

INTRODUCTION

The Housing Executive is delighted to launch our 2021 Rural Community Awards competition.

Last year, we amended the competition to reflect the circumstances presented as a result of COVID-19 and we were overwhelmed by the number and quality of applications received for and on behalf of volunteers who helped their communities through this difficult time.

This year we want to continue to celebrate the work of volunteers across NI who are quite often the 'unsung heroes' within our communities, going above and beyond to promote health and well-being, individual and community development, social inclusion and to help make life better for all residents.

The **Rural Community Spirit award** is open to all community groups based in rural areas across Northern Ireland and our **Community Champion** award is open to extraordinary individuals nominated by the rural community group they represent.

We also want to re-introduce our **Cleaner & Greener** Rural Community award which seeks to reward and encourage those rural communities who have come together to protect and enhance their built and natural environment and to promote sustainability with their residents.

In addition, for the first time, we are delighted to introduce two exciting new categories which are aimed specifically at young people. There are two age categories for our **Young Rural Volunteer** award and our **Budding Rural Photographer** award through which we hope to draw on the artistic talent of young rural residents through recounts of their own volunteer work through poetry, art work and photographs.

For the chance to win any of the four Rural Community Awards on offer, simply read the guidance overleaf and complete the attached application forms.



| Rural Community Spirit |
| Community Champion |

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Rural Community Spirit, Community Champion and Cleaner & Greener Awards are open to all community groups, residents groups, voluntary groups or other groups having a constitution and acting in the interest of a rural settlement (as defined by NISRA) providing that they meet the following criteria:

- They must be properly constituted and provide evidence of a constitution/articles of association;
- They must operate on a not-for-profit basis;
- They must demonstrate appropriate financial management eg manage finance through a bank account specifically in the name of the group.

In assessment of entry forms, additional points will be awarded to community groups who can demonstrate that activities undertaken within the village will benefit the residents of a Housing Executive estate or/ and if there is Housing Community Network (HCN)/District Inter Agency (DIA)/Area Scrutiny Panel (ASP) involvement in the community group.

The Community Champion Award is open to all community groups who nominate an individual. The groups must adhere to the conditions set above.

The competition is all about recognising your village as a whole and so consideration will only be given to one application per village. If there is more than one group operating within the village then we suggest that a collective application is made. Community groups can enter either one, two or all three categories. Initial assessment will be based on the information included in the entry form but groups are also encouraged to submit supporting information such as photos, newspaper clippings or any other evidence of community activity.

All prize money is aimed at supporting and extending activities/projects which benefit the rural community. We will promote the competition throughout the year on our website and through relevant rural publications but community groups should also involve the Housing Executive in any publicity they carry out locally.

The **Young Rural Volunteer** and **Budding Rural Photographer** awards are open to all young people in the designated age categories who currently live in a rural location in Northern Ireland.

Rural definition

In line with the NISRA default urban/rural definition, the Housing Executive considers all settlements with a population <5,000 as rural. For confirmation that your village is eligible please contact rural.housing@nihe.gov.uk or alternatively visit the NISRA website.

Please note that previous award winners will not be considered for the same award for two years following their successful application.

ASSESSMENT

Entry forms will be reviewed by an assessment panel comprising both Housing Executive representatives and independent representatives from Supporting Communities NI.

Completed application forms & supporting information should be returned to the Housing Executive by 4pm on **Friday 17th September 2021**.

Entry forms should be returned by post to:

**The Rural Unit
Northern Ireland Housing Executive
2 Adelaide Street
Belfast BT2 8PB**

Alternately entries can be emailed to:
rural.housing@nihe.gov.uk

APPLICANT DETAILS (for Community Spirit/Community Champion and Cleaner & Greener awards)

Name of village/small settlement	
Name of community group lead	
Contact name	Contact address and postcode
Email (optional)	
Tel no	
Proof of constitution is attached <input type="checkbox"/>	Group operates on a not-for-profit basis <input type="checkbox"/>
Group has a specific bank account <input type="checkbox"/>	Is Group affiliated to the HCN/Interagency Forum? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

APPLICANT DETAILS (for Young Rural Volunteer and Budding Rural Photographer awards)

Name of village/small settlement	
Name of Applicant	
Name of parent/Guardian	Contact address and postcode
Email (optional)	
Tel no	
To be completed by the parent/guardian of any applicant under the age of 12: I hereby give consent for my son/daughter to enter this competition. Signed: Print name:	
Details on how to withdraw parental consent for your child to participate in the competition can be found on page 9	

THE RURAL COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD

Category 1: North Region (Rural areas within Antrim & Newtownabbey, Mid & East Antrim, Causeway, Coast & Glens, Derry & Strabane)

Category 2: South Region (Rural areas within Ards & North Down, Newry, Mourne & Down, Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon, Mid Ulster, Fermanagh & Omagh and Lisburn/Castlereagh).

Prize: £1000 to the winning community group from each of the above categories.

Name of rural community/residents group:

Name of village/small settlement you represent:

Tell us in 300 words or less how your rural community group has worked together to make your village or small settlement a better place to live and to encourage community spirit.

Consideration will be given to any aspect of community work which has been undertaken to improve the quality of life of residents, with particular emphasis on facilities, services and activities which have been made available for specific groups within the community i.e. elderly people, young people, ethnic minorities etc. Recognition will be given to any group-led initiatives which contribute to the improvement of health and well-being through the organisation of activities or the provision of services which seek to reduce social isolation and loneliness and/or which aim to increase inclusion, accessibility and safety within communities.

Please provide details of how you have involved the wider community in these activities with emphasis on the benefits to the tenants and residents of Housing Executive estates in your area.

We would welcome the inclusion of photographs, promotional material, social media pictures, local press clippings etc which support your submission.

RURAL COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD

Category 1: North Region (An individual living in a rural area within Antrim & Newtownabbey, Mid & East Antrim, Causeway, Coast & Glens, Derry & Strabane)

Category 2: South Region (An individual living in a rural area within Ards & North Down, Newry, Mourne & Down, Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon, Mid Ulster, Fermanagh & Omagh and Lisburn/Castlereagh.

Prize: £500 to the community group associated with the regional winner plus an individual prize.

Name of person you wish to nominate for the Community Champion Award:

Name of rural community/residents group they represent:

Tell us in 300 words or less why you consider this individual to be a 'Community Champion'.

Please provide details of the ways in which this person shares their time, skills and knowledge of their local community, to identify what is needed and how this need can be addressed. Examples could include the organisation of community events and activities, the sourcing of available grants for community projects, sacrificing free time to help those in need and encouraging others to do the same.

Please provide details of how this individual has involved the wider community in their activities with emphasis on the benefits to the tenants and residents of Housing Executive estates in your area.

We would welcome the inclusion of photographs, promotional material, social media pictures, local press clippings etc which support your submission.

CLEANER & GREENER RURAL COMMUNITY AWARD

Category 1: North Region (Rural areas within Antrim & Newtownabbey, Mid & East Antrim, Causeway, Coast & Glens, Derry & Strabane)

Category 2: South Region (Rural areas within Ards & North Down, Newry, Mourne & Down, Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon, Mid Ulster, Fermanagh & Omagh and Lisburn/Castlereagh).

Prize: £1000 to the winning community group from each of the above categories.

Name of rural community/residents group:

Name of village/small settlement you represent:

Tell us in 300 words or less how your rural community group has worked together to enhance the appearance of your village and to promote and encourage sustainability among residents.

Consideration will be given to activities such as: litter pick-ups, painting/ maintenance of buildings, street planting and community gardens. Applicants will also be scored on any environmental activities which they have undertaken such as recycling, reducing waste etc.

Please provide details of how this individual has involved the wider community in their activities with emphasis on the benefits to the tenants and residents of Housing Executive estates in your area.

We would welcome the inclusion of photographs, promotional material, social media pictures, local press clippings etc which support your submission.

NEW AWARD:

YOUNG VOLUNTEER AWARD

The aim of this award is to highlight the important contribution that young people often make within their rural communities through helping those in need or identifying their own community project for other young people in the area. We hope to provide some recognition for individual efforts and help them to inspire other young people to make a difference.

Category 1: Age 7-14

Category 2: Age 15-18

Prize: An Apple Ipad for each of the category winners

Applicant Name:

Name of village/small settlement where you live:

Tell us in 200 words or less how you have helped to make a difference to people living in your rural community.

This could include for example, how you have helped an elderly neighbour or family member, how you have helped with a community project or some details about an activity you have organised for other young people in your area.

Your entry could also take the form of a poem or short story and we would welcome photographs and artwork to support your submission.

NEW AWARD:

BUDDING RURAL PHOTOGRAPHER AWARD

Through this award we want to encourage young people to use the technology available to them to provide us with an image which they think depicts **community spirit** within their village or the efforts made to make their village **cleaner and greener**.

We look forward to receiving artistic images of rural Northern Ireland during the summer months and we will use the winning images in the next edition of our 'Rural Matters' magazine.

Category 1: Age 7-14

Category 2: Age 15-18

Prize: An Apple ipad for each of the category winners.

Applicant Name:

Name of village/small settlement where you live:

Show us in a single photograph with an accompanying explanation of 50 words or less, either:

- The **community spirit** within your rural community;
- This could include an image of people working together, helping those who may be isolated or lonely or who need a helping hand.
- How people within your community have come together to create a **cleaner, greener** and more beautiful place to live.

This could include for example, an image of community growing spaces, flower arrangements, litter picks or bee hives. We want to see in a picture, how the beauty of your village is appreciated and sustained.

About your photograph:

Ideally the photograph should be taken in a **landscape** format and should be no larger than a **1MG jpeg** file with an actual size of **minimum 100mm** and high quality **300dpi** resolution.

Your photograph should be emailed to rural.housing@nihe.gov.uk.

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the information contained in this form is accurate .

Signed	Name	Date
	Position in organisation (if applicable)	

The form should be completed in black ink or online, printed out, signed and returned to:

The Rural Unit, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, The Housing Centre, 2 Adelaide Street, Belfast BT2 8PB
Email: rural.housing@nihe.gov.uk Tel: (028) 9598 2502

All applications must be returned by Friday 17th September 2021 at 4pm.

The Housing Executive will be in contact with winning individuals and/or their legal guardian to discuss potential promotional activities.

YOUR INFORMATION

What we do with your information

The Housing Executive collects the information on this form for the purposes of assessing your application for the 2021 Rural Community Awards. Your personal data will be used to determine your eligibility for the competition, to contact you in relation to the success of your application and for related promotional activities e.g. social media, local press, NIHE website.

The lawful basis for processing your personal information is **Consent** under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) **Article 6 (1)(a)**:

“The Data Subject has given consent to the processing for one or more specific purposes”

Contact permission

We would like to be able to contact you with information on further Rural Community Awards, competitions, funding opportunities, information on or invitations to events and to provide copies of our Rural Matters magazine.

If you would like to receive this information, please confirm your consent by ticking this box

Withdrawal of Consent

You can withdraw your consent at any time by contacting us by phone on 028 95982764, email at Rural.Housing@nihe.gov.uk, by post, social media or verbally to a member of staff.

Sharing your information

Your information will be shared with the members of the Rural Community Awards Assessment Panel for the purposes of assessing your application. This will include the NIHE Rural Unit, two NIHE Area Managers and a representative from Supporting Communities.

How long we hold your information for

Your application will be held on file for three years in line with our Data Retention Policy.

Privacy Notice

To find out how we use your personal information and your individual rights you can view the full version of our Privacy Notice at www.nihe.gov.uk/privacy_notice



**Housing
Executive**

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