

2017 National Judge



Bob Ivison

FI Hort, Dip Hort Kew,
DMS, Dip PRA.

Hoddesdon, Herts, UK

Bob started his horticultural career as an apprentice with The Royal Parks, London, in 1968 followed by the student course at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew in 1971. On leaving Kew in 1974 he worked in various Local Authorities in and around London culminating in a Head of Service position for the London Borough of Enfield.

After nearly 30 years in parks management including 15 years as Head of Service he formed his own company Ivison Consulting providing strategic and management support to Parks Services and other agencies.

In 2015 he moved back in local government management as the Lead Commissioner for Parks and Green Spaces for the London Borough of Barnet to establish a forward thinking service based around community needs and innovative solutions. Now retired he still has an active involvement in many horticultural related programmes.

He was a member of the Government's Advisory body CABESpace Strategic Enabling Panel where he advised Local Authorities on Green Space Strategy development and best practice for the better management of parks and open spaces. Enfield's Parks Service was central to that Council being awarded the Governments Beacon Council Status in 2002 for Improving Urban Green Spaces. The Borough is an active participant in capital's London in Bloom campaign.

He held the positions of Chairman of the National Contractors Forum, Chairman of the Horticultural Affairs Committee of the Institute of Horticulture and President of the Kew Guild. He judges for London in Bloom, the Green Flag Award and the Green Heritage Accreditation schemes for whom he is also a trainer of the Green Flag Award judges. He judges for Flowers in the City, a City of London floral award.

In 2003 he was made Fellow of the Institute of Horticulture and Fellow of the Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management. In 2004 he was admitted into the Freedom of the City of London and a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners.