

Best Kept Village Competition

To all members of the Parish

Some years ago Stowe-by-Chartley regularly entered the Staffordshire Best Kept Village Competition, but this stopped before COVID. A number of parishioners voiced their opinion that it would be a good exercise to enter again, and with this in mind, a group gathered in the Village Hall on 12 March 2024. This group brought experience from The Church, the Village Hall, The Parish Council, residents with direct knowledge of the Nursery Trade and the Village over many years. In addition, residents with contacts with the Women's Institute sent apologies and expressed a wish to be involved.

Why do it? Stowe-by-Chartley is an attractive village and a lovely place to live. Too often concentration seems to be on negative factors to the detriment of all that is good. The Village needs to be able to focus on these positive parts of life. Working together on a number of projects will bring neighbours together.

Who is providing a lead? The group of individuals who met on 12 March is listed below with e-mail addresses. Each of these is willing to answer questions and will probably attempt to involve you in some way – peripheral or major!

Cllr. Jane Harnett	- cllrharnett@stowe-by-chartley-pc.gov.uk
Jeff Harnett, Treas. Village Hall Com.	
Cath Robinson	- catrob9@sky.com
Sarah Heath	- sara@strawberrygardencentre.com
Russell Heath	- russell@strawberrygardencentre.com
Sylvia Gibson, Parish Clerk	- clerk@stowe-by-chartley-pc.gov.uk
Cllr. Kevin Byrne	- cllrkbyrne@stowe-by-chartley-pc.gov.uk
Cllr. Peter Coote	- cllrpcoote@stowe-by-chartley-pc.gov.uk
Jenny Brown, Church Warden	- mandjb79@gmail.com

It was agreed that as time is short for this year the entry will be restricted to the 30mph area of the Village, but **all** parishioners are invited to join **the Plant Day at the Village Hall on 5 May 2024.**

What will it involve? A large number of factors will be judged including:

Noticeboards	Local Information	Church surrounds
Community buildings	Public Houses	Telephone boxes/seating areas
Seats and benches	Parish Field	Children's Play area
General cleanliness and community effort		

When will it happen? Judges will visit the Village in May and then again in June. The top village in each category of "Large" and "Small" village will progress to the Final. **When we reach** the Final it will be judged in July.

What can you do?

Be **supportive** of the BKVC entry and everyone working towards the win!. **Continue** to keep your property neat, tidy and attractive.

Come to the Village Hall on 5 May 2024 to fill hanging baskets and tubs for your home – a limited number of plants, tubs and compost will be provided. *(We are grateful for financial support promised by Amerton Farm, the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council.)*

Look for advertisements for the BKVC around the Village and agree to display one if asked.