

**South & South East in Bloom - Its Your Neighbourhood 2018**

**Cobham Community Garden**

**Section A - Community Participation (40% or 40 points)**

The group is working towards things such as:

- Being inclusive of local people
- Local ownership and direction
- Making a difference to local people
- Involving local people with planning, decision-making, communication & implementation
- Representative of the local community
- Getting support (e.g. from local council, grant aid, sponsorship, in-kind aid etc.)
- Planning for the future
- Working in partnership with other organisations (i.e. police, community support officers, environmental groups etc.)

Total Points Assessed (Out of 40)	<b>30</b>
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**Section B - Environmental Responsibility (30% or 30 points)**

The group is engaged in environmental activities such as:

- Conservation (e.g. resources, heritage, wildlife, built environment)
- Composting
- Recycling
- Creating, maintaining or improving green space
- Sharing knowledge and skills

The group is engaged in addressing environmental issues such as:

- Fly-tipping
- Fly-posting
- Litter
- Graffiti
- Dog fouling

Total Points Assessed (Out of 30)	<b>20</b>
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**SECTION C - Gardening Achievement (30% or 30 points)**

The group is employing good gardening practices appropriate to the area, such as:

- good plant choice
- Good maintenance, presentation and management
- Creativity
- Innovation
- Overcoming site difficulties
- Enhancing the area through gardening

Total Points Assessed (Out of 30)	<b>25</b>
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<b>GRAND TOTAL POINTS ASSESSED</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>LEVEL ACHIEVED</b>	<b>Thriving (4)</b>

## Areas of Achievement

A very warm welcome was received from Mark, Jill and Silvia. A Portfolio has been produced showing all their hard work. This is the first time they have entered S & SE in Bloom RHS It's Your Neighbourhood and hope this is the first of many to come. They have been up and running for three years now. They came together through Transition Cobham. It took them two years to get grants and permission and started growing their first crops in 2016. There is an area to the left when you enter the garden called The Ian Gattem Patch. Ian Gattem is from Elmbridge Borough Council and this area is used by the Children's Centre. Children come and learn how to plant and grow various vegetables and flowers. They use the site on a regular basis. There are vegetable beds growing many things like Potatoes, Hunters Butternut Squash, Strawberry beds all looking in immaculate order. They operate a rotation system and use seep hoses on beds. Money was donated from local businesses and helped to start the Fruit Orchard, fruit trees were also donated by other groups. The Woodland Trust donated the hedging which comprises British Native Trees and is now starting to look well established. There is a flower/cut flower area running along the perimeter fence which is also looking good. The local Free School, Cubs and Scout groups are encouraged to come along and enjoy helping out, they made the Bug Hotel. They participate at the local Farmers Market, selling their produce and their homemade Jam. Composting on site is also evident. Their members who help out on a regular basis can obtain information on planting and a chart to let people know what has been done and what needs to be done, sharing their knowledge and skills. This is a well maintained and very well presented site and wonderful place to come along and learn how to grow a variety of different crops. It has a very vibrant feel about the place. They are doing a wonderful job and may it continue.

## Areas for Development

Some permanent signage giving directions from the main road to the Cobham Community Garden. Down pipes and guttering could be fixed to the sheds and more water butts could be installed. The beds could be made longer by reducing the pathway up the middle a little.

<b>Results</b>		
<b>Level</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Points</b>
	Establishing (1)	0 - 35
	Improving (2)	36 - 52
	Advancing (3)	53 - 68
	Thriving (4)	69 - 85
	Outstanding (5)	86 - 100