



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE BEST VILLAGE APPLICATION FORM 2018

NAME OF VILLAGE: Weedon Bec

Population (please circle) Under 500 **501 - 3000** 3001 - 6000

The competition will be run with prizes for small, medium & large villages and once again there will be a Newcomers Cup for those villages who have not entered since 2010. One village will be judged to be the overall Northamptonshire Best Village.

Please complete all sections of this entry as they form the overall basis of marking. Please treat it as a 'community audit' of your village. It may assist you in the village's future development.

Please include a sketch map of your village showing important facilities including village hall, sports ground, shops, schools and noticeboards etc.

To help you, it is recommended that you involve as many people from your village as possible. This profile will give the judges a picture of life in your village.

They are looking for evidence of community involvement, pride and initiative.

For any enquiries or to return the form please contact:

Rebecca Breakwell, Northamptonshire ACRE Best Village Competition Co-ordinator at: rebecca.breakwell@northantsacre.org.uk or 01604 825884.

Alternatively, please contact Sarah Clarke on 01604 765888

Northamptonshire ACRE, Hunsbury Hill Centre, Harksome Hill, Northampton, NN4 9QX.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM NO LATER THAN
THURSDAY 15TH MARCH 2018

NOTE: Answers to questions should not exceed 50 words unless otherwise stated. The boxes will expand as you type.

1. VILLAGE LIFE

1 Please list (in not more than 100 words) the type and frequency of regular activities and events that take place in your village including civic, religious, arts, heritage, special interest and action groups etc. E.g. Fetes, festivals and plays.

Please list.

Over 100 groups/activities in 12 months **including 13 new ones (bold)**

More than once a week

Exercise-and-Health: Cross-fit/Aerobics

Sport: Boxing/**Bouldering**/Football

Worship: Church/URC

Weekly:

Exercise-and-Health: Bootcamp/**Pilates**/Slimming World/Wellbeing Counsellor/Human Energy Running/Step-and-Tone

Dancing: **Tap/ballet/modern/DanceSquad**/linedancing

Hobbies: Craft/Art/Bridge/Wood-turning

Musical: Bellringing/**MusicalFun**/Watling Singers/**Special Needs Music**/Bands

Social: Little Ducklings/**FunFridays**/Pub-Quizzes/Little Lambs/Afternoon tea/Coffee Mornings

Sport: Pool/Judo/Karate

Troops: Brownies/Rainbows/Beavers/Cubs/Scouts

Monthly:

Exercise-and-Health: Young-at-Heart

Committees: PC/PCC/WSA/Village Hall

Hobbies: **Artifacts Recovery**/Gun Club/Scrabble/Schnauzer Club/Liked-Minded-Ladies/**BookClub/StoryTime/Visiting theatre groups**

Social: Cinema Club/Men's breakfast/Quiz-Night/Weedon-Woman-Together/Special Needs

Worship: Church Youth/Church Cleaning/Messy Church/MU

	<p>Community Payback</p> <p><u>Annual:</u> 10k-run Art/Village Exhibitions Community Cup Seniors Christmas Shows/Fetes Worship: Christingle/Prayer Week/Remembrance Parade/Carol-singing/Ride-and-Stride/Bible studies</p> <p><u>Ad-hoc:</u> Christmas Tree festival Courses-Flower-arranging/weaving/parenting Fundraisers–quizzes/comedy Meet-the-authors Shows–dog/rat Working parties Patient panel</p>
2	<p>Has your village put on or been involved in any one-off special events in the last 3 years?</p> <p>Beauty-and-the-Beast & Treasure Island pantomimes Community Orchard opening Conservation consultations(2) Depot Open Days Environmental Open Day Fire Church! Girlguiding Divisional Christmas Historic England Heritage Weekend Master Composter Referendum discussion - Chris Heaton-Harris MP Royal Picnic, Clean for the Queen's 90th Seniors Teadance Caribbean and Seaside Weekenders</p> <p>Planning end WW1 commemoration</p>
3	<p>Is the community involved in any regular activities or events with or in adjoining villages? Please give details.</p> <p>Creating village to village walk leaflets with local PCs DDL – opening activity with Flore/Heyford Local first-aid responders St Peter and Paul's Church part of Benefice (Weedon/Everdon/Dodford). Brownies take members from local villages. Brownies move upto Newnham Guides. Football and pub teams play in local leagues</p>

4	<p>How do you welcome new residents into village life? E.g. a welcome pack?</p> <p>Try to meet and greet new resident Welcome pack containing up to date info on village groups, facilities and services delivered to new residents. Currently delivering 5-7 packs a month. Dedicated section on PC website with links to DDC website new resident information pages</p>
5	<p>How do you welcome visitors to your village? In terms of information, facilities, events etc.</p> <p>New local interest walk leaflets highlighting historic info with QR codes Walks and village maps in local hotels/pubs/cafes and tourist offices Local radio correspondent Illustrated map – car-park/along canal/bus-shelters Church open all day Signed village carparking Old telephone box information point Lottery funded visitor centre at Depot (opening April2018)</p>
2. COMMUNITY LIFE	
1	<p>Is there a Community Newsletter/Parish Magazine?</p> <p>If Yes, please give details on frequency (weekly, monthly, quarterly) and circulation (number)</p> <p>Bi-monthly Weedon News (approx. 20 pages) Annual PC Report Door-dropped to all households (1300). Copies available online/local businesses/old telephone box</p> <p>Additional one-off flyers also distributed Weedon News</p> <p>Time-sensitive news: door-dropped plus posters e.g. Mound/MOD update, conservation area consultation. Weekly Mound updates-notice boards and online</p> <p>Questionnaire: assessing recreational needs</p>
2	<p>Are there Public or Parish Notice Boards?</p> <p>If Yes, please say where and how often they are updated</p> <p><u>Public:</u> 10 public boards Old telephone box St Peter and Paul's Church URC Riverside and Church Street Allotments PO Granny's Café</p>

	<p><u>Parish:</u> 2 Glass fronted boards 9 bus shelter boards</p> <p>Boards updated regularly – monitored by designated person. Several private boards Local businesses provide free window space for notices.</p>
3	<p>Does your village have, or have access to any sports and leisure facilities in any other villages?</p> <p><u>Weedon:</u> Football pitch Play area for over 11s 2 enclosed play parks for under 10s Nene Way Circular walks Public footpaths/bridle paths Pocket Park Pokémon and geocaches Boxing, crossfit and bouldering gyms 3 open play areas Pool tables/darts Football and pub teams Village hall/scout hut for fitness classes</p>
4	<p>Does your village have, operate or have access to any kind of community transport or voluntary car scheme?</p> <p>Age UK DACT transport (volunteer-led). Takes elderly and disabled residents to hospital appointments, on organized daytrips and to village events Prescription delivery service Surgery runs free patient pick-up service (Wednesdays) Weekly Morrison's Shopping Trip – organized by local volunteer residents</p>
5	<p>Are there any charities that provide support to the local community? If so, please give brief details, including how they are publicized.</p> <p>Weedon Sports Association – sporting/recreational activities. Advertised website/Facebook Weedon Bec Trust - educational books. Advertised notice boards/newsletter/website Edmund Arnold Charity - Primary School only Weedon Village Hall Weedon Bec Recreational Charity - well-being of villagers Estate Charity of Nathaniel Billing - poor and needy of Weedon</p>

	Weedon Pre-School - Advertised newsletter/website/Facebook
6	<p>Please tick whether your community has carried out in the last 5 years, or is planning to carry out, any of the following (Do not send in copies of these documents at this stage)</p> <p>Village Design Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Housing Needs Survey x Parish Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbourhood Plan <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Housing Needs Survey carried out in 2015.</p> <p>There is little scope for developing a Neighbourhood Plan/Design Statement. During this year DDC will be introducing 3 sizeable Conservation Areas. In the Autumn the Settlements and Countryside Local Plan is scheduled for approval by DDC and will include a village boundary around the built-up areas leaving little scope for additional house building, sport or recreation facilities.</p>
7	<p>Has your parish introduced any crime prevention measures? E.g. Village Special Constable, CCTV, Neighbourhood Watch.</p> <p>Community Speedwatch - residents in conjunction with Police Crime updates - websites/Facebook Exploring speeding reduction Neighbourhood Alerts Neighbourhood Watch Nominated Police liaison representatives-meetings at Police HQ/Crime Commissioner Mobile Vehicle Activated Speed sign purchased by PC – moved around village No cold calling area Village shares PCSO. Researching sponsored PCSO with Flore/Heyford</p>
3. BUSINESS	
1	<p>Do local businesses support community life, beyond offering employment? E.g. sponsorship of local events or village activities.</p> <p>ATMs Click and collect points (myHermes/AmazonLocal) Collection points/sell tickets for events/displaying posters Food donations – foodbank, events Free drinks – emergency services/NHS Hosting courses/events/fundraisers OneStop-Carriers for Cause- school book narrowboat Pharmacy - health programmes Pubs - free meeting rooms Recycling points Raffle/quiz prizes Weedon Football Club -sponsored by 10 local businesses</p>

2	<p>Please summarise what employment opportunities are available for <u>local people</u> including apprenticeships or training.</p> <p><u>Weedon:</u> Employment area : Cavalry Fields (large premises employing 50+ employees), Royal Ordnance Depot (80+ small businesses) Construction Education – pre-school (including NVQs)/nursery/school Service – graphic designs/beauty/garages Agriculture/Horticulture Health – doctors/dentist/pharmacy/gyms Home improvements/boat repairs Hospitality – café/pubs/hotels Parish Council employs three local people/offers tendered contracts Retail – shops/PO</p> <p>Local apprenticeships: Local garages/builders/design firm. Pre-school supports NVQ</p>
3	<p>Are villagers involved in running any of the village services? E.g. Shop, Café, etc.</p> <p>Cemetery maintenance Floodwatch/PathFinder II Football club ‘Side Line Café’ Litter picking Neighbourhood Watch Parish Council PO, pubs, café, hairdressers, barbers, pre-school all owned/run by local people Prescription services Shopping buses/DACT Speedwatch Tree Warden/Path Warden/Highways Warden/Flood Wardens – all volunteers</p>
4. CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE	
1	<p>Does the village have, or have access to, any Crèches, Playgroups or Toddler groups or clubs aimed at pre-school children? Please give details. Are these groups helped or financed by community fund raising?</p> <p><u>Weedon:</u> Diddy Dons – ball skills Fun Fridays Health Visitor Clinic (baby) Little Duckling’s - grants from local fundraising Little Lambs (church funded) Music on Tuesdays Piglets Nursery (private nursery)</p>

	<p>Raising 5s - preschoolers help with school transition School Readiness Health Visitor program Special needs support group Tiny dancers Weedon Bec Pre-School (self-funded)</p>
2	<p>Does the village have any immediately after school clubs/groups for children and young people in the local area? Please give details. Are these clubs/groups helped or financed by community fund raising?</p> <p>Breakfast and After School clubs held at school (run by Weedon Bec Pre-school). Fund raising events include Easter/Christmas fairs, bingo nights, pamper evenings</p> <p>Drama club Fitness club Hotshots basketball club SoccerSkills</p>
3	<p>Do you have any youth groups/clubs in the village, or access to them in nearby villages? E.g. Scouts, Guides, Church, Sports Clubs, etc. Please list.</p> <p><u>Weedon:</u> Dance Weedon: Ballet/Tap/Modern DanceSquad Beavers/Cubs/Scouts Booksmith Story Time Bouldering Boxing Friday afternoon tea Judo/Karate Junior Parish Council Messy Church Rainbows/Brownies School holiday clubs -film making/sport Special Needs Music Group Weedon Church youth group Weedon Junior Football Club – 8 teams under 7s/8s/9s (2 teams in each)/10s/12s</p>
5. OLDER PEOPLE	
1	<p>How are older people involved in village life? E.g. reading in schools, oral history projects, parish council.</p> <p>Organising event to commemorate end WW1 Depot visitors centre – oral history Groups: Craft/Like-Minded-Ladies/Wednesday Art Buddies/Weedon-Women-Together/Mothers</p>

	<p>Union/Coffee mornings/Weedon Art Group/BookClub/Community Orchard/Bridge/Scrabble Investigating village twinning Parish Council/Pocket Park/Weedon Sports Association/Village Hall/PPC - all have older people on committees Reading support at school Run polling station Veterans football team Working parties</p>
2	<p>Are there any village schemes to help older people? E.g. transport, Good Neighbour Scheme etc.</p> <p>2 defibrillators Local buses (direct to Rugby/Daventry/Northampton/DIRFT/Silverstone) Weekly daytime groups/activities: Men's Breakfast/Boxing/Pilates/art/MU/Coffee mornings DACT Local first responders Morrison's shopping trip Pharmacy - prescription collection/delivery, blood pressure checks Surgery - silver award Investors in Carers health programme, voted best surgery in Northants GP referrals - Reach for Health (rehabilitation) gym Young-at-Heart</p>
3	<p>Are there any informal support services for older people in the village? E.g. Neighbourhood schemes.</p> <p>Fish-and-chip van Floodwatch Foodbank/Harvest distribution IT awareness for grandparents (school-led) Licensed scrapman Local information on noticeboards Neighbourhood Watch No Cold Calling area Riverside Court (retirement flat complex) - events for residents/villagers School Christmas Concert at Riverside Court Senior Citizens' Christmas Party Seniors Teadance Thursday coffee and cake Working party days</p>
6. ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY	
1	<p>What environmental / conservation activities goes on in your village? Include any measures to improve the appearance of your village. E.g. Allotments, Pocket Parks, Tree or flower planting.</p>

	<p>63 allotments Badger Rescue Blooming Communities bulb planting event Communal water collection at allotments Community allotment Community Orchard Community Payback Team Direct bus service to DIRFT/Silverstone UTC Environmental Open Day Gateway planters with seasonal flowers (volunteers) Jam Patch Nene north bank, identified site-of-special-interest PathfinderII Pocket Park Wood recycling charity</p>
2	<p>Have you produced any leaflets or maps, guides to support any of these activities?</p> <p>Illustrated village map - main car park/canal towpath/bus-shelters Flora and fauna information board - Pocket Park Bird sightings articles - Newsletter I-Spy leaflet Newsletter/Website/Facebook/Twitter updates New series of walks leaflets using QR codes (6 short and long mixed ability circular walks) Orchard/Jam Patch/foraging information leaflet</p>
3	<p>Does the village have 'tidy up days' or regular litter pick? Please give details of how this is organized and frequency.</p> <p>All invited working party sessions - allotment/pocket park/community orchard/bulb planting Paint means Poo campaign – use of spray paint on dog poo to highlight the mess Parish Council employs two part-time litter pickers. Parish Council organizes regular community litter pick as part of the 'National Community Litter Pick' initiative.</p>
4	<p>Are there any community projects introduced by the village to reduce its 'carbon footprint'? E.g. recycling, energy efficiency or solar energy, or local food schemes.</p> <p>2 clothing banks Community Orchard/Jam Patch - fruit/berries, spoils from cemetery, grass cuttings as mulch Environmental Day JPC – recycling challenge Leftovers from events distributed to homeless Recycling –batteries/glasses/stamps</p>

	<p>Newsletter -promoting recycling School/Church -Daventry Food Bank Spring/Summertime book-exchange Tree-works – chippings-footpaths/branches-seats Village Hall – highly-insulated roof/solar panels Water collection - allotments Weedon Trading Post/Weedon Clothing and Kids Items</p>
7. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	
1	<p>What are your main websites for publicising village information and activities? Please give the addresses. The IT judges will particularly look to see how easy the site is to find, ease of use, comprehensiveness and how up to date the site is kept.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Marked by IT judges only</p> <p>http://www.weedonbec-village.co.uk Parish Council. QR code on posters and in Newsletter to direct readers to Parish Council website</p> <p>http://weedon-fc.co.uk/ Weedon Football Club</p> <p>http://www.weedonbecprimary.co.uk/ Weedon Primary School</p> <p>http://www.weedonsa.btck.co.uk/ Weedon Bec Sports Association</p> <p>http://www.gnwmp.co.uk/ Weedon Bec Doctors Surgery</p> <p>http://weedonbec-villagehall.btck.co.uk/ Weedon Bec Village Hall</p> <p>http://www.stpeterpaul-weedon.btck.co.uk/ St Peter and Paul’s Church</p>
2	<p>How do villagers and community groups use IT and social media (websites, email, blogs, Facebook, Twitter etc) for the benefit of the community? Please describe.</p> <p>Primary School – Facebook/parent email/blog/twitter Neighbourhood Watch - subscriber email</p> <p>Facebook: Activity groups and businesses - update members Nextdoor Weedon Bec Parish Council Weedon Bec Community - local news/info and resident-to-resident communication Weedon Bec Trading Post/Clothing and Kids Stuff - resident-to-resident sales</p> <p>Twitter: Parish Council</p>
8. YOUR VILLAGE	

FINALLY & IMPORTANTLY: Tell us what makes your village a special place for residents, employees and visitors (in not more than 300 words).

Welcoming

- 'Friendly place, everyone always says hello when I am walking.'
- 'I have lived in many places. Weedon for the last three years and this is the place I will remain, it is so welcoming and friendly.'
- 'The community spirit in the village is more than anywhere else'
- 'I came to view a house. I walked afterwards, three separate people all spoke – never happened where I lived before – I bought the house!'

Energetic

- 'Love the daytime activities for older people.'
- 'I don't drive so having exercise and slimming classes on my doorstep is perfect'
- 'I had no idea how much was going on in Weedon.'
- 'How many villages have a gym you can walk to?'

Environment

- 'The countryside is at the end of my road.'
- 'A choice of pubs and cafes'
- 'Looking forward to picking apples in the Community Orchard.'
- 'Nothing better than digging on my allotment on Riverside.'
- 'Chapter House is a really good meeting place, with good facilities and wi-fi.'
- 'Weedon is a gem in the heart of England.'
- 'What more could you want from a village—it has everything.'

Dedicated

- 'Weedon thrives on volunteers.'
- 'Working parties are good, I can help out when I'm not working.'
- 'Parish Council are doing a good job and showed real grit pursuing the MOD.'

Old

- 'I love walking around the Depot'
- 'So glad the Depot is open to the public. Creating gyms in the space is very imaginative.'

Natures

- 'Having mum and toddler groups are really valuable to a new mum'
- 'The school is brilliant'
- 'Weedon Facebook community page, it makes it easier for us to look out for each other.'
- 'Doctors surgery is always winning awards.'
- 'I'm on the JPC, Weedon lets children get involved in decisions.'



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Please return this form to:

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION AND HARD WORK. GOOD LUCK!