



## Thames & Chilterns in Bloom - Parks and Open Spaces Marking sheet

**NAME OF ENTRY:**    **The Leys**

**LOCATION:** **Witney**

**ASSESSORS:**    **Paul Almond & Nigel Bishop**

**DATE:**    **29/07/2021**

**WEATHER CONDITIONS:** **Lovely Sunny Day**

SIZE/TYPE	<i>Pocket Park/garden</i>	<i>Park</i>	<i>Large Park</i>	<i>Country Park</i>	<i>Cemetery</i>	<i>Church Yard</i>	<i>Commercial</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

  

MARKS	<i>Community</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>	<i>Environment</i>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>AWARD</b>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver Gilt</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>	<i>Cert. of Ach.</i>
	<input type="text" value="10"/>	<input type="text" value="9"/>	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="27"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

It was an absolute pleasure to visit The Leys again and see the park full of activity. The judges were impressed by the range of facilities on offer and the standards achieved by the Town Council staff, their contractors Continental Landscapes Ltd and the private concession holder running the Café, Tennis and crazy golf facilities. Well done to all involved.

### AREAS OF ACHIEVEMENT

1. The community involvement throughout the park is a credit to all involved, evidence was plain to see including the major events such as the Witney Feast, and visiting fairs, to the formal and informal sports, to the play area consultation with local children, the churches together tree planting scheme, the school wheel barrow planting competition and the fairtrade plants planted by volunteers.
2. The completed First World War Centenary Memorial has created a beautiful spot for reflection and fitting reminder providing education to commemorate those who lost their lives in the conflict. The poppy and soldier bench is a special feature in the garden.
3. The park was well presented with a high standard of horticultural and grounds maintenance which was appropriate for a Town Park well used by the public.

4. The Arboricultural management is comprehensive with regular proactive inspections/surveys, any identified work recommendations were undertaken with applications made to the Districts Conservation Officer. Judges were impressed with the focus on successional planting and the new avenue of oaks should ensure tree cover is maintained for future generations to enjoy.

5. The park was free from litter and there was a programme of repairs and maintenance of street furniture. The introduction of dual units for litter and recycling was a real improvement and it was noted that this was being well received and used by the public with little or no contamination experienced in the recycling sections of the bins.

#### **AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT**

1. Some areas of paving within the park will need attention to prevent trip hazards, the surface around the new War Memorial, tarmac path in the park outside the golf facility, and main path where the avenue of trees between the fairground site and the sports pitch area is heaving due to tree roots. The levels of the slabs on the entrance to play area needs raising where water puddles following inclement weather.

2. Due to the success and volume of users in the play area, a solution to the exposed matting will need to be addressed, judges note this is already under consideration by the Town Council.

3. Consideration to potential access to the play area by dogs should be considered, perhaps self-closing gates and no dog slabs could be fitted at each entrance?

4. It was noted that there was no regular cricket team using the venue at the moment, such a shame as it is a perfect setting and well maintained square, judges hope the continued effort to develop a resident team will be achieved.

5. The public toilets are an essential public facility for such a busy park and were nice and clean, unfortunately, on the day of judging the interior lights were not working.



## **Parks Category Scoring Matrix**

### For each section individually:

9-10 Gold

7-8 Silver Gilt

5-6 Silver

3-4 Bronze

1-2 Certificate of Achievement

### For overall/total marks:

26-30 Gold

20-25 Silver Gilt

14-19 Silver

8-13 Bronze

0-7 Certificate of Achievement