



Rayleigh has achieved what had seemed for many years the impossible, and almost unattainable.... A Gold Award in Anglia in Bloom. The Town Council has entered this competition since 2002 and has progressed through the standards over the years to the top award.

The Rayleigh in Bloom Working Group is comprised of both Town Councillors, members of local organisations and volunteers who help with sprucing up the town in the weeks leading up to the judging day. Although Rayleigh's floral displays have improved hugely over the years, this competition has grown to be much more than that, with most of the judge's marks being awarded for many aspects of local life, including community involvement, competitions, local heritage and environmental factors.

On top of winning Gold, the town was also awarded the 'Best Environmental Quality for a Large Town' as the judges were impressed on the cleanliness of the High Street. Further certificates were awarded to two local amenities which are managed by Rayleigh Town Council: 'Best Public Open Space' and Silver Gilt to the King George V Playing Field and Silver Gilt to Lower Wyburns Woodland. The Holy Trinity Churchyard received a Gold again for the third consecutive year and Sweyne Park School received a certificate for the 11 – 18 year group for their 'Rocket' project.

Town Council Chairman Mrs Carol Pavelin and Chairman of the Rayleigh in Bloom Committee Ian Ward issued a joint statement to say: 'We are very proud of our town and the people who have contributed to this long awaited and very much deserved Gold award. We thank our fellow Town Councillors and staff, representatives from other local organisations and Councils and the many volunteers and sponsors who help towards the costs of the floral displays. We are very much looking forward to the Town Council's Rayleigh in Bloom Awards Presentation Evening in October at Rayleigh Baptist Church when we will present our own awards to our local community'.