

Report on	Ulster in Bloom Competition 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? 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 Translink Ulster in Bloom competition results for 2023.
2.0	Background
2.1	This annual competition promotes achievement and excellence in horticulture, amenity and environmental sustainability and is important in recognising the high quality local environments in which we live and work. The awards encourage towns and villages in Northern Ireland to look their best thereby boosting civic pride across the province
2.2	This was the 45th year of the Ulster in Bloom Competition, celebrating horticultural excellence in cities, towns and villages right across Northern Ireland with the aim of boosting civic pride by officially recognising beautiful plant and floral displays and demonstrating collaboration between community groups, businesses and Councils.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	This years' competition attracted 106 location entries representing all the Council areas. As previously approved entries were made for the following towns/villages in Mid Ulster: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dungannon 2. Cookstown 3. Magherafelt 4. Coalisland 5. Maghera 6. Tobermore 7. Donaghmore 8. Swatragh 9. Caledon
3.2	The judging panel comprises professional horticulturists, lecturers, florists, members of Conservation Volunteers and judges with N.I. Group of Flower Arranging Societies.
3.3	The results of the 2023 competition were announced at a special event in Lisburn Lagan Valley Civic Centre, attended by Chair, on Wednesday 5 October. It is very pleasing to report that Mid Ulster district dominated in the Villages award category with Donaghmore winning first prize, followed by Caledon as runner-up and Swatragh in third place.

3.4	Speaking at the results event, Translink Chairman Dr Michael Wardlow said: “Translink prides itself in helping ensure everyone is better connected and the annual Ulster in Bloom awards are a fantastic example of what can be achieved when communities come together and put community spirit into action. On behalf of Translink, I’d like to congratulate all our Ulster in Bloom winners and participants, their hard work and the hours spent planning, planting and pruning help greatly improve the local environment in our cities, towns and villages.”
3.5	Photographs of the Village award winners from Mid Ulster are included in the appendix.
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 Translink Ulster in Bloom 2023 Award winners from Mid Ulster