



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



Galway County
Public
Participation
Network

Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Phoiblí
Chontae na Gaillimhe

Galway County Council

In partnership with

Galway County Public Participation Network

Invite Nominations for

The Cathaoirleach's Community Awards 2020

Celebrating voluntary activity in communities across County Galway



Foreword by Cllr. James Charity, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

The Cathaoirleach Awards are an annual initiative to acknowledge the commitment of individuals and groups who participate in unpaid community and voluntary activities and the significant impact their actions have on quality of life in their communities.

The Awards for 2020 are particularly important as we celebrate the many selfless volunteers who have supported our communities, our vulnerable, and those who have been impacted in so many ways since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to that end, we have amended the Award Categories to reflect these particular challenges of the year gone by.

Although we won't be able to gather in person to celebrate the Award Winners, it is more important than ever that we recognise those who went above and beyond for their communities in 2020. If your Group would like to put yourselves forward, or you know a Group or Individual Volunteer who has made a difference during 2020, please submit a Nomination Form under one of the Award Categories overleaf.

Cllr. James Charity
Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

Award Categories

The Award categories have been amended for 2020 and nominations are now invited under the following:

COVID-19 Community Response Award (1 Award per Municipal District)

This category recognises the efforts that Groups made to maintain the resilience of their local community by providing practical and social supports to vulnerable individuals and enabling people to stay connected and keep well since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. *In recognition of the community spirit shown across the County, there will be a separate Award per Municipal District in this category.*

Culture and Creativity Award

This category recognises Groups who enhance their local area by conserving, protecting and promoting the Arts, Crafts, Culture or Heritage of their local community through creative activities. *Examples: drama, music, literature, arts, festivals, heritage publications, heritage events, digital heritage & oral heritage projects, built heritage, archaeological and cultural heritage projects, etc.*

Environment & Natural Heritage Award

This category recognises Groups who dedicate their time to carrying out works in the community, such as caring for their local environment and natural heritage, and/or promoting environmental protection or sustainability projects.

Examples: Tidy Towns projects, clean-ups, community gardens, parks, pollinator and biodiversity-friendly initiatives, climate change initiatives.

Health & Wellbeing Award

This category recognises Groups who improve quality of life by implementing proactive initiatives to support physical, mental and social wellbeing.

Examples: physical activity & recreational activities & facilities, mental health campaigns, healthy living awareness and initiatives, places & spaces for community wellbeing, etc.

Irish Language Award

This category recognises the efforts that Groups make to preserve, promote or increase the use of Irish. This Award covers both Gaeltacht and non-Gaeltacht areas.

Examples: community/school projects and initiatives, events/festivals 'as gaeilge' that focus on promoting and increasing the use of Irish amongst the community.

Social Inclusion Award

This category recognises Groups who create opportunities for everyone to participate in their local community, by providing positive environments and initiatives to care for those who may be vulnerable, isolated or marginalised.

Examples: Community Centres, Mens Sheds, Community Alert & Emergency Response Services, Care and Repair Services, Befriending Services, voluntary support services for the elderly, etc.

Individual Volunteer of the Year Award

This category recognises the outstanding contribution that an individual volunteer has made to their local community. Every community has individuals who are boundless in their energy and determination to get things done – so nominate those unsung heroes who encourage, support, lead and inspire others in your community.

Judging Process

All nominations will be adjudicated by an independent Judging Panel. As part of the adjudication process, the Judging Panel reserve the right to re-categorise nominations to an alternative Award Category if deemed appropriate.

The decisions of the Judging Panels will be final.

Awards Process

- Each category will be shortlisted to 5 nominees who will receive a Certificate signed by the Cathaoirleach.
- A winner will be chosen from the shortlisted nominees in each category who will receive a specially commissioned Award hand-crafted by a local craft producer and a cash prize of €500 to use for their work.
- All shortlisted nominees will be invited to an online ceremony where the winners of each category will be announced.

How do I nominate?

1. There is a separate Nomination Form for Individuals and Groups – nominations will only be accepted on these official Nomination Forms.
2. Groups can self-nominate for a project or activity they are carrying out or can be nominated by a third-party individual or group.
3. Individuals cannot self-nominate or be nominated by a family member – nominations must be made by a Community Group or third-party individual.
4. When nominating an Individual or Group, please ensure they have been notified and agree to the nomination before you submit the Nomination Form.
5. Groups can enter under one Award Category only.
6. Read the questions carefully and ensure you provide as much detail as possible about the Individual or Group's voluntary activities, achievements, the difference they have made to the local community and the reasons why they deserve the Award.
7. You may provide links to social media images or documents to support your nomination.

General Terms & Conditions

1. The shortlisted nominees must be present at the Ceremony where the winners are announced and will be notified in advance (Ceremony for 2020 Awards will be held online).
2. Any nominated Individuals and Groups must be based and operating in County Galway (Galway City-based individuals and Groups cannot be considered).
3. These Awards relate to activities which are carried out on a voluntary basis only (paid work / positions cannot be considered).
4. Nominations must be received on or before the closing date.

**All completed Nomination Forms
must be submitted online at**

<https://www.galwaycountypn.ie/cathaoirleachs-community-awards-2020/>

or

<https://www.galwaycountypn.ie/cathaoirleachs-community-awards-individual/>

**The Closing Date for receipt of
Nomination Forms is
Friday 21st May 2021.**