



BEST KEPT AWARDS

Administered by Northern Ireland Amenity Council

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7 January 2025

Mr John Walsh
Chief Executive
Belfast City Council
Belfast City Hall
Belfast
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Dear Mr Walsh

Firstly, can I take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy New Year.

On behalf of Northern Ireland Amenity Council, may I take this opportunity to thank you and your council for your continuing affiliation and the support you continue to give the Best Kept Awards programme.

This, the 68th year of our competition, will hopefully see another action-packed year where communities across the province have competed to demonstrate their superiority in the improvements they have been able to incorporate in their towns and villages.

I have taken the liberty of attaching a double page spread of this year's presentation of our awards that took place in The Guildhall, Derry/Londonderry magnificent Guildhall that the Ulster Tatler incorporated in their November edition. This clearly demonstrates the heights our competition has reached due to the help of our local councils' support and the work of our invaluable volunteers.

Over the years, the environment has been greatly enhanced by the improvements in the appearance of our Townscapes, Villages, Housing Estates, Healthcare facilities, Schools and properties throughout Northern Ireland. Councils can be rightly proud of their contribution towards all these improvements over the years.

Since the Covid pandemic, our charity has struggled to source another route of funding as our last sponsor's contract concluded in 2023, we have plans in hand designed to remedy this shortcoming.

We have managed to maintain an annual affiliation fees for each council at £2300 since 2015 when the new councils were formed and hope that you would agree that we need to reconsider whether such a rate still meets today's needs. Inflation over this period would require such fees to increase by over 34%, however, we feel we should contain our proposed increase below this level at £3000.

I trust you will still consider this represents good value for money and would allow us to continue the great work our competition inspires in your community to the greater good of the whole environment.

Once again let me express my deep appreciation for your valuable support over the years and hope that we can look forward to your continuing support in the future.

Yours sincerely

Doreen E A Muskett, MBE
Chairman

When replying, please can this be done by email at info@bestkeptawardsni.com