

**09 September 2008**

### **Littlehampton In Bloom campaign celebrates major medal success**

Just days after the end of the Olympics, Littlehampton is celebrating an unprecedented haul of medals - thanks to its blossoming parks and gardens.

Awards may not have been handed out in Beijing for green-fingered genius, but they certainly were at the South and South East In Bloom ceremony at the Hawth in Crawley last Wednesday (3 September).

Littlehampton's In Bloom campaign for 2008 received a well-deserved Silver-Gilt award - an improvement on last year's silver - as well as a clutch of other individual accolades.

In the 'Best Parks' competition, Brookfield Park was awarded a Silver-Gilt and named overall winner of the 'Country Parks' category into which it was entered.

Norfolk Gardens was also awarded a Silver medal in the same competition.

Littlehampton in Bloom is run in partnership by Arun District Council, Littlehampton Town Council, Littlehampton Traders Partnership, Littlehampton Allotment and Leisure Gardens Association and enthusiastic local community members.

The Judges of the South East in Bloom contest, who visited Littlehampton back in July, were extremely complimentary of the town's latest campaign in their assessment.

They were particularly impressed by the visual impact and colour of the new planting throughout the town, the increased amount of commercial involvement and sponsorship of the campaign, and the year-round hard work of the volunteer groups.

Councillor Paul Wotherspoon, Arun's Cabinet Member for the Environment, said: "We are all absolutely delighted that Littlehampton has done so well in the In Bloom contest as it is an annual highlight for the town. We have hardly had a summer this year but the town has still always looked very attractive, drawing compliments from residents and visitors alike.

"A lot of hard work goes into every campaign but we have moved up an extra level this year. I would like to say a massive congratulations and thank you to everyone who contributed to this well-earned success."

He added: "We have always said that we have some of the best parks and greenspaces in the South East here in Arun, and now it's official."

Cllr Alan Gammon, Mayor of Littlehampton, said: “This year the street flora in Littlehampton was particularly spectacular. All through the summer months people have said to me how nice the flowers in Littlehampton look.

“To win the Silver Gilt is a great achievement and reward for the extra mile that those involved had taken. I cannot thank them enough. To receive this award, I hope will be another thing which will make residents and visitors feel proud to say 'Littlehampton is a great place to live and to visit'.”

Special praise and thanks was also given to the local sponsors of the Littlehampton In Bloom campaign - Compass Travel, East Beach Residents Association, FA Holland Funeral care, Going Spare, HMP Ford, ISS Waterers Landscape, Laura Mays Cafe, Littlehampton Allotment and Leisure Gardens Association, Littlehampton Civic Society, and Verdant.

“Without their support and enthusiasm, the campaign would not have been as successful,” said Cllr Wotherspoon. “Thanks to everyone who gave time, money and effort to this cause; I have no doubt that we will come back even stronger and more successful next year.”

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