

Report on	RHS Britain in Bloom Awards
Date of Meeting	10 th September 2019
Reporting Officer	Terry Scullion, Head of Property Services
Contact Officer	Eunan Murray, Grounds & Cemeteries Manager

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To inform Members of the RHS Britain in Bloom Awards Presentation in Lindley Hall, London, on Friday 25 th October 2019.
2.0	Background
2.1	Following the success of Castlecaulfield in recent years at the Britain in Bloom Awards, as a former winner it is recognised as a high-achieving Village and is competing in the 2019 Britain in Bloom 'Champion of Champions' category, with a select list of only four other areas from across the UK.
2.2	Following a clean sweep of all regional awards in 2018, Donaghmore went out to win Ireland's Best Kept Village 2019, and is competing in the 2019 Britain in Bloom 'Village' category.
2.3	Both local nominations to Britain in Bloom were approved by Council in January 2019. See appendix 1 for a full list of entries for 2019.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Significant preparation for judging took place over the summer months by Council Operatives across the Environment and Property Services Directorate, in conjunction with the two respective Horticultural Societies in each village. Judging was carried out by the RHS Judges on Wednesday 31 st July 2019 in Castlecaulfield, and Thursday 8 August 2019 in Donaghmore.
3.2	Awards presentation invitations were subsequently received by Council on 21 st August 2019, having been issued in error to the local Horticultural Societies.
3.3	The Awards Presentation takes place on the evening of Friday 25 th October 2019, in Lindley Hall London. See appendix 2 for events details, including one-to-one judges feedback surgeries following the awards event on Saturday 26 th October 2019. Up to three Community representatives of both groups have confirmed arrangements to attend the Awards presentation evening on Friday 25 th October, and the one-to-one Judges Surgery the following morning. Council attendance will proceed through the normal Council approval process.

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial:</p> <p>Attendance at the Awards presentation will include travel arrangements and overnight accommodation.</p>
	<p>Human:</p> <p>Officer time in making arrangements to attend and promotion of the outcome.</p>
	<p>Risk Management:</p> <p>None.</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>N/A</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>N/A</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are requested to note the content of this report.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 – 2019 RHS Britain in Bloom Finalists
6.2	Appendix 2 – 2019 RHS Britain in Bloom Awards Presentation Invitation