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Dear Carol,

14th December 2017

South & South East in Bloom Competition 2017 and 2018

Beautiful Battle has analysed the Judges' scores, comments and recommendations arising from their review of the Almonry and Battle Town under the SSEiB judging categories. Both Battle Town and the Almonry were awarded a Silver Gilt which is a very good result considering that the judges use RHS standards and the judging scope increases each year. However, Beautiful Battle has received criticism from the judges and, it is understood, from certain BTC councillors who expect gold.

Beautiful Battle Committee members have discussed the judges' scores and comments at their December monthly meeting and created two spreadsheets (attached) to show where points were lost and what the judges expect. The following are the results of the committee's discussions:

- BTC entered both the Almonry and Battle Town, with both being awarded a Silver Gilt.
- The Silver Gilt award is a good result when considering that the judging categories have increased each year. However, BB receives criticism from the SSEiB judges and also from certain counsellors who seemed to expect gold.
- BTC enters the competition but BB has to do the majority of the work and there is virtually no management by BTC of the lead up to the competition or on the day.
- BB is responsible for planting but not just for a single day but for a floral display throughout the year. The SSEiB judging is based on a single day using RHS standards.
- The analysis of the awarded points and the judges' comments shows that the Town missed gold by 29 points and the Almonry by 8. For the Town to win gold, BTC would have to manage a number of issues raised by the judges.

All the BB committee members considered that neither the Town nor the Almonry should be entered for the SSEiB competition next year. However, this is not BB's decision to make as it is for BTC to decide. BB can only make a recommendation. Should the council decide to enter SSEiB 2018 then they will have to decide how to address the issues raised by the judges if they want the town to win gold. In the opinion of the undersigned, it would appear extremely difficult for the town to win gold under the current judging criteria.

Kind Regards,
Alan Gavin
Beautiful Battle