

**Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council
is delighted to accept nominations to the
Community and Volunteer Awards 2026**



Information

Nominations Open – [until Midnight 27th October 2026](#)

Criteria for Nominations

Who is eligible to be nominated for a Community Award?

- Any locally based not-for-profit Community or Voluntary group/organisation in the County of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown
- Groups/organisations, in the County of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, who can demonstrate an inclusive and transparent ethos
- Groups/organisations who are working to support or promote any activities in line with the objectives of the dlr Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023-2028
<https://www.dlrcoco.ie/business/local-economic-and-community-plan-2023-2028>
- Groups/organisations who have an appropriate organisational structure and can demonstrate a commitment to good practice in line with the Governance Code or the Charities Governance Code
- Groups/organisations that are nominated must be registered with the DLR Public Participation Networking (PPN) or in the process of registering
- Any group/organisation nominated should be aware and accept that they are being nominated

Who is eligible to be nominated for a Volunteer Award?

- Any voluntary member of any locally based not-for-profit Community or Voluntary group/organisation in the County of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown
- Voluntary members of Groups/Organisations, in the County of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, who can demonstrate an inclusive and transparent ethos
- Voluntary members of Groups/Organisations who are working to support or promote any activities in line with the objectives of the dlr Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023-2028
<https://www.dlrcoco.ie/business/local-economic-and-community-plan-2023-2028>
- Voluntary members of Groups/Organisations who have an appropriate organisational structure and can demonstrate a commitment to good practice in line with the Governance Code or the Charities Governance Code
- The Volunteer should be a member of a Group/Organisation that are registered with the DLR Public Participation Networking or in the process of registering
- Any volunteer nominated should be aware and accept that they are being nominated
- A volunteer can be nominated **under one category only for the Volunteer Awards.** Individuals who receive pay for their service will not be eligible

Nominations can be submitted in the following ways:

- Submitting an online form
- Printable Nomination Forms available upon request, please email community@dlrcoco.ie
- By email to community@dlrcoco.ie
- Or by post to Community & Volunteer Awards, Community and Cultural Development Department, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, County Hall, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire, Co Dublin, A96K6C9

For information, assistance, or a hardcopy of the nomination form please contact the Community Department on 01- 2054893

Prizes

Group/Organisation Award Winners

There will be a winner and runner-up in each category

- ❖ Winner Prize - €500, Commemorative Piece and framed Certificate
- ❖ Runner-up Prize - €300, Commemorative Piece and framed Certificate

Volunteer of the Year Award Winners

There will be a winner in each category

- ❖ Winner - Commemorative Piece and framed Certificate
- ❖ Runner-up - Commemorative Piece and framed Certificate

All nominees will receive a thank you note

Presentation of Awards

The winners will be announced at the Community & Volunteer Awards ceremony which will take place on the evening of

Thursday 5th November 2026

The Royal Marine Hotel, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire, A96 K063

Arrival at 7pm

Ethos and Focus of Awards

The Community & Volunteer Awards provide an opportunity for the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council to recognise and celebrate the commitment of community groups and volunteers. These Awards are Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council's way of recognising and acknowledging the extraordinary community and volunteer work that takes place in the community in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

General Conditions

- Groups that are nominated must be registered with the DLR Public Participation Network or in the process of registering.
- All groups, organisations and volunteers nominated must have carried out their activities in the County of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.
- Information provided in the application may be used in promotional material.
- Late and incomplete nomination forms will not be considered.

Decision Making Process

Please use information below as a guideline for the nomination process. The judge's decision is final.

Participation

The judges are interested in hearing about the group/organisations aims & objectives and how inclusive & accessible the group are.

Aims & Objectives

The judges are interested in hearing about training and development opportunities, future goals, and expansion of membership and succession planning. opportunities. Please give examples.

Community Impact

The judges are keen to learn more about the impact membership has on its members, how members and local voices are empowered and what organisations the group collaborate with.

Social Inclusion

The judges are interested in how the group/organisation attracts new members and how it aligns itself with the DLR Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

Recognition

The judges are interested in hearing about a significant moment for the group in the last year and the reasons for the nomination.

GDPR

The Council is obliged to comply with the obligations contained in the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 in relation to the processing of personal data.

Details submitted as part of this nomination/scheme will not be shared with third parties, other than the Judges adjudicating on the nominations, except for the eventual winners in each category. Details of the winners, including images, may be used in promotional material related to Community and Volunteer Awards.

Freedom of Information Act 2014

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2014, details contained in applications and supporting documents may, on request, be released to third parties. If there is information contained in your application which is sensitive or confidential in nature, please identify it and provide an explanation as to why it should not be disclosed. If a request to release sensitive information under the legislation is received, you will be consulted before a decision is made whether or not to release the information. However, in the absence of the identification of particular information as sensitive, it could be disclosed without any consultation with you.

Categories

Please see a description of each category and an example of groups/organisations/persons that fall under that category

Group/Organisation Awards

Community Organisation Award

Recognising established community organisations, charities and not-for-profit bodies delivering significant services, programmes or facilities for the benefit of the community.

Volunteer-led Community Group Award

Recognising volunteer-led groups whose activities are delivered primarily through the efforts of local volunteers and community members.

Good Governance Award

Recognising a voluntary community group or committee that demonstrates strong leadership, accountability, transparency, and responsible management, helping to build a sustainable and thriving organisation for the benefit of the wider community.

Moment to Celebrate Award

Every community group has a success story. This award celebrates a project completed, a challenge overcome, a milestone reached, or a special achievement that has made a meaningful difference to the group, its members, or the wider community during the past year.

Community Collaboration Award

Great things can happen when people work together. This award recognises successful partnerships between community groups, organisations, clubs, or volunteers that have combined their skills, resources, and ideas to make a positive difference in the community during the past year.

Volunteer Awards

Volunteer of the Year Award

Recognising an outstanding volunteer who has made an exceptional contribution to their community through their dedication, generosity, commitment, leadership and positive impact on the lives of others.

Committee Member of the Year Award

Recognising an individual who has made an exceptional contribution to the governance, organisation, and development of a community group or organisation through their role as a committee member. This award celebrates commitment, leadership, teamwork, and dedication to serving the local community.

Youth Leadership Award (Under 18's only)

This award celebrates a young person who leads by example and makes a positive difference in the lives of others. Nominated by fellow young people, it recognises someone who demonstrates kindness, initiative, teamwork, and a commitment to improving their community.