



RHS Community Awards 2021 FAQ – Version 1, Updated 21 December 2020

This document aims to answer the most frequently asked questions, and will be updated as required. Please contact the RHS Communities Team if you need additional information.

Background Information	
Q1.	Why is the RHS running the Community Awards instead of the Britain in Bloom UK Finals in 2021?
Q1A.	We had hoped to run the UK Finals in 2021, but as the year has progressed and the uncertainty around COVID-19 continued, we have come to realise that we cannot safely plan a physical tour when so many things remain unknown. The health and wellbeing of volunteers – judges, groups and their wider communities is of the utmost importance to us.
Q2.	How many groups can enter the Awards?
Q2A.	Each Bloom Region or Nation can nominate up to five groups from their area
Q3.	Are Britain in Bloom 2020 UK Finalists automatically able to enter the 2021 Community Awards?
Q3A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nominations for the Community Awards programme are being organised by the individual Bloom Regions & Nations. • The RHS has recommended that 2020 UK Finalists be encouraged to enter the 2021 scheme, but this is not mandatory. • Your Region can confirm whether you are eligible to enter the Community Awards in 2021.
Q4.	Does it matter which category a group enters Regionally/normally?
Q4A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No, the regular Bloom categories, such as 'town', 'village' etc. will not be taken into account in these Awards. • From our experience of running discretionary awards, we know that groups of any size of background have an equal chance of doing well. • The panel will be looking at the quality of projects and their outcomes, rather than resources available to each group.
Q5.	Is there a deadline for nominations?
Q5A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, we are asking Regions & Nations to inform us of their nominations by the 1st February 2021. • Late nominations will be accepted after this date, but the groups may miss out on some of the initial communications from the RHS • The RHS team will write to each group to confirm their nomination.
Q6.	Will the RHS Community Awards be 100% digital in 2021?
Q6A.	<p>Yes, the 2021 Community Awards will be entirely digital:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrants can submit evidence of their work digitally – in written form, with photos or short videos. • There will be not be a physical seminar, instead entrants will be invited to a virtual event.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The assessment panels will meet virtually to discuss the entries.
Q7.	Why are the categories different to the usual Bloom criteria?
Q7A.	<p>It would not be possible to replicate the Bloom UK Finals digitally and maintain the same standards, and we do not want to simply duplicate the Regional judging in 2021.</p> <p>The Community Awards categories were chosen because they reflect the activities groups have been doing in the last 12 months but also because they have enduring relevance beyond the pandemic.</p>
Entering the Awards & the Categories	
Q8.	How do groups enter the Awards?
Q8A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RHS team will provide participating groups (that have been nominated by their Region) with more information about the Awards. Entrants can upload digital evidence of their work (e.g. text, photos, video) anytime between the beginning of March and the 25 July 2021 Full guidance on how to submit digital evidence will be provided, e.g. format of photos, limitations on word count, etc.
Q9.	Can a group amend their entry online?
Q9A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, entrants can make changes up to the closing date – 25 July 2021. Panels will not view the entries until after this day.
Q10.	How many categories are there and how many can each group enter?
Q10A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are <u>five categories</u>, and <u>each group can enter a maximum of three</u> of them.
Q11.	Do groups have to enter three categories?
Q11A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not at all, a group can choose to enter just one category, two categories or three categories.
Q12.	What are the categories?
Q12A.	<p>Please see the Category Overview Document for more details, but in outline the five categories are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Nourishing Your Community: Growing, sharing and enjoying food can be one the simplest ways to connect with people. This category focuses on how groups are using food growing as a tool to support their communities and bring people together. II. Planting with Purpose: Plants are amazing – they can play an important role in solving everyday problems and improving all of our lives. This category focuses on how Bloom groups are using plants and gardens in creative ways to address specific challenges in their communities.



	<p>III. Nature Friendly Gardening: Every single outdoor space, including the very smallest, can be an important habitat for wildlife; and gardening in a nature-friendly way does not mean compromising on quality. This category recognises the work groups are doing to make the spaces they care for wildlife-friendly.</p> <p>IV. Green Solutions: Plants and trees have many positive impacts on the environment and people’s wellbeing. How we grow and manage local green spaces can have a significant impact on issues like noise and air pollution, heatwaves and flooding, as well as climate change. This category recognises the work that groups are doing to create nature-based solutions to environmental challenges in their community.</p> <p>V. Cultivating Your Community: Community gardening can strengthen communities and help build links between diverse groups of people. This category focuses on how groups are reaching out to include others from their community and enabling more people to enjoy the benefits of growing.</p>
<p>Q13.</p>	<p>Why have you included examples of activity to accompany each category?</p>
<p>Q13A.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The examples of activity are simply illustrations of the type of activities groups <u>could</u> be doing. • They are not an exhaustive list and panellists will not be expecting groups to be carrying out these activities. • Please simply use them as a guide and inspiration for your own unique work.
<p>Eligible Projects & Assessment Process</p>	
<p>Q14.</p>	<p>Are the panels just looking for new or large-scale projects?</p>
<p>Q14A.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No, projects can be of any size or scale. • Groups are welcome to submit ongoing projects or enhancements to existing projects, as well as new ones. • However all projects should be initiated and/or maintained by the group.
<p>Q15.</p>	<p>Should groups seek appropriate permission before commencing a project?</p>
<p>Q15A.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, if your group is undertaking a project that requires landowner permission or other permissions, e.g. from the council, please ensure you obtain appropriate permission before commencing any work. • If you are uncertain what permission might be required, please check with all relevant parties, e.g. landowners or local council.
<p>Q16.</p>	<p>Will the assessment panel take the recent conditions into account when assessing entries?</p>



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Q16A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, the panel will take the pandemic lockdown conditions into account when assessing entries. • The panel will also take extreme weather and other conditions into account when assessing entries.
Q17.	Should the pandemic rules be adhered to at all times?
Q17A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, please do ensure your group follows the latest Government(s) guidance in your area when carrying out your work. • The panels do not expect to see images that flout the social–distancing rules.
Q18.	Who sits on the assessment panels?
Q18A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The panellists are a mixture of Bloom UK Finals Judges, RHS staff and subject experts. • The panellist have helped the RHS develop the categories. • More information on the panel members will be made available in 2021.
Q19.	How will the panels assess the entries?
Q19A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The panellists want to hear the groups' stories. • They will assess the entries against a set of six key questions – please see the Category Overview Document for details. • They will review the evidence submitted by groups in the form of written narrative, photographs or short videos. • The panellists will short-list the entries and deliberate them to agree upon the outstanding ones.
Support for Entrants	
Q20.	What support will be available for the groups entering the Awards?
Q20A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance documents will detail the step-by-step application process. • Resources be available will for groups who want to learn how to take better photographs or create short videos using a mobile phone. • An online event in March will enable groups to ask the assessment panels questions. • The RHS Communities team will also be available to answer questions at any time.
Q21.	Will entrants be able to 'meet the panel' before for submitting their entry?
Q21A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, entrants will be invited to a virtual Q&A event to meet assessment panel members.
Recognition & Celebration	
Q22.	Will every entrant be recognised in some way?
Q22A.	Yes every entrant will be recognised with a certificate in 2021
Q23.	Will there be an overall winner in each category?



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Q23A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The panels will identify outstanding entries for specific recognition in each category, there is likely to be more than one group identified in most categories. • All outstanding entries will be recognised with awards.
Q24.	Will there be a physical awards event in 2021?
Q24A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfortunately not. As we are planning into the unknown, and to be in keeping with the digital nature of the Community Awards, all celebrations will be virtual in 2021. • The RHS will aim to ensure appropriate public profile and recognition for the participating groups and outstanding entries.
Q25.	When will the results be announced?
Q25A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results will be announced at the beginning of September 2021
Q26.	Will our work feature in case studies and news stories?
Q26A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, we hope to feature stories about the entrants in both RHS publications and the press. • Whenever groups submit evidence of their work, they will be asked to confirm that they are happy for it to be used for these purposes.
Further Information	
Q27.	How can I find out more information?
Q27A.	<p>Please direct any queries to the RHS Communities Team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email: communities@rhs.org.uk or Telephone: 07751 5961543