

Overall Impression

The judges were very impressed by the efforts made by the Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station. The platforms and surrounding areas were very well kept with a mix of wooden half barrels and newer composite barrels combined with baskets and planters mounted on the station fences containing attractive displays positioned along the platforms providing a welcoming site for passengers using the station. Enhancing the planters the Friends group have produced information boards about notable citizens and moments from history from the local area which they continue to install as more research is completed.

In the surrounding areas there are several themed attractive gardens with a range of shrubs and perennial planting, including a pollinator border. The charming Bronte garden also houses a memorial to railway workers who were killed in action during the great war.

Bird boxes, insect stations and a bird bath could be seen around the area. Creative installation of water butts on a neighboring businesses' downpipes were noted, as was the start of work to install more water saving devices on the bike shelter. The friend's group are very active within the local community and have an excellent website and Facebook page which is used to inform the community of activities and visits.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The planting on the platforms is extensive and while this is beautiful it takes a lot of maintenance for the small team of volunteers. Replacing some of the bedding plants with perennial plants would reduce the effort it takes to maintain the planters to their current high standard.
- The replica phone box installation has the potential to be an outstanding feature for the station. Adding plants to either side of the image will further enhance the display.
- The Bronte Garden has recently had some clearance work done on it. When considering replacement planting shade tolerant species which are also beneficial to wildlife