



Royal
Horticultural
Society

Teamwork in Bloom

**RHS
IT'S
YOUR
NEIGH
BOUR
HOOD.**

www.rhs.org.uk/itsyourneighbourhood

What is It's Your Neighbourhood?

The Royal Horticultural Society's It's Your Neighbourhood campaign is part of the wider Britain in Bloom initiative, providing an opportunity for smaller community groups to get involved.

It's Your Neighbourhood is a unique scheme for volunteer-led community gardening projects/groups which are focused on cleaning up and greening up their local area, whether that is the estate where they live or the back alley they share or the local community centre's outdoor space.

It's Your Neighbourhood is an inclusive, non-competitive scheme which welcomes projects/groups of all kinds.

How do I get started?

Getting involved is very easy, in fact, you only need 2 things:

1. **A group**
2. **An idea for a project.**

Once you have these things, you are ready to get started!



A unique opportunity for our communities

It's Your Neighbourhood is all about bringing members of the community together to make a positive change to the place they live, work or spend their leisure time.

Groups participating in the campaign are asked to focus on its three core pillars of:

- **Community Participation**
- **Environmental Responsibility**
- **Gardening Achievement**



While participating groups are not judged against each other, they are visited by environmental and horticultural “in Bloom” experts, who provide valuable feedback and helpful advice on how to develop current activities and encourage on-going improvements.

Based on the visit, each community will receive an

RHS certificate of achievement reflecting the extent to which participants have met the It's Your Neighbourhood aims as encompassed in the three core pillars.

There are five levels of achievement in It's Your Neighbourhood: **Establishing, Improving, Developing, Thriving** and **Outstanding** – and groups who have done consistently well over time may be nominated to receive the It's Your Neighbourhood **National Certificate of Distinction**.

Who can enter?



It's Your Neighbourhood is open to groups of all sizes and with a variety of projects, as long as they are focused on cleaning up and greening their local area and as long as they are:

- **A group**
- **Hands on**
- **Involved in community gardening**
- **Representative of the community and/or getting input from the community**
- **Benefitting the community**
- **Volunteer-led**
- **Sustainable over time**
- **Owned by the community and with the community responsible for the work.**

Some examples of It's Your Neighbourhood groups are:

- **A residents' group/association**
- **A "friends of" group**
- **A youth group**
- **An alley gate area.**

Support for participants

All It's Your Neighbourhood groups receive the following support from the RHS:

- A helpful **support pack** (a guide for participants)
- The chance to draw on the experiences of other local communities through a strong Britain in Bloom network
- Access to a network of 3,000 local gardening clubs and horticultural societies offering **support and expertise**
- **Product offers** from selected suppliers
- A quarterly **community gardening review magazine**
- Special access to **expert RHS advisors' individual advice**
- Access to a vast array of **information and helpful tools on the RHS website:**
 - **The Plant Selector** (helping you choose appropriate plants for your area)
 - **The Plant Finder** (everything you need to know about a plant including how to care for it and where to buy it)
 - **Month by Month guide** to what to do in the garden
 - Guide to **organic and sustainable gardening**
 - Guide to **composting**
 - Guide to **wildlife gardening**.

In addition, It's Your Neighbourhood groups have access to valuable support from their region/nation organisers.

More information, including case studies from previous participants, is available on the website on www.rhs.org.uk/itsyourneighbourhood

What are the benefits?

- **Cleaner and greener** surroundings
- Developing a **sense of community** and creating positive interaction between community members
- **Safer** environments for the enjoyment of local people
- **Reduction in anti-social behaviour**
- **Increased civic pride** as local people take ownership of the improvements to the area
- **Positive effect on the local economy** such as increased commercial enterprise
- **Helping the environment** through recycling, energy conservation, reducing litter, improving / adding green spaces and other sustainable practices
- Greater **community contact** / relationship with the local authority.

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IN BLOOM**

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