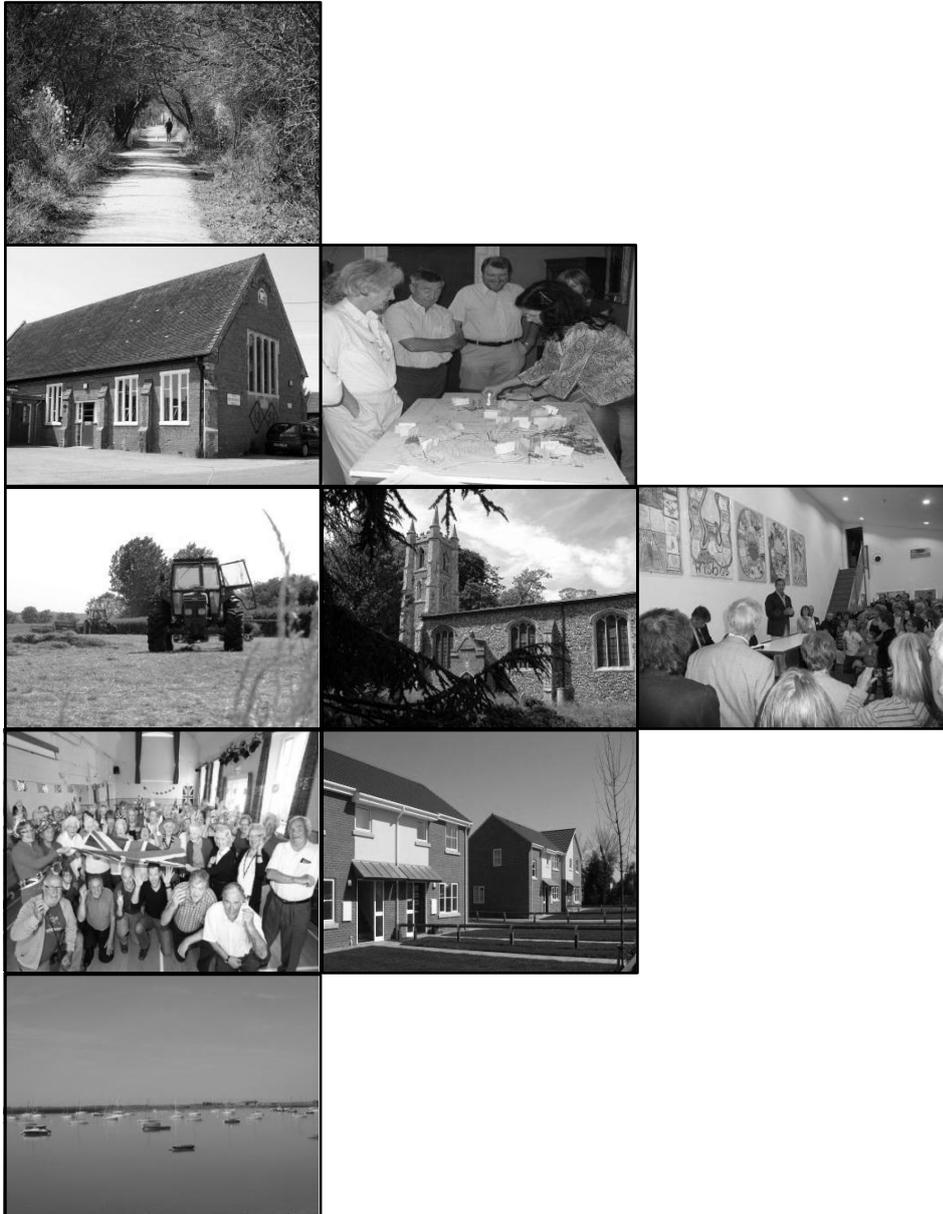


Rural Community Council of Essex

2017 Essex Village of the Year Competition



Entry Guidelines 2017

Enter Online at www.essexrcc.org.uk

Welcome to the 2017 Essex Village of the Year Competition

Essex has a wide variety of villages, where local people are doing great things to strengthen community life. The purpose of the Essex Village of the Year Competition is to celebrate and reward these efforts. This competition has a proud tradition, but last year we refreshed it to give it a clearer purpose. We were delighted with the response, as more villages took part; some for the first time and the standard of entries we received was exceptionally high. We are looking to build on this in 2017 and attract more participants, so with this in mind we have again kept the entry requirements as simple as possible.

How to Enter

Please complete the attached entry form, including the **Village Profile**, which consists of a single question.

Please describe in your own words, what makes your village special in no more than 500 words. There are no other questions and no need for you to supply any additional information, documentation or photos. A map of the village is NOT required.

In completing the profile, please briefly tell us about the organisations, activities and events that contribute most to community life in your village today. Please do not feel you must cover all of the following, but points you might want to consider include:

- How is a sense of community achieved?
- Do you hold annual village events?
- Is there a good mix of local clubs and groups?
- Do you have local businesses that support community activities like youth sports teams?
- Do volunteers help care for the local environment?
- Is the community involved in running any local services – e.g. community shop, pub or transport scheme?
- Do you have a community magazine or website?
- Are there any new community initiatives in progress?

We will make allowances for the size of villages and accept that in smaller communities activities will be shared with neighbouring villages. Please also give thought to who completes the entry, someone who knows the community well can often provide valuable insight into community activity.

Submitting Your Entry

Entries can be made either on line or by post. If submitting your entry on line, all documentation can be accessed by visiting the RCCE website www.essexrcc.org.uk . Entries can be sent to enquiries@essexrcc.org.uk

If submitting your entry by post, please send the completed entry form to Sara Ward, Rural Community Council of Essex, Threshelfords Business Park, Inworth Road, Feering, Essex CO5 9SE.

The deadline for entries is **Friday 7th April 2017**.

For further information please contact Sara Ward on 01376 574330 or email enquiries@essexrcc.org.uk

The Judging Process

Judging will be based around each village's Profile and will focus on the following themes:

Community Facilities and Activities

Businesses and Services

Environment and Sustainability

Community Information

New Initiatives and Future Plans.

All entries will be reviewed by RCCE and villages will be selected for 1st round judging

1st Round – all villages selected for the 1st round will receive a visit from our volunteer judges. (see note 1)

The marks and feedback from the 1st round visits will then be reviewed by RCCE and a shortlist of villages selected for the final round of judging. (See note 2)

Final Round – the judging process for the final round will be the same as for the 1st round, except all finalists will be visited by the same team of judges on one day.

Prizes

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsor - Essex & Suffolk Water, we are able to offer the following prizes:

1st Prize: £500 and the Essex & Suffolk Water Shield.

2nd Prize: £200

3rd Prize: £150

Thanks to the generosity of our new sponsor - Inkpen Downie (a Colchester based chartered practice consisting of Architects and Interior Designers), there will also be 5 class winners receiving £150 each. These will be based on different population categories:

Class I 4000 and above

Class II 2,000 to 3999

Class III 700 to 1999

Class IV 400 to 699

Class V less than 400.

(Note 1. The judges will arrange (through the named contact for each entrant) a suitable time for their visit, when they will meet with representatives of the community (we suggest a minimum of 2, maximum of 4 people). The community representatives will answer questions and show the judges key points of interest in the village relevant to the competition themes. It is expected that the judges' visit will be 1 – 1 ½ hours maximum).

(Note 2. The marks and feedback from the 1st round visits will then be reviewed by a panel and a shortlist of villages selected for the final round of judging.)