

Report on	Town and Village Entries for Award Competitions in 2022
Date of Meeting	11 th January 2022
Reporting Officer	Mark McAdoo, Assistant Director – Environmental Services
Contact Officer	Eunan Murray, Grounds and Cemeteries Manager

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update members on the town and village entries for the Ulster in Bloom and Best Kept Awards 2022 and to approve the nomination of Donaghmore for Britain in Bloom 2022.
2.0	Background
2.1	Despite the pandemic the Ulster in Bloom competition continues to attract great interest locally. The Best Kept Awards are also planned to return in 2022 after a 2 year absence.
2.2	These annual competitions promote achievement and excellence in Horticulture, Amenity and Environmental Sustainability and are important in recognising the high quality local environments in which we live and work. The awards encourage towns and villages right across Northern Ireland to look their best and boost civic pride e.g. through floral displays
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The nominations for entry into the Ulster in Bloom 2022 competition (under the appropriate categories based on population size) are proposed as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cookstown 2. Magherafelt 3. Coalisland 4. Maghera 5. Tobermore 6. Donaghmore 7. Swatragh 8. Caledon 9. Stewartstown 10. Castlecaulfield
3.2	It is also proposed that the above settlements will also be entered into Best Kept Awards (further details of the categories to be released by the Northern Ireland Amenity Council).
3.3	Whilst Mid Ulster District Council received recognition for a number of settlements and towns in Ulster in Bloom 2021, it was Donaghmore which scooped the Translink Ulster in Bloom Competition winner for the 'Village category'.

3.4	As a result of this achievement, NILGA are planning to nominate the village to go on and represent Northern Ireland in the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Britain in Bloom Competition in 2022 (see correspondence at appendix 1).
3.5	A copy of the marking sheet including judging criteria for the Britain in Bloom Competition is included at appendix 2.
Other Considerations	
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Within existing resources.
	Human: Within existing resources.
	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are asked to note the contents of this report and approve the town and village entries for both the Ulster in Bloom and Best Kept competitions in 2022 as well as the nomination for Donaghmore into the "Village Category" of RHS Britain in Bloom 2022.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 – Correspondence from NILGA for Britain in Bloom Nomination 2022
6.2	Appendix 2 – BIB marking sheet