

Henley-on-Thames Front Garden Competition 2026

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Guidance for Entrants

Thank you for entering the Henley-on-Thames Front Garden Competition 2026. The competition celebrates the gardens that make our streets more attractive, support wildlife and demonstrate gardening excellence and creativity.

Eligibility

To be eligible:

1. **The garden must be visible from the public highway**, so that it contributes positively to the town's street scene.
2. **Any residential property in Henley-on-Thames may enter**, regardless of the size of the front garden. Small gardens, paved frontages with planting, containers, and balconies are all welcome.
3. **The entrant must be the occupant of the property**. Occupants may be either owner-occupiers or tenants.

Judging Categories

1. Best Kept Front Garden

Judges will be looking for a front garden that is attractive, well maintained and enhances the appearance of the street. Consideration will be given to overall presentation, cleanliness, healthy planting and year-round care.

2. Best Front Garden for Nature

This category recognizes gardens that provide the greatest benefit for wildlife and biodiversity. Judges will look for features such as pollinator-friendly planting,

habitat creation, sustainable gardening practices, water sources, and evidence that the garden supports birds, insects and other wildlife.

3. Best Front Garden for Horticulture

This award celebrates gardening skill and plant knowledge. Judges will consider the quality, health and variety of planting, successful combinations of plants, seasonal interest, and the standard of horticultural care.

4. Most Innovative Front Garden

This category rewards imagination and originality. Judges will look for creative use of space, particularly in small or challenging front gardens – even balconies – innovative planting schemes, clever design solutions, or unique features that make the garden stand out.

Judging dates

Judging will take place the week beginning 13th July 2026. Unfortunately, we can't advise on a particular date or time.

Announcement of winners

Winners will be announced in the Thursday 23rd July 2026 edition of the Henley Standard and will be confirmed by email the following week.

Winners' reception

The winners in each category will be invited to attend a reception with the Mayor in Town Hall in September – date to be confirmed.

Any further questions

If you have any queries, you can get in touch with us at clerk@henleytowncouncil.gov.uk / 07595 608577.

Good luck and thank you for helping make Henley-on-Thames a greener and more beautiful place to live!