



*The Dorset Design and Heritage Forum and this Award are funded as part of a range of initiatives by all the local authorities in Dorset in partnership with Arts Council England South West*

# **DORSET PRIDE OF PLACE AWARD 2009**

## **GUIDANCE FOR ENTRANTS**

*Communities taking pride in their local environment & heritage*



## **DORSET PRIDE OF PLACE AWARD GUIDANCE**

Do you want to care for and celebrate what makes your town or parish special, historic and distinctive? If so you and your community are eligible to bid for the Pride of Place award. This is about maintaining and enhancing those qualities and features that make your place special. It is about ensuring that any new additions are well designed and in keeping with the distinctive qualities that we value as part of our heritage.

Unlike the competitions which only look at the spick and span tidiness of a place, this competition takes account of the value of old things looking old and weathered. It promotes praise of all those things that are unique and special about an individual place and seeks to strengthen that originality and create new places and spaces that enhance this. When we ensure that the designs of our living places and spaces are good we ensure that our lives are enhanced. Perhaps more than in any other County, Dorset's people care about safeguarding Dorset's unique environment. This aim, to safeguard that uniqueness, is therefore one of the main aims of the Dorset Design and Heritage Forum.

Today many artists are currently involved in environmental interventions that go well beyond the idea of a specific artwork or object. They involve themselves in the process of change and can generate educational, emotional, social and behavioural spin offs that benefit and enhance any community involved in the work. They seek enhancement of existing character and originality in keeping with place. They have often been trained to work with community groups and with other professionals in partnership.

In this competition the prize is the opportunity to work with 'an artist in residence' on a special project with your community. The residency will be to the value of £4,500. The prize is not commutable to cash.

Shortlisted communities will be offered guidance and help prior to the final site visit and judging process which will take place in early September. The award will be made at a ceremony in September coinciding with the Village of the Year Awards.

Forum members will then work with the winning community to develop the artist's brief and to advise the community on the selection of a suitable artist to develop the idea.

The following notes should be read in conjunction with the entry form and are provided to help you fill in that form.

If you have access to the web this guidance and the entry form are down loadable as Word Documents and can be filled in and e-mailed back or posted. If you have any difficulty with this, please contact Dorset Community Action for help and advice.

**QUESTION 1. (What makes your town, parish or community a special or distinctive place?)**

Question one is designed to help the judges decide what your evaluation of your place is. This could include historical features and buildings, sights and sounds, the uses of local materials, customs, natural features, new distinctive buildings, public art, memorials and views, etc. What do you think is important? How do the public spaces interact with private spaces? How does the natural environment, trees, hedges and other plants and animals interact with the built environment? We do not need a full history of your settlement but we need to know the things that history has bequeathed that make your place unique or distinctive.

**QUESTION 2. (Please outline the idea you would like to take forward with an artist )**

*Ideas that could qualify for support.*

What kind of project would you like to set up to enhance the beauty, distinctiveness or interpretation of your town, village, parish or community? The following list provides examples of the kind of project or activity that this award could support.

- Caring for, or interpreting the past on your doorstep.
- Promoting good building design.
- Removing clutter and eyesores.
- Being Green.
- Promoting public art and rural crafts.
- Celebrating local culture, customs and creativity.
- Beating the Bounds.
- Being innovative for the benefit of your community.

**QUESTION 3. (Is there any other information about your town/parish and your activities that you would like us to know?)**

This question is an opportunity for you to describe your approach to caring for and managing your area – a chance to display your Pride of Place. Some of the key points to think about are;

*3.1 Valuing the fact that it looks old.*

*3.2 Using honest repairs.*

*3.3 Avoiding the clutter of signs and lines.*

*3.4 Adding new buildings sensitively.*

*3.5 Providing an idea or project that is sustainable.*

*3.6. Working with your community.*

*3.7 Accessibility for disabled and disadvantaged people.*

## IN CONCLUSION.

The size of the funding available from this award need not limit your ambition for your place. A successful well presented idea could be the launch pad of a funding campaign to realise your most ambitious dream. A good example of this is the arts project at Sturminster Newton, where the whole community has come together to develop several million pounds worth of community arts facilities stimulated by an art project to create a celebration of the town's market history.



Even the smallest rural communities can make an impact as shown by the arts projects developed by the community at Drimpton. Their vibrant community group called 'Village Voices' believes that 'People make Places' and 'Places make People' and have carried out a range of projects that can be seen on their website.



Further advice is available in the '**Pride of Place**' Toolkit available from the Dorset AONB Partnership on 01305 756782 and at [www.dorsetaonb.org.uk](http://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk) More ideas and information are included in '**Shaping Our Future; a community toolkit**' available from Dorset Community Action, Community House, The Barracks, Bridport Road, Dorchester Dorset DT1 1YG Tel: 01305 216412 or 216400 and at [www.dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk](http://www.dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk) Further ideas can also be gleaned from [www.publicartonline.org.uk](http://www.publicartonline.org.uk)

**If you have an exciting vision,  
this award could help you to realise it!**