



Months of hard work were recognised today at the Anglia in Bloom awards ceremony at Gorleston where all three of the borough's towns and a clutch of West Norfolk villages picked up awards.

Hunstanton was named overall winner in the coastal category and scooped the coveted Gold Award for which it has strived, whilst King's Lynn and Downham Market celebrated receiving Silver Gilt awards. Hunstanton was also nominated for three special awards (Environmental Quality, Grow Your Own and Best Public Open Space – Esplande Gardens); King's Lynn received two special award nominations (Best Commercial Area – Mintlyn Crematorium, Best Public Open Space – The Walks) and Downham Market's The Willows was nominated for the Best Conservation Project special award.

Cllr Elizabeth Watson, Chair of the Hunstanton in Bloom Committee, said: "It's fantastic to have achieved the Gold award and to be named winner of the coastal category. Thanks to everyone's hard work the town really shone this year and we've been able to make long-term improvements that make Hunstanton welcoming and attractive for tourists and residents."

The success of this year's Anglia In Bloom entrants is the result of the combined efforts of the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk, Hunstanton and Downham Market town councils, a host of community groups, and the generous support of local businesses, including sponsors Thaxter's Garden Centre, Snappy Snaps Photography, Fisheye Images, Jessops and Hunter's Land Rover.

As well as creating stunning floral displays, the 'In Bloom' team has worked on a range of community projects, engaging people from a wide-variety of backgrounds in community clean-ups, planting events, front garden competitions, a photography competition and sustainable planting initiatives, all with one aim in mind - making our patch a nicer place to be.

One of the key legacies of the horticultural competition is the innovative Show Garden Scheme. This has resulted in six former show gardens being transplanted in locations around the borough, bringing high-quality horticultural design to West Norfolk residents' doorstep.

Since the Borough Council first entered Hunstanton in the Anglia in Bloom competition in 2005, enthusiasm for the project has grown. Now all three of the borough's towns and three villages are involved in the competition. This year South Wootton and Old Hunstanton both secured Silver and first-time entrants Heacham and Great Ringstead made impressive starts gaining Silver and Bronze awards respectively.

Cllr. Elizabeth Nockolds, Cabinet Member for Sports, Arts and Open Spaces, said: "We are thrilled by the results and thank everyone who has made them possible."

“We are very privileged to have such high-quality public spaces and recognise the important role they play in supporting the well-being of our residents and making the area an attractive place to visit and do business.”

Whilst Anglia in Bloom entrants can raise a glass to their success this year, there's no time for Hunstanton to rest on its laurels, as the town awaits the results of the national round of the horticultural competition, Britain in Bloom, to be announced on 23 September in Torquay.

As the autumn leaves begin to appear and winter lurks around the corner, blooms may not be in the forefront of people's minds, but behind the scenes planning work is underway to help to ensure that next year's 'In Bloom' results are just as rosy.

To find out how your community or business can get involved visit www.westnorfolkinbloom.co.uk.

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