

Report on	Best Kept Awards 2023
Date of Meeting	14 th November 2023
Reporting Officer	Mark McAdoo, Assistant Director, Environmental Services
Contact Officer	Eunan Murray, Neighbourhood Operations Manager - South

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To inform members on the results of the NI Amenity Council Best Kept Awards 2023.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Northern Ireland Amenity Council (NIAC) Best Kept Awards, now in their 66th year, celebrate areas that are taking action to protect and care for their local environment, creating safer, cleaner, healthier and more sustainable places to live, work and play.
2.2	Participating towns, villages and housing areas are judged on a range of criteria, including floral displays, grass roots environmental projects and an absence of litter and graffiti. Judges also look for underlying evidence of community participation in other environmental initiatives, including the promotion of recycling and wildlife conservation.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Approval was also granted previously (at January Environment Committee) to enter the following towns and villages in the Northern Ireland Best Kept Awards 2023: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dungannon 2. Cookstown 3. Magherafelt 4. Coalisland 5. Maghera 6. Tobermore 7. Donaghmore 8. Swatragh 9. Caledon 10. Stewartstown 11. Castlecaulfield
3.2	The Awards, sponsored by George Best Belfast City, were announced at Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey on the 18th of October where over 100 representatives from towns and villages across the province congregated for the ceremony.

3.3	There was again great success for the Mid Ulster district with Magherafelt (Medium Town) and Donaghmore (Small Village) all picking up 2 nd place in their respective categories. Stewartstown was also rewarded for its' efforts receiving both the Most Improved Village and the Best Kept Large Village runners up awards.
3.4	In addition to the Village awards two Housing areas within Mid Ulster also picked up awards; namely Coolnafranky Park, Cookstown (Best Kept Medium Housing Area) and Windsor Place, Coagh (Best Kept Small Housing Area).
3.5	These results are testament to the hard work/efforts of the local community groups and residents as well as the Neighbourhood Operations teams within Environmental Services.
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.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 – Photos of 2023 Best Kept Award winners/representatives