticulture:** *(Please expand space as required to fit judging comments).*

**Judges Feedback Section B – Environment:** *(Please expand space as required to fit judging comments).*

**Judges Feedback Section C – Community:** *(Please expand space as required to fit judging comments).*

		<b>10-9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7-6</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>A1</b>	<p><b><u>Overall Impression</u></b></p> <p>Taking account of all relevant factors, how strong is the impact of the entry in creating a memorable impression? Are the designs and materials used appropriate to their locations? Emphasis here is on coordination and overall quality.</p>	High impact with <b>excellent</b> attention to detail delivering the desired results in an appropriate and consistent manner.	Most areas are high impact with <b>very good</b> attention to detail, although a few are inconsistent.	<b>Good</b> overall effect although not always balanced. Some areas make an impact others need to be more vibrant with better design.	Although generally <b>satisfactory</b> , more attention to detail is required in order to increase impact and improve consistency of design.
<b>A2</b>	<p><b><u>Maintenance of Planted Areas</u></b></p> <p>Are the areas within the entry maintained to an appropriate standard, including where applicable: cultivation, weeding, feeding, pruning, grass maintenance, tree management and maintenance? (See B3 for maintenance techniques)</p>	<b>Excellent</b> standards of cultivation. Very consistent throughout. Horticultural maintenance and general care is outstanding.	Standards are <b>very good</b> with few exceptions. Horticultural maintenance is managed very consistently.	Standards of horticultural maintenance are <b>good</b> and fairly consistent. There are a few exceptions where further attention is required.	Standards are generally <b>satisfactory</b> . However, the horticultural maintenance programme requires more attention to detail in some areas.
<b>A3</b>	<p><b><u>Seasonal and Purposeful Displays</u></b></p> <p>Are plants used to enhance the visitor experience, celebrate seasonal or local annual events, or deliver specific benefits such as increasing footfall or reducing crime, etc.</p>	<b>Excellent</b> use of plants to enhance the visitor experience, celebrate events, or deliver other specific benefits.	<b>Very good</b> use of plants to enhance the visitor experience, celebrate events, or deliver other specific benefits.	<b>Good</b> use of plants to enhance the visitor experience, celebrate events, or deliver other specific benefits, but further improvements could be made.	<b>Satisfactory</b> use of plants to enhance the visitor experience, celebrate events, or deliver other specific benefits, but significant improvements could be made.
<b>A4</b>	<p><b><u>Plant Selection and Quality</u></b></p> <p>Are the plants or trees, used in the planting schemes, suited to their growing conditions, locations and purposes? Where there is a lack of green space, consider how alternatives are used, e.g. planters, pocket parks or shop front displays. Is there a diverse range of plant-species?</p>	<b>Excellent</b> plant selection with extensive year-round interest, and almost no exceptions. Plant quality is <b>excellent</b> , plants are very healthy, vigorous	Plant selection is <b>very good</b> overall with only a few exceptions and ample year-round interest. Plant quality is <b>very good</b> , plants are mostly healthy and	Plant selection is generally <b>good</b> , but there is room for improvement in some areas in order to extend year-round interest. Plant quality and health is generally <b>good</b> , but	Plant selection is generally <b>satisfactory</b> , however it requires further consideration in order to extend the season and maintain interest. Plant quality and health is generally

	<p>Is there year-round interest, where appropriate? Are the plants or trees vibrant and grown to their full potential? Are they generally free of pests and diseases?</p>	<p>and grown to their full potential.</p>	<p>vigorous, with only a few exceptions.</p>	<p>not always consistent. Lack of vigour in some areas.</p>	<p><b>satisfactory</b>, but could be improved.</p>
		<b>10-9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7-6</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>B1</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Local Identity</u></b></p> <p>Is there a sense of place, with appropriate acknowledgement of local heritage (including natural heritage and biodiversity) and its relevance for the community, businesses and visitors; e.g. art in the landscape, signage, interpretation, etc. Consider the pride taken in hard landscape (including streets), open spaces, street furniture maintenance, etc. To include cleanliness, absence of litter, graffiti vandalism, flyposting/temporary signage, chewing gum, and effective dog fouling control measures.</p>	<p>Extensive evidence of efforts to highlight/enhance local identity. An <b>excellent</b> impression made about what makes the area unique. Street furniture including litterbins and seating is in excellent condition.</p>	<p>Considerable evidence of efforts to highlight/enhance local identity. A <b>very good</b> impression made about what makes the area unique. Street furniture including litterbins and seating is in very good condition.</p>	<p>Some evidence of efforts to highlight/enhance local identity. A <b>good</b> impression made about what makes the area unique. Street furniture including litterbins and seating is in good condition.</p>	<p>Little evidence of efforts to highlight/enhance local identity. A <b>satisfactory</b> impression made about what makes the area unique. Street furniture including litterbins and seating is in variable condition.</p>
<b>B2</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Natural and Built Environment</u></b></p> <p>Is there an understanding of what biodiversity means locally? Is nature being considered in all activities? What has been done to assess the effectiveness of any interventions? E.g. through surveys. Consider management and maintenance of commercial and residential stock, vacant properties and plots, building and development controls including the appropriate screening and associated interim enhancements of development sites.</p>	<p>Nature is considered across all activities. Extensive effort to assess the impact of interventions.  The built environment is managed to an <b>excellent</b> standard, with high quality controls on existing and future developments in place.</p>	<p>Nature is considered across most activities. Considerable effort to assess the impact of interventions.  The built environment is managed to a <b>very good</b> standard with adequate controls of existing and future development sites in place.</p>	<p>Nature is considered across some activities. Some effort to assess the impact of interventions.  The built environment is managed to a <b>good</b> standard with reasonable attempts at control of existing and future development sites in place.</p>	<p>Nature is considered across very few activities. Little effort to assess the impact of interventions.  The built environment is managed to a generally <b>satisfactory</b> standard, concerns that measures are not in place to manage existing and future developments.</p>

<b>B3</b>	<p><b><u>Environmental Management</u></b></p> <p>Have steps been taken to employ sustainable or ecological gardening practices? E.g. Avoiding chemicals like pesticides and using other biological and physical controls like hand weeding or companion planting. Eliminating the use of peat, implementing solutions like composting, reducing the use of plastics and recycling those used. Taking measures to minimise the use of water.</p> <p>Where local environmental issues have been identified, have plants or greening solutions been considered, e.g. as rain gardens, green roofs/walls, or as barriers for pollution?</p>	<p><b>Excellent</b> evidence of sustainable gardening practices, including the conservation of resources and minimising negative impacts.</p> <p>Extensive use of plants or greening solutions to address local environmental issues.</p>	<p><b>Very good</b> evidence of sustainable gardening practices, including the conservation of resources and minimising negative impacts.</p> <p>Considerable use of plants or greening solutions to address local environmental issues.</p>	<p><b>Good</b> evidence of sustainable gardening practices, including the conservation of resources and minimising negative impacts.</p> <p>Some use of plants or greening solutions to address local environmental issues.</p>	<p><b>Satisfactory</b> evidence of effort to garden sustainably, conserve resource and minimise negative impacts.</p> <p>Little use of plants or greening solutions to address local environmental issues.</p>
		<b>10-9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7-6</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>C1</b>	<p><b><u>Year Round Activity and Future Commitment</u></b></p> <p>Documented evidence of forward planning and year-round activities, initiatives or events. Highlighting where these activities are adding value and benefiting the people and /or businesses in the area (e.g. economic impact, visitor numbers, civic pride etc.) and demonstrating the strengths or uniqueness of the entry.</p>	<p><b>Excellent</b> evidence of activities taking place throughout the year and of advanced planning. The annual programme of activities is exceptional.</p>	<p><b>Very good</b> evidence of activities taking place throughout the year and of advanced planning giving this entry a real strength.</p>	<p><b>Good</b> evidence of activities taking place throughout the year and of advanced planning.</p>	<p><b>Satisfactory</b> evidence of activities taking place throughout the year and of advanced planning, but some areas of improvement needed.</p>
<b>C2</b>	<p><b><u>Communication, Education and Awareness</u></b></p> <p>Use of suitable interpretation, enabling learning and a greater understanding of purpose and environmental importance,</p>	<p><b>Excellent</b> use of signage and interpretation, and evidence of involvement in public awareness and</p>	<p><b>Very good</b> use of signage and interpretation, and evidence of involvement in public awareness and</p>	<p><b>Good</b> use of signage and interpretation, and evidence of involvement in public awareness and</p>	<p><b>Satisfactory</b> use of signage and interpretation, and evidence of involvement in public awareness and</p>

	where applicable. Engagement with schools, young people or other groups. Promotion within the immediate area through local and regional channels. Appropriate communications and media involvement evidenced.	educational programmes. Communications and appropriate media involvement are extremely well evidenced.	educational programmes. Communications and appropriate media involvement are very well evidenced.	educational programmes. Communications and appropriate media involvement are well evidenced. A few missed opportunities.	educational programmes. Limited evidence of communications and appropriate media involvement, there is room for improvement.
<b>C3</b>	<p><b><u>Support and Funding</u></b></p> <p>Has the entry made every effort to be inclusive and engage the support of a wide variety of local groups and organisations? Participation should be representative of the local community.</p> <p>Evidence of fundraising and on-going support from a range of businesses and organisations appropriate to the size of the entry, making it viable and able to continue moving forward. Is there sufficient evaluation and evidence of the impact of various initiatives?</p>	<p>The range of groups and organisations engaged are an <b>excellent</b> representation of the wider community. Excellent levels of the funding to ensure the viability of the entry. Support in all areas is sustainable and outstanding.</p>	<p>The range of groups and organisations engaged are a <b>very good</b> representation of the wider community. Very good levels of funding to ensure the viability of the entry. Support in all areas is very good and will be sustainable over time.</p>	<p>The range of groups and organisations engaged are a <b>good</b> representation of the wider community. Good levels of funding to ensure the viability of the entry. Support in all areas is good and, with effort, will be sustainable over time.</p>	<p>The range of groups and organisations engaged are a <b>satisfactory</b> representation of the wider community. Satisfactory levels of funding to ensure the viability of the entry. Support in all areas is satisfactory and fairly sustainable over time.</p>

**Judges/Entrants notes:**

- The form has expandable sections under overall impression and judges' feedback allowing the judges to provide comprehensive and meaningful comments as much as they deem necessary.
- There is a section under A to assess the use of plant material to celebrate seasonal or local annual events, this may include the use of seasonal planting, baskets, containers or evidence of planting used at Christmas/Easter or other events.
- **Maintenance of Planted Areas:** The maintenance schedule should take account of biodiversity needs through the seasons; these will vary depending upon setting and location.
- **Plant Selection:** Prioritising perennial or pollinator-friendly plants is encouraged where appropriate. If annual bedding is used, groups should carefully consider the provenance and buy from local nurseries that do not use peat, or, if possible, to grow their own.

- **Natural and Built Environment:**

- The use of sustainable practices and materials should be encouraged wherever possible.
- Assessing the effectiveness of interventions is incredibly important and all groups should be encouraged to measure their impact. This can be through a simple survey, or through contributing to a broader citizen science project or national monitoring scheme.

- **Environmental Management:**

- Groups should minimise their use of plastic, choosing alternative materials where possible, and where unavoidable switching to better plastics such as recycled, recyclable or compostable products. Groups should repeatedly re-use items like plant pots and trays.
- Groups are encouraged to identify local environmental issues, and tackle them, using plants. These can be very simple or low-cost interventions, e.g. adding a green roof to a bin store, or planting a hedge to reduce pollution near a main road.

- **These items are applicable to entrants to the ‘Business Improvement District (BID) / Town Centre or City Centre’ category only:**

- The BID/ Town Centre or City Centre category is a “one size fits all” but there needs to be an allowance made within the judging process to take into account the scale of endeavour, for instance some BIDs may be quite small in comparison to a large City Centre. The scale of endeavour takes into account not only the size of the entry but the geographic, and regenerative effect of what has been achieved against what can often be a difficult and challenging baseline.
- Whilst the geographic size of most BIDs can be quite easily defined, the boundaries of Town and City centres are harder to establish. The maximum radius for BID/Town Centre or City Centre shall be 0.5 miles from a self-determined point giving a maximum one mile diameter. The size of the entry will determine the judging period, and shall be no more than 2 hours plus the standard 15 min presentation and press. The entry must determine the exact centre and radius and submit this on a map in their portfolio.
- A larger Town Centre or City Centre entry can include a number of smaller BIDs, and a larger BID entry can also comprise of several smaller BIDs.
- For Business Improvement District (BID) / Town Centre or City Centre entries the presentation and portfolio should include an annual development plan reporting against a baseline, where the entry has come from and how much has been achieved.