



IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD 2026

Name of entry: **Carlton Gardening Group**

Assessed on: 15th June 2026

Assessor: Judith Warner

Size of entry: 18/20

Main contact: Chris Peat

Introduction

Carlton Gardening Group have three areas of land within the village namely The Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard, the Churchyard and Cemetery and a footpath from Shakerstone Walk to the adjacent fields. These areas form part of the Leicestershire Round and are frequently used by the community and walkers.

Section A Community Participation - Marks awarded 28 /40

Carlton Gardening Group has 18 to 20 members. They meet when there is work to be undertaken and form smaller working parties. Trees in the churchyard and cemetery are maintained by the gardening group. Many of the trees in this area have been donated by the community over several years. There is a gardening group stall in the churchyard for the community to donate and buy plants. Fairy lights are put in the trees at Christmastime.

The Orchard has many fruit trees and the community is encouraged to pick the fruit. The Orchard has been made accessible for all. The children can enjoy the play equipment.

There is a QR code at the Orchard and on the footpath at Shakerstone Walk, linking to the Parish website. Each site also has a geocache.

A display board was erected in 2000 at the entrance to the footpath at Shakerstone Walk explaining the history of Carlton. Grass and hedge works are undertaken by contractors.

Section B Environmental Responsibility - Marks awarded 25 /30

The trees are maintained at the churchyard and the mature yews, weeping birch and copper beech can be enjoyed by the wildlife. The footpath at Shakerstone Walk is a narrow footpath which is left natural with trees, shrubs, ivy and brambles on either side and a few self-seeding wildflowers. These provide good cover for wildlife as the footpath runs close to open fields. Dead wood has been left for bugs.

The Orchard has a variety of fruit trees all laden with plums, greengages and a local variety of apple. There are wildflowers, which have probably self-seeded from previous years, and many spring native flowers. There is a mixed layered hedge running along one boundary and an area left natural with a bug hotel hidden in the undergrowth. There are two amphibian refuges and a hedgehog box. Dead wood has been left for bugs.

Section C Gardening Achievement - Marks awarded 23/30

The gardening group laid out and levelled and seeded the cemetery. Ivy has been removed from the trees. There is a small garden border in the churchyard containing perennials. The trees in all areas are well maintained. The fruit trees are laden with fruit. Last year plums grown in the Orchard were entered in the local show. A newly-planted fern bed, fronted by geraniums, has been created. The wildflower area was still looking pretty. The herb trough looked healthy. Shakerstone Walk footpath is cut back a couple of times a year by the gardening group.

Areas of exceptional achievement

The orchard with its heritage varieties of fruit.
The beautiful mature trees in the churchyard.

Areas for development

Consideration given to find suitable plants to soften the fence line at the Orchard.

Total Marks Awarded 76

Award achieved: Level 4 – Thriving