

# Northamptonshire Village Awards

## 2020 competition

CPRE Northamptonshire will be sponsoring the Awards again in 2020. We asked Elaine O'Leary, Chief Executive of Northants ACRE, to tell our members all about it. Below is the story of the Awards, in her words.



The Northamptonshire Village Awards, sponsored by CPRE Northamptonshire, are a wonderful way for residents to showcase their rural community as well as a chance to audit village life and build for the future. They are an opportunity to tell everyone what you like about your village and what makes it a great place to live. Which is exactly what Glapthorn did who won the 2019 Overall Best Village Award. "We knew that our village is special, so we decided to go for it!" says Parish Secretary, Elizabeth Garnish. "We simply could not believe our success when the results were announced...We are all so proud to see our trophies and certificates on display – fitting tributes to our amazing community spirit".

These awards are open to all villages in the county with a population under 10,000 and any group can enter their village, although it is recommended you have the Council's backing. For the first time, every entrant to the 2020 competition will receive either a Bronze, Silver or Gold award. These will be awarded based upon how well the village does across a range of criteria. The judges will be looking for all aspects of village life ranging from its facilities and amenities, local activities, tidiness and presentation, environment and sustainability and most importantly community spirit! Any group wishing to enter should complete [the application form](#) and can also submit a statement, up to 500 words, saying what you feel is great about your village, examples of the community life going on, why you believe people should move there, the work being done to make the village sustainable and even what is being done to reduce social isolation for your residents.

Groups can apply from now until 28th February 2020 by completing [the application form](#) and returning it to [acre@northantsacre.org.uk](mailto:acre@northantsacre.org.uk) or posting to Northamptonshire ACRE, Hunsbury Hill Centre, Harksome Hill, Northampton, NN4 9QX. Once your application is received, you will be sent more details about the type of things the judges will be looking for when they visit your village. The judges will visit each entrant during April and May to assess them. Once all the judging is complete and the Bronze, Silver and Gold awards decided, the Presentation Awards Evening will take place on Tuesday 14th July 2020 at 7pm at the Hunsbury Hill Centre in Northampton.

So if you are proud of your village and want to share that with others, why not enter? As Elizabeth Garnish from Glapthorn remarked, "The whole process turned out to be

really good fun. The awards have been an inspiration!"

Elaine O'Leary  
Chief Executive  
Northamptonshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England)