

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Godalming Celebrates Success at the South & South-East in Bloom Awards 2026

Godalming Town Council is celebrating another outstanding year at the South & South-East in Bloom (SSEIB) Awards 2026, recognising the hard work and dedication of its staff, volunteers and community partners in making Godalming a greener, more beautiful town.

The South & South-East in Bloom awards celebrate communities across the region, including Kent, Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire, recognising their efforts to enhance local environments through horticultural excellence, sustainability, biodiversity and community involvement.

This year's results reflect the commitment of Godalming Town Council's Grounds & Facilities Team, local volunteers and community partners, whose collective efforts continue to make a significant difference to the town's public spaces.

Cemetery success continues

Eashing Cemetery once again secured the overall category winner title in the Large Cemetery sector, marking the second time in six years that it has achieved this top honour.

Nightingale Cemetery also enjoyed considerable success, achieving Gold and overall category winner in the Small Cemetery sector, further demonstrating the Council's commitment to maintaining welcoming, peaceful and beautifully managed spaces for the community.

Town Centre success

Godalming Town Centre was awarded Gold in its category and was selected this year by SSEIB as one of the towns to represent the region in the prestigious Britain in Bloom 2026 competition. Judging took place in July, with the awards ceremony scheduled for October.

Godalming Youth Service also achieved an impressive set of results, securing Gold in both the Walled Garden and Workplace Garden categories, alongside a Silver Gilt award for Gardening with Young People. These awards recognise the creativity and commitment involved in engaging young people with gardening and the natural environment.

Congratulations are also due to the Farncombe Station Gardening Group, whose dedicated volunteers continue to transform the station surroundings into a welcoming, vibrant and biodiverse green space for residents and visitors. The group achieved Gold in the Celebration Stations category and the highest Level 5 – Outstanding award in It's Your Neighbourhood, recognising the value of its ongoing community-led work.

Godalming Town Mayor, Cllr Tom Kiehl, said:

"I am delighted that the hard work of Godalming Town Council and its staff has been richly rewarded. The scale of this achievement is particularly noteworthy, given that Godalming competes against authorities across the region, many of which are considerably larger and have significantly greater resources.

For more information on this release or images, please contact: Suzie Gortler

Email: community@godalming-tc.gov.uk

Tel: 01483 523075

Release Date: 30 September 2026

Follow us on:



Their fantastic success at SSEIB 2026 is wonderful recognition of the time, energy and dedication they put into making Godalming such a beautiful place to work, rest and play.”

Beyond the visual improvements to the town, these awards recognise the wider environmental and biodiversity benefits of the Council’s approach to grounds management. Through pollinator-friendly planting, habitat creation and sustainable maintenance practices, Godalming Town Council continues to demonstrate how thoughtful management of public spaces can support wildlife, enhance biodiversity and contribute to the wellbeing of the local community.

Ends...

Images: Jane (Godalming Youth Service) with Justin and Nigel (GTC Grounds Facilities Team)

Holly and Adam (GTC Grounds Facilities Team) with Tom and Jane (Godalming Youth Service)

Godalming Town Councillors, Penny and Paul Rivers with the Facilities and Youth Services Team

Follow Us on:

