



Belfast City Council

Report to: Development Committee
Subject: Pride of Place Cities Competition 2012
Date: March 2012
Reporting Officer: John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer: Cate Taggart, Community Development Manager, ext 3525

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Pride of Place competition has been supported by Belfast City Council for a number of years. For the past 3 years following committee approval, Community Service Officers have taken the organisational lead in the selection and preparation of entrant groups.
1.2	The Pride of Place competition is a prestigious all Ireland competition with a high profile throughout the island of Ireland, President Mary McAleese and Stormont ministers both have attended the prize giving.
1.3	Established in 2003 and hosted by Co-operation Ireland, Pride of Place is an all-Ireland competition which aims to recognise and celebrate the vital contributions that community groups make to society. The competition focus is on people coming together to shape, change and enjoy all that is good about their area. It gives community groups the opportunity to showcase specific pride initiatives, whether social, environmental or heritage-related, which will have long lasting and positive impacts on their society.
1.4	Each year, several categories are defined and entries invited; all entrants must be nominated by their local authority. In previous years, entrants nominated and sponsored by Belfast City Council have enjoyed considerable success. Winners are announced at a high-profile awards ceremony, hosted by a previous winning council, each autumn.
1.5	In 2009 we entered 4 groups; <ul style="list-style-type: none">- North Belfast Women's Initiative and Support Project- Failte Feirste Thair- Wandsworth Community Centre- Star Neighbourhood Centre

	The North Belfast Women's Initiative won their Category and Failte Feirste Thair came second in theirs.
1.6	<p>In 2010 we entered 4 groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hannahstown Community Association - Forum for Action on Substance Abuse - Artability - Taughmonagh Community Forum <p>The Forum for Action on Substance Abuse won their category.</p>
1.7	<p>In 2011 we entered the following 4 groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finaghy Crossroads Project – Category – Community Enhancement. - Heart Project – Category – Community Health Initiative. - Suffolk Lenadoon Interface Project – Category – Sport in the Community - Donegall Pass Community Forum –Category – Population over 1.000 <p>The Heart Project were runners up in their Category Donegall Pass Community Forum won their Category.</p>
1.8	All the groups nominated to date have given positive feedback and have experienced tangible benefits from their association with the competition. These include an increased sense of pride, motivation to continue their commitment to provide excellent community facilities and programmes and increased recognition for their interventions from their local community.
1.9	The 2012 award Ceremony will be on the 3 & 4 November with the venue still to be decided. This year there are two population categories, three single issue categories with designated themes and the housing estate category. There is an extra award to mark the 10 years the competition has been in existence and only applies to previous winners.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The Service has identified four suitable groups who have the attributes to compete strongly on behalf of the City:
2.2	<p><u>Bridge Community Association</u> in the 1000 plus population Category – Based in East/South, Belfast Bridge Community Association provides a wide range of activities and services to the whole community including; tackling social isolation and promoting better health and community safety among older people and vulnerable adults including the provision of a telephone contact service; training and personal development of marginalised young people; youth development and activities programme; good relations and interface work with the Short Strand community; advice outreach services; and a playgroup.</p>

2.3	<p><u>Suffolk Community Forum</u> in the Theme Category of Community Gardening. - Suffolk Community Forum is based in West Belfast and has been pioneering in developing, promoting and lobbying for Community Gardens as a way in which local communities can build up capacity, skills and partnerships. The innovative Suffolk Community Garden brings together people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to grow fruit vegetables and flowers and to encourage healthy lifestyles and recreational activity. It promotes self help, volunteering and sharing knowledge and skills. The successful Community Garden enterprise at Suffolk along with its sister project at Glen Community Centre was recently awarded the West Belfast Environmental Project 2011.</p>
2.4	<p><u>North Belfast Senior Citizens Forum</u> in the Theme Category of Older People's Participation in the Community. NBSCF is based in North Belfast and is an organisation representing the interest of 30 older people's groups throughout North Belfast. They seek to promote the interest and well-being of older people in north Belfast without distinction of age, gender, race, political or other opinion.</p>
2.5	<p><u>Upper Andersonstown Community Forum</u> in the Category of Housing Estate. Upper Andersonstown Community Forum is based in West Belfast and is a dynamic and inclusive organisation providing opportunities for local residents to become actively involved in raising the quality of life for the Upper Andersonstown Neighbourhood through community and economic regeneration. It provides a range of services including child care, afterschools, youth services, employment, training and education, volunteer support and disability. The Forum is represented on the local Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership and the West Belfast Partnership Board ensuring that the neighbourhood has a voice and can make an impact on strategic decisions affecting the area and West Belfast.</p>
2.6	<p><u>Special Category for previous Winners</u> . This is to mark the 10 years the Cities competition has been in existence. The criteria the nominees will be judged on are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moving towards self-sustainability - Significant growth and development since winning the award - Benefit to Community
2.7	<p>The following groups have won in their categories since Belfast City first entered the competition 10 years ago.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballysillan Ardoyne Community Garden Project (2004) • Council's Community Awareness Team from Cleansing Contracts (2004) • Lagan Legacy (2005) • Welcome Trust West Belfast (2006) • Newtownards Road Women's Group (2006) • Greater Village Regeneration Trust (2007) • Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group (2008) • Engage With Age East/South (2008) • North Belfast Women's Initiative & Support Group (2009) • Forum for Action on Substance Abuse (2010) • Donegall Pass Community Forum (2011)

2.8	Officers have conducted a preliminary assessment of the eleven groups using the three criteria above. Nine groups were discounted as they did not meet all three criteria. Two groups met the three criteria and are being put forward for the committee's consideration: Lower Ormeau Resident's Action Group (LORAG) and Greater Village Regeneration Trust (GVRT). Only one of these groups can be nominated for the Special Category Award.
2.9	<p><u>Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group</u></p> <p>Since winning the Pride of Place in 2008, LORAG has been instrumental in the redevelopment of Shaftsbury Recreational Centre, developing a strong social economy project and a unique model to deliver sports, health and community development activities within one community managed facility. The income generated by this project covers 80% of its running costs and 70% of salary costs. The project employs 14 full-time and 12 part-time posts. Future plans for the organisation include; community café, water sports provision and a gateway to tourism.</p>
2.10	<p><u>Greater Village Regeneration Trust</u></p> <p>GVRT is one of the key organisations driving regeneration in the South of the City. The trust owns and manages the Richview Regeneration Centre which was officially opened in April 2009 and provides access to space for community organisations and social enterprises, housing, amongst others, the Sure Start Village Children's Centre. GVRT are at the forefront of redeveloping the Village/Donegal Road area of south Belfast which is one of the most socially deprived areas in the city and work in partnership with key stakeholders to ensure that the views and needs of local people are built into the regeneration process.</p>
2.11	Committee are invited to nominate either LORAG or GVRT for the Special Category Award

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>The cost per entrant is £500 and 5 suitable entrants have been identified.</p>
3.2	Should the Members agree to enter the 2012 competition, it is proposed that the Council should pay the entry fees as well as the travel and accommodation expenses relating to the attendance of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Director of Development (or their nominees) and the project officer, together with a maximum of three persons per external project (depending on the number of tickets allocated by Co-operation Ireland), at the awards ceremony.
3.3	The total cost is estimated at £5,500 including subsistence, travel and accommodation for one night; this would be funded from existing budgets.
3.4	<p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>There are no human resource implications resulting from this report.</p>

3.5	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> There are no implications, with regard to Council assets or strategic planning, resulting from this report.</p>
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4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	Organisations nominated for the Pride of Place Awards reflect the diversity of the city and will promote both equality of opportunity and good relations amongst nominees.

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>The Committee is requested to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Select and approve either LORAG or GVRT for the Special Category Award 2. Approve the entry of 5 groups to the Pride of Place Award 3. Approve the attendance of the Chair, the Deputy Chair, the Director of Development (or their nominees) and the project officer, together with a maximum of three persons per external project (maximum twelve in total) at the 2012 awards ceremony and approve the payment of the entrants' fees, travelling, attendance and subsistence allowances in connection therewith.

6	Decision Tracking
	<p>Timeline March to November 2012, Contact Officer : Catherine Taggart</p>

7	Key to Abbreviations
	<p>LORAG: Lower Ormeau Resident's Action Group GVRT: Greater Village Regeneration Trust (GVRT).</p>

8	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1: Pride of Place Cities Competition 2012 – Categories Appendix 2: Assessment of Organisations for Special Award</p>

Pride of Place Cities Competition Categories and Proposed Entrants 2012

1. Categories

- a. Self-Contained Geographic Communities (within cities). These will effectively be distinct, tangible communities within the city. The population categories for these communities are as follows:

1. under 1,000
2. over 1,000

The communities will be asked to demonstrate social responsibility under the following headings:

- How do we care for our vulnerable people (e.g. older people, young people, and the disabled and migrant workers)?
- How do we retain our culture and still be welcoming to new people?
- How do we protect our environment?
- How do we respect the built fabric of the community?
- How do we make links between the business community and your community?

b. Theme

1. Community Gardening
2. Older People's Participation in the Community
3. Cultural Tourism

For the themed categories, groups will be asked to demonstrate excellence in delivery of a local community service.

C. Non Population

6. Housing Estates (not population Specific)

D. Special Category

- 1 previous winner from the past 10years

2. Proposed Entrants

Request Committee to approve the 5 entries including the additional entry for the Special Category.

Pride of Place- Assessment Grid

Group	Moving Towards Self-Sustainability	Benefit to Community	Significant Growth and Development Since Winning Award
Ballysillan Ardoyne Community Garden Project		✓	
Council's Community Awareness Team from Cleansing Contracts		✓	
Lagan Legacy		✓	
Welcome Trust West Belfast		✓	
Newtownards Road Women's Group		✓	
Greater Village Regeneration Trust	✓	✓	✓
Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group	✓	✓	✓
Engage With Age East/South		✓	✓
North Belfast Women's Initiative & Support Group		✓	✓
Forum for Action on Substance Abuse		✓	✓
Donegall Pass Community Forum		✓	✓

Recommendations

The following two organisations meet the 3 criteria for the Pride of Place Award;

Greater Village Regeneration Trust

GVRT is one of the key organisations driving regeneration in the South of the City. The trust owns and manages the Richview Regeneration Centre which was officially opened in April 2009 and provides access to space for community organisations and social enterprises, housing amongst others the Sure Start Village Children's Centre. GVRT are at the forefront of redeveloping the Village/Donnegal Road area of south Belfast one of the most socially deprived areas in the city, working in partnership with key stakeholders to ensure that the views and needs of local people are built into the regeneration process.

Lower Ormeau Resident's Action Group

Since winning the Pride of Place in 2008, LORAG has been instrumental in the redevelopment of Shaftsbury Recreational Centre, developing a strong social economy project and a unique model to deliver sports, health and community development activities within one community managed facility. The income generated by this project covers 80% of its running costs and 70% of salary costs. The project employs 14 full-time and 12 part-time posts. Future plans for the organisation include; community café, water sports provision and a gateway to tourism.

Discounted

- Ballysillan Ardoyne Community Garden Project (2004)
- Council's Community Awareness Team from Cleansing Contracts (2004)
- Lagan Legacy (2005)
- Welcome Trust West Belfast (2006)
- Newtownards Road Women's Group (2006)
- Engage With Age East/South (2008)
- North Belfast Women's Initiative & Support Group (2009)
- Forum for Action on Substance Abuse (2010)
- Donegall Pass Community Forum (2011)