**HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT**

**VILLAGE OF THE YEAR**

**COMPETITION 2023**

The Village of the Year (VOY) is a well-established competition supporting, encouraging, and celebrating our local communities. VOY aims to recognise and reward the efforts and contributions local communities; organisations and individuals have within their local area.

**Criteria for entering the Village of the Year competition:**

All entries must be received by Hampshire ALC no later than Friday 21st July 16.00hrs.

Entries must include a completed entry form and signed declaration confirming your acceptance of the competition rules. It is beneficial for entries to include evidential supporting information to aid the judging panel in their considerations.

Entries can be submitted by any community body, including, but not limited to parish and town councils.

In addition to an overall winner each year, the judges have a right to award other categories in the competition. All entries, however, will be considered for the VOY title and no definitive categories will be provided at entry stage.

The judging panel reserves the right to amend the categories each year dependant on the entries received, but an award is always given for Village of the Year and Best Small Village. Awards are also given in other categories dependant on the submissions. Examples from the past have included Best Community Event, Best Youth Facility, Community Leader, Best Open Space amongst others.

The judging panel will visit the locality of all entries during August. The date and time for the visit will be formally notified to nominees after the closing date but will take place on one of the following dates, therefore please ensure a local representative is available to meet the judging panel.

Wednesday 2nd August 2023

Thursday 3rd August 2023

Tuesday 15th August 2023

Wednesday 23rd August 2023

Each visit gives entrants the opportunity to show the judging panel around the locality and/or to give further information on their submission.

All entrants will be invited to a presentation evening on **28th September 2023,** hosted by 2022 winners Odiham. A formal invitation will be sent to all entrants once the formal judging has been concluded.

Presentation evenings are always hosted by the previous year’s competition winner. Some entrants will be invited to give a presentation on their entry as examples of best practice.

*(Entry form available on next page)*

**ENTRY FORM**

**HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT**

 **VILLAGE OF THE YEAR 2023**

***Entries will not be accepted without a completed entry form and signed declaration.***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Nominated Village |  |
| Nominated by |  |
| Address |  |
| Email Address |  |
| Telephone  |  |
| **Explain why you are making this nomination:** **Additional Information to support your submission.***(continue on another sheet if required – please mark these clearly)*  |

**Declaration:**

I/We understand that by submitting an entering to the Village of the Year Competition 2023 we are required to have a representative available to meet with the judging panel during August and that should we be fortunate to be announced as the overall winners of the Village of the Year 2023, we will host the presentation evening for the Village of the Year 2024 presentation evening.

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| **Signed:**  |
| **Name:**  | **Date:**  |