

welcome to
Bracknell in Bloom
2013



Bracknell
in Bloom
2013

RHS BRITAIN
IN BLOOM
Finalist 2013

Welcome to Bracknell in Bloom 2013

We are committed to adding a spring in the step and eye-catching colour to lives of our residents, visitors and commuters. This guide explains our proudest work and highlights in the borough.

The Bracknell in Bloom Committee is a blossoming group which offers a spade-ful of partnership working, cultivated creativity and of course a dash of hard work to make the public spaces of Bracknell the best they can be. We engage with people across the borough, from businesses to schools, to educate and create excellent spaces to be enjoyed by residents and visitors.

We are proud to be involved with the In Bloom events and are delighted to showcase some highlights of the year in this booklet.

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Tour route

Our tour route takes in a range of striking and stunning public spaces and residential gardens around the borough. The route takes approximately three hours and we'll be stopping to take a close look at areas along the way.



calendar of events

Bracknell has been busy maintaining the 532 hectares of green space, improving public land and creating innovative and eye-catching landscapes. Here's what we've been up to...



**Tree planting with local schools,
February 2013**



**Creating bird tables and plantings at
Harmans Water estate action day,
March 2013**

What we've been doing this year

- **Royal visits**
 - **Estate action days**
 - **Working with schools, businesses and community members**
 - **Creating award winning landscapes**
 - **Using horticulture to provide training and wider benefits for the community**
 - **Conservation, wildlife and recycling**
 - **Using horticulture to bring people together**
 - **Using partnership working to be as effective and efficient as possible**
- (see appendix 1 for full calendar of events)

**Maintenance work at Lily Hill Park
with volunteers from Boehringer
Ingelheim**



A1 horticultural achievement: impact

Making a mark

Bracknell Forest Homes marked its fifth anniversary in 2013 by creating legacy landscaped sites including innovative beds, herb gardens and trees to suit the environment and give benefit to local people and visitors. Shown here is a large area of flats on a busy thorough fare with local shops opposite. The landscaped areas have had a warm reception from residents and passers by.



Maximum visibility

Campion House and Bryony House were built in the late 1950s. The landscape was in keeping with that era and was becoming tired and well passed its best. A long new herbaceous border along the front of the building was created using a new wave planting effect. 15 varieties were used and mulched to suppress weed growth. The plantings also take into account the low windows so not to grow above this height. There was also a special Jubilee tree planting ceremony last year.



A2 horticultural achievement: practice

We are proud of the level of maintenance and quality of planting seen across Bracknell. We've been innovative and responsible in creating and maintaining public spaces, residential areas and business areas.



High standards of horticultural practice are also seen throughout Bracknell's community and residential gardens



The Italian Garden is one of the many horticultural highlights at South Hill Park

All year round floral displays are incorporated with sustainable planting on many of Bracknell's sponsored roundabouts



A3 horticultural achievement: residential and community gardening

Residential gardening

Bracknell has many beautiful residential gardens tucked away in the most unexpected of places. Two of the best gardens have opened for the last 11 years as part of "The National Gardens Scheme". Other Bracknell gardeners also enter their gardens in the "Your Gardens" public horticultural competition.(see page 16 for further information)



Schools

Bracknell in Bloom actively encourages schools in their horticultural activities and many have school gardens as well as undertaking horticultural projects in the community.



Great Hollands Primary School entered the Your Gardens competition for the first time in 2012 and won a highly commended Your Gardens award for a container garden in Great Hollands Shopping Square

Allotments

Part of Ringmead allotment site was difficult to cultivate because of overhanging trees, so a community orchard was created. The new orchard attracts bees which help with pollinating the area. The orchard was donated and planted with Waitrose.



A3 horticultural achievement: residential and community gardens

Community working together

Bracknell Forest Homes worked with Harmans Water Primary School during an action day to educate pupils and create new plantings.



Highfields community garden

The outside communal area in Highfields had over the years been used for barbeques and children's parties but the planting was uninspiring. We were approached by a resident to redevelop this area into a community garden. All existing plants were removed and replaced with new shrubs, trees and a rose garden. Compost was supplied by a local partner. The garden is now cared for by residents and is a pleasant place for all to enjoy.



A4 horticultural achievement: business areas and premises

Can you believe this is 40 feet in the air?
Shown below is an innovative living roof at
Waitrose, and right is a large business park
at Arlington Square.



A5 horticultural achievement: green spaces

A circus came to town...Heavy traffic and torrential rain caused a mud bath fit for a rock festival after a circus visited Calfridus Way, which had to be restored to its former grassy glory. Shown left is the before and right is the after, following 30 tonnes of soil and six bags of grass seed!



Annual football pitch
maintenance ready for a new
season

Before



9

Three weeks later



A5 horticultural achievement: green spaces

We are proud to have Green Flag award winning public spaces. There are five in Bracknell Forest. Here are two popular and well used spaces...

Jocks Lane Park is a family and friends 12 acre park offering extensive recreational facilities including play areas, woodland walks and a large pavilion. It is used for community events throughout the year, two of the most popular being the annual teddy bears' picnic and a woodland crafts event held in February.

Lily Hill Park offers 56 acres of restored heritage parkland and gardens set around historic Lily Hill House. It is renowned for its 90 year old Hardy Hybrid Rhododendron and Azalea collection which produces spectacular floral displays in late May/early June. It is also home to many species of native and introduced trees ranging from veteran English Oaks (remnants from Windsor Forest, 500 years ago) to Monkey Puzzles and majestic Wellingtonia.



Jock's Lane



Lily Hill Park

**B1 environmental
responsibility: conservation
and biodiversity**

Bracknell Forest Friends of the Earth joined the fight to save British bees by creating a Bee World - a wildflower haven providing food and shelter for bees. The Bee World was created in May 2013 on a 200 metre square area of scrubland off Bullbrook Drive. The Group cleared the area and sowed a mix consisting of 80% wild grasses and 20% British wildflowers including Field Scabious, Oxeye Daisy, Ragged Robin, Cowslip, and Red Campion. Hopefully the new Bee World will provide an environment where bees can thrive so they can continue their important pollination work in Bracknell.

A number of grassed banks and verges around Bracknell are left uncut between spring and late summer, so that the grass and wildflowers can grow. During the summer months these roadside nature reserves are full of colour and alive with the sound of buzzing bees and the colourful sight of butterflies and other insects feeding on wildflower nectar. The roadside nature reserves are marked with butterfly-shaped signs and are only cut when the wildflowers have set seed.

B2 environmental responsibility: resource management

A Bracknell scheme has helped collect 23,000 litres of unwanted paint to help families and neighbourhood groups spruce up their homes and community centres. GreenMachine, which offers voluntary work, runs Community Re-Paint East Berkshire, and has been running for a year putting unwanted paint to good use.



Here is the launch of the borough's new recycling incentive scheme which started in April 2013 to encourage residents to recycle their household waste properly. Residents who join are awarded 200 points each time they recycle correctly. Points can then be exchanged for leisure activities such as a free swim or tickets to Bracknell's Look Out Discovery Centre. Points can also be saved towards reduced price composters and water butts.

B3 environmental responsibility: local heritage



South Hill Park is attractive, historic parkland of landscaped gardens, lakes and woodland, all of which surround a Grade II listed building which is used as an arts centre. The park has recently been restored back to its former glory, thanks to a £2.3 million grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund. Restored original features include a Yew Walk and Italian Garden. A new pond and boardwalk (constructed from locally sourced timber) enables the public to enjoy views over the reed marsh area where Dragonflies and wildflowers such as Ragged Robin thrive in the damp conditions.

Conservation days and litter picks are held on a regular basis at South Hill Park and Bracknell in Bloom works closely with local community groups to ensure the Park is kept looking at its best.

Picture left: North Lake at South Hill Park, a wonderful habitat for wildlife.

Picture right: The new boardwalk across the balancing pond at North Lake. The 200m boardwalk was installed in 2011 and is a fantastic observation point to view the plants and wildlife that have made the rejuvenated balancing pond their home.

B4 environmental responsibility: local environmental quality



That's the message we give to encourage local dog owners to be responsible. Bracknell Forest Town and Parish Councils are working in partnership on this new initiative with two environment wardens to promote responsible dog ownership using banners, a canopy, promotional materials and give aways such as bags and scoops...and we have a full size dog outfit which is used to spread the word at events. A busy programme of activities is in place for this year with the aim of publicising Be A Responsible Dog Owner (BARDO) far and wide in Bracknell Forest.

Bracknell in Bloom supports "Take Pride", a campaign run between Bracknell Forest Council, Bracknell Forest Voluntary Action and Thames Valley Police. It aims to encourage and help the community undertake voluntary activities. Activities the community can take part in include: litter picking, gardening and conservation projects. Earlier this year, Take Pride organised a "Big Spring Clean" to spruce up Bracknell.



B5 environmental responsibility: pride of place

This year we have been branching out, turning old trees in bad health into impressive works of art. Skilled carpenters have worked wonders on trees around the borough, including housing estates, play areas and the town centre to create attractive interesting designs that appeal to all ages and regenerate and re-use old trees.



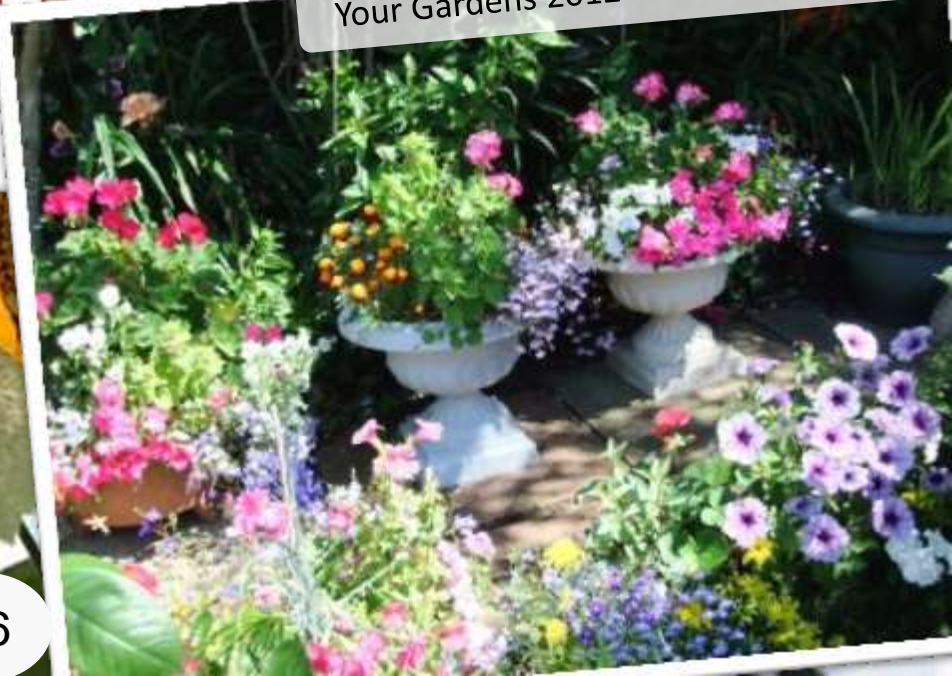
C1 Community participation: development and continuity

Your Gardens 2012 Best community garden



"Your Gardens", Bracknell's public horticultural competition, has been running since the early 1990s. The aim of the competition is to encourage the community to take part in Bracknell in Bloom and take pride in Bracknell, making it an attractive place to live, work and visit. Residents, businesses, schools and community groups can enter the competition which is judged in the summer. Entrants are invited to attend a Gala Evening held in the autumn when the prize winners are announced. "Your Gardens" prize winning entries always feature on the Thames and Chilterns in Bloom judges' tour.

Your Gardens 2012 Best front garden



Your Gardens 2012 Best kept allotment



C2 Community participation: communication and education

The Bracknell in Bloom committee was keen to involve the whole community with this year's Bracknell in Bloom launch. They also wanted to incorporate the RHS Britain in Bloom Edible Britain launch theme. We held two public events showing how easy it is to plant and grow edible hanging baskets. Both events were extremely popular and many Bracknell gardeners are now incorporating innovative uses of edible plants in their front gardens. (see appendix 2 for launch events posters)



Hanging baskets now adorn
the borough

Good enough to eat

HANGING baskets full of fruit and vegetables will be ripe for picking when Britain in Bloom judges visit Bracknell.

The theme for the town's bid for gardening glory is growing your own and edible hanging baskets full of fruit, vegetables and herbs are going up around the town.

A final demonstration of how to plant an edible basket with tumbling tomatoes, dwarf beans, salad, strawberries, chillis, nasturtium and violas was held by Bracknell Town Council staff at the bandstand on Friday.

The event attended by town mayor Councillor Shelagh Pile, borough mayor Cllr Jennie McCracken and Caroline Titley, Bracknell Forest Homes chief executive, also launched the town's Your Gardens competition, open to homeowners, schools, businesses and community groups.

Allan Moffat, Bracknell in Bloom's acting chair, said: "Your Gardens is the ideal opportunity for everyone to take part in Bracknell in Bloom. When the RHS judges visit Bracknell in July and August we are planning to take them to see as many 'Your Gardens' as possible.

We want to show them the whole community is involved in Bracknell in Bloom."

Free edible hanging baskets were planted up and taken home by 50 people at a gardening workshop at Easthampstead and Wildridings Community Centre in Rectory Lane on Saturday, April 27.

Plants grown from seed in a polytunnel at the Jealott's Hill landshare were used to create the hanging baskets.

Application forms for Your Gardens are available from Bracknell Town Council's offices in the High Street or telephone (01344) 420 079. Visit www.facebook.com/



Courtesy of
Bracknell Forest Standard

C3 Community participation

RHS It's Your Neighbourhood

Bracknell in Bloom actively encourages community groups to take part in the RHS "It's Your Neighbourhood". We are proud that of the nine groups that entered the Thames and Chilterns "It's Your Neighbourhood" campaign in 2012, five came from Bracknell area and two were judged outstanding.

Eva Jones Memorial Gardens judged an outstanding community garden



Jealott's Hill Community Landshare judged a thriving project involving local community in gardening



Warfield Grow and Share Community Allotment judged a thriving project

C4 Community participation:
year round involvement spring
and summer

Teddy bear's picnic at Jock's Lane



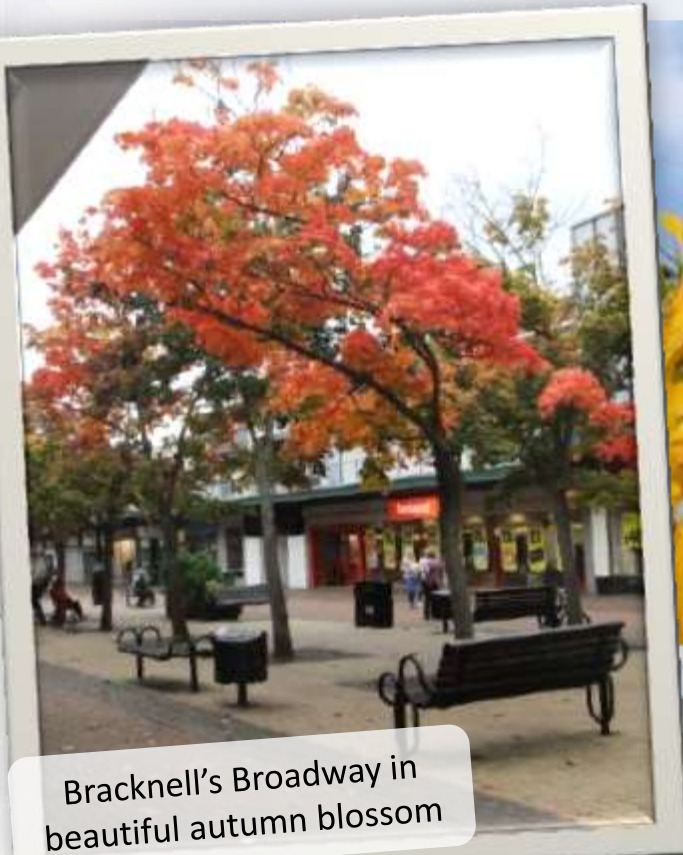
Opening of South Hill Park
play area



Bracknell town centre's well known
water clock



C4 Community participation:
year round involvement
Autumn and winter



Bracknell's Broadway in
beautiful autumn blossom



Christmas wreath making



Arlington Square business
park is a nice place to walk...



Community bulb planting
in Great Hollands

C5 Community participation: funding and support

It may be a cliché, but genuinely Bracknell's beautiful landscapes couldn't be achieved without such great enthusiastic teamwork, partnership working, funding and support of many local people and businesses. It's always challenging to keep improving and delivering good quality but innovation, resourcefulness and creativity from many contributors is a positive formula. Our sincere thanks go to the following:

- **Committee members:**
Bracknell Town Council,
Bracknell Forest Homes,
Bracknell Forest Council,
Bracknell Regeneration
Partnership, Bracknell
Horticultural Association,
The Bracknell Society
- Members of the public and
community groups
- Local schools
- Local businesses
- Committee members' staff
- Please see appendix 3 for all
contributors.

Looking to the future

Our Bracknell in Bloom approach is to continue to encourage everyone to work together to make Bracknell a cleaner and greener place to enjoy.

Next, we will be focusing on:

- Increasing the number of community groups from Bracknell involved in RHS It's Your Neighbourhood. Our target is to have at least 12 entries in 2014
- Developing the Bracknell Your Gardens competition and encouraging more entries next year – our target is at least 60 entries
- Installing a landscaped community area at Coopers Hill Community Centre and also a sensory garden at Mill Park
- Working with primary schools so they are all ready to include gardening in the curriculum from September 2014 – we intend to appoint a Schools Champion.

Thanks for visiting Bracknell.
Bracknell in Bloom Committee



Bracknell
in Bloom

2013

Appendix 1

Calendar of events (1)

July 2012

- RHS Thames and Chilterns in Bloom judging day
- HRH Earl of Wessex opens South Hill Park after £2.3 million restoration project
- Your Gardens judging – round 1
- Green Flag Awards for Jocks Lane Park, Lily Hill Park, Pope's Meadow, Sandhurst Memorial Park and Shepherd Meadows
- Judging and awards ceremony for Bracknell town centre's best dressed shop window and market stall competition
- 3M clean-up at Kennel Lane School
- Boehringer Ingelheim clean-up day across five parks in Bracknell
- Volunteer day at Jealott's Hill Community Landshare with the National Apprenticeship Service And Ranelagh School
- Lily Hill Park Edwardian Garden tidy-up with Bracknell Horticultural Association
- Conservation work at Lily Hill Park with Bracknell Conservation Volunteers
- Birch Hill litter pick with Birch Hill and Hanworth Liaison Group

August 2012

- Every Wednesday during the school summer holidays - children's summer activity days in parks throughout Bracknell
- Completion of Your Gardens judging – round 1
- Nature and community biodiversity walks around Bracknell town centre
- Lily Hill Park Edwardian Garden tidy-up with Bracknell Horticultural Association
- Conservation work at Notherams Wood with Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

September 2012

- Bracknell in Bloom receives a GOLD award in the RHS Thames and Chilterns in Bloom regional competition and is put through to represent Thames and Chilterns in RHS Britain in Bloom National Finals 2013
- Completion of Your Gardens judging round 2 and measuring sunflowers for the tallest sunflower category
- Guided walks around Lily Hill Park for Bracknell's Heritage Open Day Event
- Environment minister Greg Barker visits Waitrose supermarket, Bracknell
- Lily Hill Park Edwardian Garden tidy-up with Bracknell Horticultural Association
- Birch Hill litter pick with Birch Hill and Hanworth Liaison Group

October 2012

- "Celebrations 2012" fireworks display at South Hill Park
- Bracknell in Bloom Thank You Breakfast
- Community bulb planting in Great Hollands
- Conservation work at Jocks Copse, Tinkers Copse and South Hill Park with Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Appendix 1

Calendar of events (2)

November 2012

- Your Gardens Gala Evening
- Bracknell Horticultural Association's annual Marrowthon competition
- Allsmoor Pond community clean-up
- Capturing Autumn Colours photography walk at Lily Hill Park
- Forest Ecology talk at South Hill Park
- Conservation work at Notherams Wood and Tinkers Copse with Bracknell Conservation Volunteers
- Birch Hill litter pick with Birch Hill and Hanworth Liaison Group

December 2012

- Dig together Day at Jealott's Hill Community Landshare
- "Up with the Birds" bird spotting walk at Lily Hill Park
- Festive Forage and Christmas Wreath Making at Pope's Manor

January 2013

- Walk and Wassail at Jealott's Hill Community Landshare
- Traditional Orchard Wassail at Lily Hill Park
- Lichen survey by The Living Churchyard Group at St Michael and St Mary Magdalene Church
- Conservation work at South Hill Park with Bracknell Conservation Volunteers
- Litter pick at Savernake Park

February 2013

- "Celebrating our Wonderful Woods" woodland craft day at Jocks Lane Park
- New underground recycling centre opened at Jennett's Park
- Electrical goods recycling day at Bracknell Leisure Centre
- Wassail at The Boot Pub
- Parks photography exhibition at South Hill Park
- "Birds Flights and Delights" woodland walk and craft making at Jocks Lane Park
- Litter pick at South Hill Park with Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

March 2013

- "The Big Heritage Tree Hug" at Lily Hill Park
- "Big Dig" at Jealott's Hill Community Landshare
- Lily Hill Park Edwardian Garden tidy-up with Bracknell Horticultural Association
- Conservation work at Lily Hill Park and South Hill Park with Bracknell Conservation Volunteers
- Wildridings litter pick with Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Appendix 1

Calendar of events (3)

April 2013

- Bracknell Forest Council launches their new recycling incentive scheme
- Bracknell Forest Homes fifth anniversary tree planting in Birch Hill
- Opening of the newly refurbished play area at South Hill Road, South Hill Park
- “The Incredible Edible Hanging Basket Event” to launch Bracknell in Bloom 2013
- Easter Treasure Hunt at Lily Hill Park and South Hill Park
- “Give Gardening a Go” an introduction to gardening workshop held during RHS Gardening week at South Hill Park
- Lily Hill Park Edwardian Garden tidy-up with Bracknell Horticultural Association
- Conservation work at Lily Hill Park and Bill Hill with Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

May 2013

- “Lunch and Learn” community event at the town centre bandstand to launch Bracknell in Bloom 2013
- Launch of Bracknell Your Gardens 2013 competition
- Bracknell Horticultural Association Spring Plant Sale
- Boehringer Ingelheim clean-up day across six locations in Bracknell
- Two Bracknell gardens are opened for The National Gardens Scheme
- Opening of the new fountain at South Hill Park
- Warfield Environment Group’s annual newt survey
- Unveiling of a mural painted by Bracknell and Wokingham College students in an underpass in Great Hollands
- Planting a wildflower meadow to encourage bees in Bullbrook by Friends of the Earth
- Hewlett Packard clean-up day at Lily Hill Park
- Photography walk at Lily Hill Park
- Rhododendron walk at Lily Hill Park
- Lily Hill Park Edwardian Garden tidy-up with Bracknell Horticultural Association
- Conservation work at South Hill Park with Bracknell Conservation Volunteers
- Birch Hill litter pick with Birch Hill and Hanworth Liaison Group

June 2013

- Bracknell Your Gardens judging – round 1
- Work started on £100,000.00 Mill Park Olympic Legacy play equipment project
- Birch Hill cedar tree project completed
- Annual Teddy Bears’ Picnic at Jocks Lane Park
- Summer Moth Trapping at South Hill Park organised by the Bracknell Forest Natural History Society
- Lily Hill Park Edwardian Garden tidy-up with Bracknell Horticultural Association
- Conservation work at Jubilee Gardens, Savernake Park and South Hill Park with Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Appendix 2

Bracknell in Bloom launch event posters



Bracknell in
Bloom 2013

To launch Bracknell in Bloom for 2013

You are invited to come along to

The INCREDIBLE EDIBLE HANGING BASKET EVENT

from 10.30am to 1.30pm on Saturday 27th April

at Easthampstead & Wildridings

Community Centre, Rectory Lane, Bracknell, RG12 7BH

Practical guidance, workshop sessions and seed
exchange available

Refreshments



RHS BRITAIN IN BLOOM
RHS IT'S YOUR
NEIGHBOURHOOD



Bracknell



Bracknell Forest
HOMES



Bracknell in
Bloom 2013

To launch Bracknell in Bloom for 2013

You are invited to come along to

LUNCH and LEARN

from 12.00 to 2.00pm on Friday 3rd May

at The Bandstand

in Charles Square, Bracknell Town Centre



RHS BRITAIN IN BLOOM
RHS IT'S YOUR
NEIGHBOURHOOD



Bracknell



Bracknell Forest
HOMES



Appendix 3



Thank You to *Bracknell in Bloom's* sponsors and supporters:



Bracknell
Forest
Council



Bracknell Forest
HOMES



Linsey Evans Garden Design
'hortus in urbe'

*The Bracknell
Forest Society*

Bracknell



Hilton

AVISFORD PARK, ARUNDEL

QWERTY



Waitrose
waitrose.com



Bracknell &
Wokingham
College



RINGWAY



Hilton

BRACKNELL



Oaktree
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THE LOOK OUT
DISCOVERY
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