

Report on	Live Here Love Here Community Awards 2024
Date of Meeting	16 th April 2024
Reporting Officer	Mark McAdoo, Assistant Director: Environmental Services
Contact Officer	Karl McGowan, Waste & Sustainable Development Manager

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update members on the Live Here Love Here (LHLH) Community Awards 2024.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Live Here Love Here is administered by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB) with financial support from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and 9 councils listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council • Ards and North Down Borough Council • Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council • Belfast City Council • Fermanagh and Omagh District Council • Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council • Mid and East Antrim Borough Council • Mid Ulster District Council • Newry, Mourne and Down District Council <p>Live Here Love Here deliver a range of programmes and campaigns to help both individuals and groups at every stage of their environmental journey. For example "Big Spring Clean" where collected individuals or groups are taking dedicated action to clean up an area in their community and "Adopt a Spot" which encourages individuals or small groups to take ownership or civic responsibility to clear litter and tidy a small-scale specific area on an ongoing basis.</p>

3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Live Here Love Here Community Awards returned this year to celebrate 10 years of recognising the remarkable efforts of individuals and groups who are working to make our communities stronger, cleaner and greener.

LHLH Community Awards objective is to celebrate and recognise individuals, groups, or organisations that have contributed to the well-being and enhancement of their local community. These awards encompassed a wide range of categories, such as environmental sustainability efforts, community development projects, volunteers, and environmental preservation.

The Live Here Love Here Community Awards, are sponsored by Belfast Harbour. Nominations opened on 15th December 2023 and submissions were encouraged from the wider public and Local Authorities. LHLH used Social Media platforms to link applications for the nominated individuals and groups within their community and beyond to receive an award.

The purpose of the awards is to publicly recognise and celebrate the contributions of those who work tirelessly to improve their communities in a voluntary capacity. Environmental volunteer work is essential for fostering a sense of pride, solidarity, and motivation among residents in the Mid Ulster District Council area. It not only acknowledged the hard work and dedication of individuals and groups within our district but we hope it also inspires others to get involved and make a difference in their own communities in the near future.

3.2 On 29th February 2024, the Live Here Love Here Community Awards took place in Belfast Harbour Commissioners Office to celebrate and recognise dedicated volunteer action across Northern Ireland. The event was attended by Council Vice Chair Cllr Meta Graham along with the Council's Recycling Education Officers. The awards were presented by Lesser Spotted Ulster presenter Joe Mahon who gave a brief outline of each category and introduced each council area in turn.

Live Here, Love Here Community Awards ceremony shared stories of best practice, networking, and building partnerships among various community stakeholders. It also helped to raise awareness about pressing issues facing the community and how we as individuals can mobilise collective action towards addressing them. Overall, community awards like these play a vital role in promoting civic engagement, social cohesion, and sustainable development at the local district council level.

The winner of the Live Here Love Here Champions Award for the Mid Ulster District Council area was Bellaghy Open Door Complex. The award recognised a group that has demonstrated exceptional dedication to their local area, displayed values embodied by LHLH and demonstrated consistent hard work.

Open Doors is a cross community shared space and offers a warm welcome to all in the community. The Complex offers a wide range of facilities, a large sports hall, rooms for hire, an allotment area plus a beautiful café for refreshments. The group have displayed a remarkable commitment to sustainable practices, showcasing the positive impact that can be achieved through collective efforts. The group identified an unused open green space adjacent to their existing poly tunnels and allotments. As a result, they decided to introduce a "No Dig" gardening concept. The no dig gardening concept has positive impacts on soil health, weed control, water conservation, biodiversity, and overall sustainability. Their efforts have created a positive ripple effect within the wider community. The

	<p>willingness to share knowledge and skills via workshops and open events has empowered others to adopt similar practices, further promoting the importance of sustainable living.</p> <p>Congratulations also go to Pamela Morrow for being recognised as a runner up in this category for her longstanding work with Caledon in Bloom.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	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 content of this report.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Photographs from the LHLH Awards Ceremony.



Mid Ulster District Council Champion Award Winner – Bellaghy Open Doors Group
Photo 1 – MUDC Vice Chair Cllr Meta Graham, Bellaghy Open Doors - Noel O'Sullivan and LHLH Manager Lynda Surgenor



Mid Ulster District Council Champion Award Winner – Bellaghy Open Doors Group
Photo 2 – MUDC Vice Chair Cllr Meta Graham, Bellaghy Open Doors - Members and LHLH Manager Lynda Surgenor



Mid Ulster District Council Campion Award – Runner Up – Caledon in Bloom
Photo 3 – MUDC Vice Chair Cllr Meta Graham, Caledon in Bloom – Pamela Morrow and LHLH Manager Lynda Surgenor



Mid Ulster District Council Campion Award – Runner Up – Caledon in Bloom
Photo 4 – MUDC Vice Chair Cllr Meta Graham, Caledon in Bloom members and LHLH Manager Lynda Surgenor



Photo 5 – MUDC Vice Chair Cllr Meta Graham, Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful Chief Executive, Ian Humphreys, MUDC Officers Karen Brown and Jolene Keys.