

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2026

ASHTON KEYNES

First place with 90 points

We started our walk at the village hall where there is a pre-school, Post Office and Doctors' surgery once a week. An important facility for the villagers. The shop, a community enterprise, is well supported and the benches outside encourage people to sit and enjoy a rest. Another benefit to the community.

Notices in the shop and on noticeboards were clear to read and up to date. The use of the telephone box for organisations to use is an inspiration. On the day it housed an impressive flower display by the WI. The garage area is clean and tidy.

The river Thames running through the village is an added feature and there was some water running down it, even in this hot weather.

The White Hart Inn at the centre is used by villagers to celebrate special occasions as we found out. Flowers by the door a welcoming sight but the containers on the wall had dried out from lack of water. Shame.

A walk down to the recreation ground along a busy road took us to a well-maintained ground with excellent facilities for all ages. The range of equipment for young and older people gave lots of variations to keep fit. The Millenium Garden with sun dial, correct time, with the names of all who contributed to the area shows how the village supports initiatives to make such areas for all.

We drove down through the housing area with beautifully maintained gardens to the Bradstone playing field sports ground. A lovely playing field well maintained for cricket at present with the boundary marked. The area around the back of the pavilion needs some tidying up and there is a mound of grey earth ? Through the gate into the Millenium Green wild area. The notice board explaining what wildlife could be seen in the area is educational. Also, the planting of various trees from the orchard to a selection of native British trees around the field is a pleasure to see. The little shelter by the gate is unfortunately overgrown with nettles and brambles so difficult to access.

After a short drive to the church we walked into a vast neatly maintained church ground. A lot of very old gravestones which we wandered through. I think there is a new carpark being built to one side. A huge asset to give parking to the congregation away from the busy road.

The Web site gives information about Parish Council members and meeting with links to other sites.

Thank you for a map which enabled us to find our way around to all areas to be marked. Footpaths marked as requested but no North direction.

It was a pleasure walk around a delightful litter free Ashton Keynes. A village in which the whole community plays an important part and enjoys the benefits.