

MAYO SCORES AWARDS TREBLE IN CROKER!

Mayo was back in Croke Park earlier this year to pick up All-Ireland awards of a different kind as it scooped the coveted 'Council of the Year' title and also scored top points to register two category wins at the 12th All Ireland Community and Council Awards.

Now in its 12th year, the Community & Council Awards scheme that celebrates communities and councils working together, has significantly grown in popularity nationwide. And for the first time this year the event moved to Croke Park for the All-Ireland final and was hosted by RTÉ's sports commentator Marty Morrissey.

Since 2006, the national awards scheme has highlighted the collaboration between communities and local authorities in bringing novel and progressive projects to fruition.

This year's overall winner Mayo County Council was also shortlisted for seven projects in total, and was category winner for 'Westport 250 celebrations' for Arts & Culture, while its Mayo Sports Partnership won the Best Community Health Initiative category for 'It's for Girls' initiative.

Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council, Cllr Richard Finn welcomed the great success by Mayo County Council at the 2018 awards. He acknowledged all of the projects that were submitted for this competition and, in particular, the seven projects that were named as finalists from Mayo.

"Significant work takes place all around this county where Mayo County Council and communities come together to deliver on new and novel initiatives that benefit all who live in our county.

"A well-deserved congratulations to the two projects – 'Westport 250 Celebrations' and the 'It's for Girls' campaign that won the national award categories, and well done to all on winning the coveted 'Council of the Year' title. It really is a fantastic achievement for the county," said Cllr Finn.



Mayo County Council's Cathaoirleach Cllr Richard Finn and Chief Executive Peter Hynes raise aloft the overall award for 'Council of the Year' with the team after winning the coveted title for 2018, with (far right) Mags Murray, chairperson of LAMA Executive.



Pictured at the presentation of the 'Best Arts & Culture Initiative' category award to Mayo County Council for its 'Westport 250' celebrations were (l-r): Cllr Sean Power, LAMA Representative from Waterford County Council; Dermott Langan, Westport 250 committee; Catherine McConnell, Director of Services, Mayo County Council; Cllr Richard Finn, Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council; Mags Murray, Chairperson of LAMA Executive, and Peter Hynes, Chief Executive, Mayo County Council. Pic: Paul Sherwood



Pictured at the presentation of the 'Best Community Health Initiative' category award to Mayo County Council in recognition of the 'It's for Girls' programme rolled out by Mayo Sports Partnership were (l-r): Cllr Frank O'Flynn, LAMA Representative from Cork County Council; Mayo County Council's Cathaoirleach Cllr Richard Finn, Anne Ronayne from Mayo Sports Partnership Mayo County Council's Director of Services Catherine McConnell, Mags Murray, Chairperson of LAMA Executive and Peter Hynes, Chief Executive, Mayo County Council.

The other projects nominated were the 'Wild Mayo' promotional campaign in the Best Tourism Initiative category; Crossmolina St Patrick's Night Festival in The Arts and Culture category; Crossmolina St Patrick's Night Festival for Community Volunteer of the Year, plus Mayo Community Futures and School Wardens 'Lollicops' in the Best Community-Based Initiative category

12th COMMUNITY & COUNCIL AWARD WINNERS

With over 150 nominations received for the 2018 Community and Council Awards, over 100 projects nationwide from 23 counties were shortlisted across 20 categories. The coveted Grand Prix Award was won by Waterford Greenway, which also took home the award for the Best Tourism Initiative.

The National Gallery of Ireland was recognised with the National Impact Award for the refurbishment of the Historical Wings as well as also scooping the award for Best Public Building.

Cork County Council's Centenary Commemorations was crowned the Best Community Based Initiative. Meanwhile, Cork City Council was awarded Best Energy Smart Initiative, for Phase One of the Housing Fabric Upgrade Programme while Louth County Council took home a Special Recognition Award for Innovation in Social Housing and Community.

Council of the Year

Mayo County Council

Grand Prix Award

Waterford Greenway (Waterford County Council)

Best Arts/Culture Initiative

Westport 250 (Mayo County Council)

Best Business Working with the Community

Lilly Kinsale Manufacturing (Cork County Council)

Best Community-Based Initiative

Centenary Commemorations (Cork County Council)

Best Community Health Initiative

It's For Girls (Mayo County Council)

Best Community Sports Team/Club

Shankill Tennis Club – Community Tennis for All (Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council)

Best Connected Council

Limerick.ie (Limerick County Council)

Best Disability Access & Inclusion Initiative

A Minute Matters; Disabled Parking Awareness Campaign (Monaghan County Council)

Best Education/Training Initiative

I WISH (Cork City Council)

Best Educational Building

Gaelscoil Iarfhiltha (Galway County Council)

Best Energy Smart Initiative

Housing Fabric Upgrade Program Phase One (Cork City Council)

Best Heritage Project

Malahide Castle & Gardens (Fingal County Council)

Best Irish Language Initiative

Pop-up Gaeltacht Comhairle na nÓg an Chabháin (Cavan County Council)

Best Local Authority Innovation for Attracting Inward Investment

Limerick 2030 Economic & Spatial Plan (Limerick County Council)

Best Public Building

National Gallery of Ireland Refurbishment of Historic Wings (Dublin City Council)

Special Recognition Award

Louth County Council for Innovation in Social Housing and Community

Best Tourism Initiative

Waterford Greenway (Waterford County Council)

Community Volunteer of the Year

Bob Gilbert (Cavan County Council)

Silver Award Tommy Keogh (South Dublin County Council)

National Impact Award

National Gallery of Ireland Refurbishment of Historic Wings (Dublin City Council)



George Jones, Chairman of IPB Insurance, described the awards as a “showcase” of what can be achieved when communities and councils work together.