

<b>Report on</b>	Best Kept Awards
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Mark McAdoo, Assistant Director, Environmental Services
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Mark McAdoo, Assistant Director, Environmental Services

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To inform members on the results of the NI Amenity Council Best Kept Awards 2022.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The Northern Ireland Amenity Council (NIAC) Best Kept Awards, now in their 65th 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 environmental initiatives, including the promotion of recycling and wildlife conservation.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
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 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dungannon</li> <li>2. Cookstown</li> <li>3. Magherafelt</li> <li>4. Coalisland</li> <li>5. Maghera</li> <li>6. Tobermore</li> <li>7. Donaghmore</li> <li>8. Swatragh</li> <li>9. Caledon</li> <li>10. Stewartstown</li> <li>11. Castlecaulfield</li> </ul>
3.2	The Awards, sponsored by George Best Belfast City, were announced at the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Offices on 18 <sup>th</sup> October where over 100 representatives from towns and villages across the province congregated for the ceremony.

3.3	<p>There was again great success for Mid Ulster district, particularly for Donaghmore, which won the following categories (adding to its recent success in Ulster in Bloom):</p> <p><i>Best Kept Small Housing Area</i>  <i>Best Kept Small Village</i>  <i>Best of the Best (i.e. overall winner on all the day across all categories)</i></p> <p>Also Castlecaulfield was runner up in the small village category; meaning the top two entries in this category were from Mid Ulster, which was a really excellent achievement.</p>
3.4	These results are testament to the hard work/efforts of the local community groups as well as the Grounds Maintenance and Cleansing teams within Environmental Services.
3.5	A copy of the judges' comments for all areas entered are included as an appendix.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: Within existing resources.
	Human: Within existing resources.
	Risk Management: N/A
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Members are asked to note the contents of this report and local success in the awards.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix 1 – Photograph with Donaghmore Best Kept Award winners/representatives
6.2	Appendix 2 – Copy of judges' reports for all Best Kept Award area entries for 2022