SUTTON VENY REPORT 2025

We visited Sutton Veny on a lovely day in late May and were delighted to find such a well cared for busy village with a great community spirit supported by willing volunteers. It was obvious that the active Parish Council ensures a high standard of maintenance and attention to detail and encourages everyone to participate.

The village was free of litter, the footpaths clear, the bus shelters clean, phone box newly painted and all notice boards in excellent condition and information up to date (full marks). We were particularly impressed by the framed village map drawn by a local artist. Great effort is being made to encourage conservation and wildflower areas improving biodiversity with grasses and flowers being left to seed in many spots including the delightfully peaceful chapel graveyard and within the ruins and grounds of St. Leonard's Church a super place for our picnic lunch. We look forward to seeing the repurposing of the phone box – book exchange perhaps?

We paused for a few moments in Pound Piece picturing its possible uses in years gone by and nice to see that it is still a place to pause for rest.

The group of buildings at the centre of the village, the church, school and village hall were all well maintained and clearly well used and supported by the energetic community. We were very impressed by the extensive sports field, well equipped playground for younger members of the village and the hedgerow project encouraging children to get involved. We spent a quiet moment in the churchyard admiring the immaculately tended Anzac graves. We found the allotment gardens some of which were looking very productive and well planted.

It is so encouraging to see many areas devoted to biodiversity which is clearly an important aspect of Sutton Veny with even the area around the sewage treatment plant being planted with wildflowers and also to find that the whole community is encouraged to lend a hand and get involved in improvements. This is clearly a well loved village and welcoming to all its residents with plenty to offer catering for a wide variety of interests.

Points to note: Benches were in fairly good condition - the bench in the Chapel Graveyard needed a thorough scrub. The printing quality of the maps was rather faint

and we weren't able to get a very clear copy for our purposes. If this could be improved it would be a huge help as it wasn't very easy to follow partly due to the small scale.

Thank you very much for entering the Best Kept Village Competition again now in its 66th Year. Well done and we hope to see you in 2026.