

Calor Village of the Year[®] - England 2009/10

National Judges' Comments Form

Village	Crosthwaite and Lyth
County	Cumbria
Region	North
Please record up to five positive and useful comments about the village which can be sent as feedback to the village organiser.	
1	Despite difficulty with time management towards the end of the presentation the village demonstrated the spirit of a very caring, active and innovative community making the most of its assets, having the fortitude and skill to negotiate successfully with other agencies/authorities, regarding its outlying farms as part of the community and adept at fundraising for both local and international causes. There appears to be some way to go in developing local responses to climate change considerations but, in the opinion of the judges, Crosthwaite showed enough of its vibrant village life to earn the "Community" category award.
2	It was pleasing to hear of the extent to which, through charitable and other means, the benefits of environmental activities (e.g. damson and landowners groups) are ploughed back for the benefit of the wider community.
3	The thoughtful approach to the preparation, adoption and subsequent implementation of the Parish Plan in such a dispersed parish commended itself to the judges. They noted that, at the outset, there were separate questionnaires for different age groups and business and that the process had enjoyed the full support of the local and national park authorities. It was recognised that the success in delivering key outcomes (eg housing needs survey, first responders, website and the weekly "exchange") was based on continuing community energy and commitment.
4	The way that the village responded to the loss of its shop and PO was resourceful and an exemplar to others. The solution of running a daily PO in the pub would be the envy of many. The judges recognised how, through community initiative and taking the right advice, the weekly "Exchange" has become a significant community enterprise which partly fills the retail gap and adds value by offering social opportunities and disseminating information. Taking this together with the enlightened attitude of the Parish Council towards building conversions for employment purposes, including live/work accommodation, the judges conclude that Crosthwaite with Lyth should receive the "Business" category award.
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