

Community Assessment



	Name of Entry Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station	Medal Awarded Gold
	Judges Amanda Poulson, David Ellis	

Overall Impression

Sowerby Bridge railway station is an impressive example of what can be achieved by a small and dedicated group of volunteers. There is such a variety of small planting and seating areas it would be a pleasure to spend time on this station.

There is an impressive number of attractive planters around the station and on the platforms. There is a long history of gardening at Sowerby Bridge Station starting in 1928 which has been continued by the present Friends Group formed in 2010. There is also a number of small gardens which both encourage wildlife and reduce antisocial behaviour. Watering is carried out with water harvested from the roofs of the station and an adjacent factory.

The Local identity is reinforced by the use of Interpretation boards on the platform fencing giving information about famous people local to Sowerby Bridge and commemorating soldiers from Sowerby Bridge lost in WW1. There are also plaques recognising the sponsors of the planters and giving information about the history of the station and also about the work of the Friends group. The war memorial unusually placed in the station grounds hosts well attended Remembrance service.

The Friends Group has been effective in obtaining funding from a variety of sources, grants from the Ward Forum and Northern Rail and sponsorship for planters and water containers. from local companies.

Gold, Excellent 85-100 Points Silver Gilt, Very Good 75-84 Points Silver, Good 60-74 Points Bronze, Satisfactory 50-59 Points

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider putting an additional planting box under the information sign at the entrance to the station
- Implement plans for a bug hotel
- Continue to consider the practicalities of installing an ornamental telephone box where one previously stood at the entrance to the station, consider how this could be used.

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- Continue with project to reclaim the telephone box bed outside the station.
- Consider ways to involve more volunteers and involve younger people. It was lovely to hear that the local nursery visit. Scouts or D of E volunteers may provide some useful help.
- Implement the plan to pave the desire line in the shrub border between the Memorial Garden and the entrance.