

Report on	2018 Towns and Villages Awards
Date of Meeting	8th January 2019
Reporting Officer	Terry Scullion, Head of Property Services
Contact Officer	Eunan Murray, Grounds & Cemeteries 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 of local success at the 2018 town and village awards, to agree nominations for 2019 Awards.
2.0	Background
2.1	Council submitted entries for the five largest settlements and a limited number of other villages, subject to community support, to both the NIAC Best Kept Awards and Ulster in Bloom in 2018. In addition, one settlement was represented in Ireland's Best Kept Awards and Britain in Bloom awards.
2.2	The annual awards that promote achievement and excellence in Horticulture, Amenity and Environmental Sustainability and is important in recognising high quality environments to live and work. These awards encourage cities, towns and villages right across Northern Ireland to look their best, boosting civic pride through beautiful plant and floral displays. All competitions continue to attract great interest.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Ulster In Bloom 2018</u> Notably for Council in the 2018 Translink Ulster in Bloom Competition winner for the 'Village category' was Donaghmore, with last year's winners Castlecaulfield in a very close second place. This achievement for both Villages is recognition of the efforts of Council, local businesses and the local communities. The awards presentation for this event was held on Thursday 20 September 2018 and appendix 1 outlines feedback from the Judges on all participating settlements in the district.
3.2	<u>Best Kept Awards 2018</u> In the Best Kept Awards 2018 there was success again for Donaghmore winning the Best Kept Small Village category, with Castlecaulfield in second position. In the Housing Awards there was success for Lismore Avenue and Milltown in Dungannon received the Best Kept Medium Housing Area. The awards presentation for this event was held on Tuesday 16 th October 2018 and appendix 2 outlines feedback from the Judges on all participating settlements in the district.
3.3	<u>Britain In Bloom Awards 2018</u> The results of the 2018 Royal Horticultural Society Britain In Bloom Awards were announced in Belfast on the 19 October 2018. Castlecaulfield achieved a Gold award in

3.4

the overall Village Category. This is a significant achievement for Council and for the village and appendix 3 outlines feedback from the Judges

Awards Nominations 2019

There is lots of useful feedback to consider for areas judged this year to work on for the 2019 season. Nominations for the Best Kept Awards and Ulster in Bloom 2018 are proposed as follows under the appropriate category for the five area largest areas based on population size:

1. Dungannon,
2. Cookstown,
3. Magherafelt,
4. Coalisland, and
5. Maghera

Other nominations for both awards follows council nominations for last year, and were local Community input was evident in the 2018 growing season:

6. Tobermore,
7. Castlecaulfield, and
8. Donaghmore

In addition, there has been interested expressed from the following areas for Council to include the following entries in 2019:

- a. Caledon,
- b. Moy,
- c. Stewartstown, and
- d. Castledawson

It is proposed that these areas are included in 2019 as a trial, subject to retaining resource commitments in line with the Council's agreed Grounds Maintenance Settlements as detailed in Appendix 4 and were local Community input can be evidenced.

3.5

Ireland's Best Kept Awards and RHS Britain in Bloom 2019

Following Donaghmore's success in the Northern Ireland Regional awards this year it will go forward to be considered at the All Ireland Awards in May/June 2019. This is the same approach for previous winners for previous regional winners.

In addition, NILGA has submitted a request seeking the nomination of Donnaghmore as the Village Category winner for submission to Britain in Bloom. Also, Castlecaulfield to the 'Campion of Champions' category following their success in the awards over multiple years. See appendix 5 for details of the Britain in Bloom nominations.

3.6

It should also be noted that RHS are considering changing the judging form and matrix for the 2019 awards. The current form is out of 200 marks (100 for horticulture, 50 for environment & biodiversity and 50 for community, the new form will be out of 100 marks (40 for horticulture, 30 for environment & biodiversity and 30 for community) reflecting a more balanced focus across the key areas judged. An RHS BIB finalist event will be arranged in early February were further details on the judges scoring system will be conveyed. This will be an important event for Council with two settlements from the district.

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial:</p> <p>Entry to the regional awards is covered by an annual affiliation fee which will be included in budget estimates for the 19/20 financial year. Seasonal planting and third-party maintenance has also been included in budget provision for in year and estimates for 19/20. Work for all awards should be within existing directorate resource commitments.</p> <p>There may be some additional cost in support of the Britain in Bloom awards (e.g. seasonal planting, photographs/ publicity, hospitality, attendance at the finalist event, attendance at the awards event, etc). Cost in 2018/19 will be included in budget estimates for 2019/20.</p>
	<p>Human:</p> <p>Within existing Directorate resources, in conjunction with respective local communities in preparation for awards in 2019.</p>
	<p>Risk Management: N/A</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>N/A</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: N/A</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>Members are asked to note the contents of this report and appendices, and recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ulster in Bloom and Best Kept Award applications for the settlements outlined in section 3.4, plus the four additional settlements listed for a trial period of one year, subject to being able to evidence measurable Community input on the ground for the awards period, and b) RHS Britain in Bloom 2019 nominations for Donaghmore and Castlecaulfield into their respective competition categories.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 – Ulster in Bloom Feedback 2018
6.2	Appendix 2 – Best Kept Awards Feedback 2018
6.3	Appendix 3 – RHS Britain in Bloom Feedback 2018
6.4	Appendix 4 - List of Grounds Maintenance Priority Settlements
6.5	Appendix 5 – BIB Nominations Letter 2019