

Report on	Maghera Walled Garden Green Flag Award 2019
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 update Members of the recent success at the Green Flag Awards for Maghera Walled Garden.
2.0	Background
2.1	Council's Parks Team submitted Green Flag entries for three Council maintained sites in the District, including Maghera Walled Garden.
2.2	The Green Flag Award Scheme recognises and rewards well managed green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces. The criteria examines if the site is welcoming, healthy, safe and secure; that there are clear management plans in place which considers biodiversity, landscape and heritage factors and that there is clear evidence of Community involvement.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Significant preparation and maintenance was carried out in Maghera Walled Garden for the 2019 judging. Grounds Maintenance staff are extremely pleased that Maghera Walled Garden has maintained its Green Flag status following the awards event on 23 rd July 2019.
3.2	The Green Flag Awards are judged annually by green space experts, who volunteer their time to visit applicant site sites and assess them against eight strict criteria, ranging from horticultural standards, cleanliness, sustainability and community involvement.
3.3	This standard has given external verification that good practice has been demonstrated by Staff and Council. Evidence of this good practice having a positive effect on visitor experience to the garden, and the other Council maintained sites over the summer period.

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial:</p> <p>Awards application fees for the garden, and maintenance of the successful Council sites within the Property Services.</p>
	<p>Human:</p> <p>Officer and Operatives time in maintaining delivery standards across the respective sites</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	None.