

RHS Britain in Bloom Judging Takes Place in Romford

Romford Business Improvement District (BID) met judges Kim Parish and Lee-Anne Bone from the RHS Britain in Bloom Awards on Thursday, 27 July, to show them around the town and demonstrate how floral and wildlife creations installed throughout Romford have greatly revitalised and enhanced the town.

The town looked its absolute best on Thursday following the arrangement of a town-wide litter pick up a day before the judging. This was the first pick-up arranged by the BID, and it was well attended, and the sun shone on the volunteers all day.

Thanks also go to the Street Cleansing team of Havering Council led by Deborah Ferry, who put in extra shifts to ensure that the town was looking at its best.

The BID has transformed numerous areas within the town with hanging baskets, planters, raised beds, community gardens and living walls encouraging sustainability, helping wildlife prosper, and making some areas of the town much more appealing and enticing.

The judges were shown several locations, including North Street and The Brewery, where pocket parks are located, the giant planter by the Golden Lion Pub, the living wall at Romford Station, the hoarding at the World's Inn Pub and the Victoria Road and Romford Shopping Hall planters, to name but a few.

The 2023 RHS Britain in Bloom Awards are the UK's largest community gardening competition – if Romford were to win in their category, it would be an incredible achievement for the town. Romford is a finalist in the BIDS, Town Centres & City Centres category and is up against Darlington BID and Harrogate BID. The winners will be announced at the Awards event on Monday, 23rd October.

This year's acknowledgement follows Romford BID's past successes in Britain in Bloom Awards. In 2022 Romford won two coveted awards - the first award came in the "Business Improvement District of the Year" category, and not only did the BID receive GOLD they were category winners. The second award came in the "Living Wall" category and saw Romford BID recognised with a silver gilt and were category winners.

Julie Frost, Romford BID Director, said, *"It was a tiring day showing the judges all our incredible installations – but I know they were very impressed. Thanks so much to the litter pick-up volunteers – all these little actions make a big impact on how our town looks and is received. Now it is just a waiting game but I know we really deserve this*

award. We've worked tirelessly over the last few years to introduce flowers and wildlife to the town to make Romford brighter and even more beautiful, so it would be great to be recognised for this work by RHS Britain."









Photos by Sandra Rowse