

Village of the Year 2009

Judges' Summary

Ringmer

Community Life: Ringmer evidences a vibrant community life. There are neighbourhood and volunteer schemes alongside activities for people with disabilities and other community groups. All new residents are personally welcomed and provided with information. The inclusion of young people is clear and a credit to the village and the young people involved. Special mention must be given to the new surgery.

Special Project: The emphasis on creating play space and infrastructure is an important part of the village plans and to this extent having play equipment which includes people with a disability is very impressive. The investment in play infrastructure across three different village locations is well thought out and planned.

Business: It is clear local businesses contribute greatly to community life and although hidden from direct view it is important to note that the presentation addressed business importance and support. The business sponsorship in regards to sport has led to continued excellence in supporting competitions, testimony to the vibrant business community. The Parish Council is aware of the importance of making Ringmer an attractive proposition for potential businesses.

Sustainability: Tree planting and improving public transport initiatives are worthy of note, as is the commitment to ensure traffic management is enforced to ensure community safety. The safety plan for the village is excellent as is their commitment to affordable housing with the Jubilee Trust being an initiative to ensure affordable housing for young people.

Communications: The website is effective and information is provided to the village through a variety of means. Notice boards and events notification are readily available.

Effectiveness and Quality of Presentation: The presentation was very impressive with an excellent cross section of the whole community. The amount of young people present was a credit to the village and the candid manner in which all spoke was refreshing. The pride and interest people had within their own village was extremely encouraging.

Judges overall individual assessment: Ringmer displayed a consistent and committed approach to all facets which make up a community. The village is tackling difficult issues such as affordable housing and ensuring community sustainability. The village itself is maintained well to ensure its attractiveness and accessibility to all parts of the community. Ringmer is an outstanding village with a genuine and growing community spirit.