

LOCAL AUTHORITY OF THE YEAR IS A CLARE WINNER!

Nominated for a record 11 out of 16 categories at this year's Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards, Clare County Council took home the 'Local Authority of the Year 2018' at the 15th Awards ceremony, and also scooped three other award categories.

The awards which were presented at a ceremony in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Santry, Dublin on 22 November, in association with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, again acknowledge best practice and constructive initiatives by local authorities.

Clare County Council's category award wins included: Friars Walk Coach Park Ennis (Outstanding initiative through the Municipal Districts), Community Mobilisation Unit: Rural & Community Development Officer (Best Practice in Citizen Engagement) and The Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark (Sustainable Environment).

Councillor Michael Begley, Mayor of Clare, who described the Excellence in Local Government Awards as the "Oscars for the Local Government sector", said that being named Local Authority of the Year is "a well-earned acknowledgement of the hard work of all of the staff of Clare County Council and is reflective of energy and initiative being shown by management across the organisation with the support of all 28 Elected Members".

Pat Dowling, Chief Executive of Clare County Council, thanked and congratulated the local authority staff and elected members for their efforts and commitment to delivering a quality public service to the people of Clare.

"During the past two years, Clare County Council has developed and commenced implementation across all Directorates of an ambitious and wide-ranging programme of investment and development that will benefit our county.

"All of the Clare initiatives nominated for an Excellence in Local Government Award reflect the level of positive activity underway in the county and it is important that we see the national recognition of this work as a vote of confidence in our continued efforts to further improve the quality of life in County Clare.

"Clare County Council is committed to continuing a partnership approach that engages businesses, local Chambers of Commerce, State agencies, Government Departments, key influencers and most importantly, local communities in expanding and delivering improved Local Government and key



Clare County Council officials and elected members pictured at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards in Crowne Plaza Hotel, Santry, Dublin:

Seated (l-r): Pat Dowling, Chief Executive; Anne Haugh, Director of Social Development; Cllr Michael Begley, Mayor of Clare; Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy, Mayor of Ennis Municipal District; and Cllr Pat Hayes, Leas Cathaoirleach of Killaloe Municipal District.

Standing (l-r): Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development; Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development; Cllr Pat McMahon, Leas Cathaoirleach of Shannon Municipal District; Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development; and Cllr Ian Lynch, Cathaoirleach of West Clare Municipal District.

community services," added Dowling.

Other Clare County Council initiatives nominated for an award:

- Clare Library Outreach Service to Kilmaley Daycare and Health Centre Clare (Supporting Active Communities)
- Addressing the Rural Development Challenge (Promoting Economic Development)
- Clare County Council's Digital Hub Programme (Local Authority Innovation)
- Disability Services at Active Ennis Leisure Complex (Disability Services Provision)
- Lough Derg Blueway (Joint Local Authority Initiative)
- 'BiaFest - Food of the Banner County' (Festival of the Year)
- Ennis Peace Park (Commemorations and Centenaries)
- The Aisling Development (Enhancing the Urban Environment)

Visit www.chambers.ie for more on the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards.

AWARD WINNERS SHOWCASE EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

In addition to winning the 'Local Authority of the Year' at the 15th Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards, Clare County Council also scooped three category awards. The event, again held in association with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, celebrated and showcased the best 16 category winners for 2018.

Ian Talbot, Chief Executive, Chambers Ireland said: "Once again this year's awards have proved to be a timely reminder of the tremendous work being done by local authorities, as well as what these authorities contribute to and within their respective communities and how essential their role is across many different facets of Irish society."

He said that Clare County Council was the well-deserved winner of the overall 'Local Authority of the Year' award, adding that the council earned this accolade through embracing such a wide variety of initiatives while taking steadfast efforts to accomplish them.

"Showing tenacity and ingenuity across different fields has made Clare stand out and be recognised. A consistent level of citizen engagement and future vision for the region are what

Clare has brought to the table this year and they deserve to be commended for it," noted the Chief Executive of Chambers Ireland.

Minister of State for Local Government and Electoral Reform, John Paul Phelan TD said that the awards again served to highlight the vital role played by local authorities every day in meeting the diverse and dynamic needs of communities across the country.

Individual awards were sponsored by the following:

Lidl, ESB Networks, Healthy Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, AIB, LGiU Ireland, ERP, Waterford Crystal, Zurich, EirGrid, Ervia, Shell, TEKenable and An Post. Specially commissioned crystal awards, designed by Waterford Crystal, were presented to all winners on the night.



CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL – LOCAL AUTHORITY OF YEAR

Pictured at the presentation of 'Local Authority of the Year' Award to Clare County Council were (l-r): Diarmuid McMahon, President of Ennis Chamber; Ian Talbot, Chief Executive of Chambers Ireland; Cllr Michael Begley, Mayor of Clare County Council; Siobhan Kinsella, President of Chambers Ireland; John Paul Phelan, Minister of State for Local Government and Electoral Reform; and Pat Dowling, Clare County Council's Chief Executive.



Best Practice in Citizen Engagement Award (sponsored by ESB

Networks): Pictured (l-r): Ian Talbot, Chief Executive, Chambers Ireland; Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development, Clare County Council; Cllr Michael Begley, Mayor of Clare; Paddy Hayes, MD of ESB Networks; John Paul Phelan TD, Minister of State for Local Government & Electoral Reform.

CHAMBERS IRELAND AWARDS



Sustainable Environment Award (sponsored by ERP): Pictured (l-r): Ian Talbot, Chief Executive, Chambers Ireland; Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development, Clare County Council; Martin Tobin, CEO, European Recycling Platform; Michael Begley, Mayor of Clare; and John Paul Phelan TD, Minister of State for Local Government & Electoral Reform.



Outstanding Initiative through the Municipal Districts Award (sponsored by LGiU Ireland): Pictured (l-r): Ian Talbot, Chief Executive, Chambers Ireland; Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy; Andy Johnson, Director of LGiU Ireland; Mayor of Clare Cllr Michael Begley; Carmel Kirby, Clare's Director of Physical Development; and John Paul Phelan TD, Minister of State for Local Government & Electoral Reform.



Supporting Active Communities Award (sponsored by Lidl): Pictured (l-r): Ian Talbot, Chief Executive, Chambers Ireland; Jacinta Lowndes, Donabate Portrane Community Centre, Louise Edmonds, Senior Community Officer, John Paul Scally, MD of Lidl Ireland, Fingal Mayor Cllr Anthony Lavin, John Paul Phelan TD, Minister of State for Local Government & Electoral Reform, and Margaret Geraghty, Fingal's Director of Housing and Community.



Health & Wellbeing Award (sponsored by Healthy Ireland): Pictured (l-r): Ian Talbot, Chief Executive, Chambers Ireland; Eoin Doyle, Director of Service, Cavan County Council; Greg Straton, Healthy Ireland; Cllr Madeleine Argue, Cathaoirleach, Cavan County Council; Barry McSkeane, Cavan Rainbow Youth; and John Paul Phelan TD, Minister of State for Local Government & Electoral Reform.



Supporting Tourism Award (sponsored by Fáilte Ireland): Pictured (l-r): Ian Talbot, Chief Executive, Chambers Ireland; Ann Cusack, Board of Waterford Museum of Treasures; Aileen Dowling, Fáilte Ireland; Waterford Mayor Cllr Declan Doocey; John Paul Phelan TD, Minister of State for Local Government & Electoral Reform; and Éamonn McEaney, Director of Waterford Museum of Treasures.



Promoting Economic Development Award (sponsored by EirGrid): Pictured (l-r): Ian Talbot, Chief Executive, Chambers Ireland; Elaine Donohue, European Region of Gastronomy 2018; Alan Farrell, Director of Services, Galway County Council; Padraig Slyne, EirGrid; and John Paul Phelan TD, Minister of State for Local Government & Electoral Reform.

CHAMBERS IRELAND AWARDS



Local Authority Innovation Award (sponsored by TEKenable):
Pictured (l-r): Ian Talbot, Chief Executive, Chambers Ireland; Barry Waddingham, Manager, Cork Foyer/Bishopsgrove Supported Student Accommodation Project; Peter Rose, TEKenable; Cllr Mick Finn, Mayor of Cork City; Brian Geaney, Director of Services, Cork City Council; and John Paul Phelan TD, Minister of State for Local Government & Electoral Reform.



Best Library Service Award (sponsored by Shell): Pictured (l-r): Ian Talbot, Chief Executive, Chambers Ireland; TBC; John Paul Phelan TD, Minister of State for Local Government & Electoral Reform; Séan Power, Mayor of Kildare; TBC; TBC.



Joint Local Authority Initiative Award (sponsored by Zurich):
Pictured (l-r): Ian Talbot, Chief Executive, Chambers Ireland; TBC; John Paul Phelan TD, Minister of State for Local Government & Electoral Reform; David Maxwell, Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council; TBC.



Disability Services Provision Award (sponsored by EirGrid):
Pictured (l-r): Ian Talbot, Chief Executive, Chambers Ireland; TBC; TBC; David Maxwell, Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council; Pdraig Slyne, EirGrid; and John Paul Phelan, Minister of State for Local Government & Electoral Reform.



Sustaining the Arts Award (sponsored by Waterford Crystal):
Pictured (l-r): Ian Talbot, Chief Executive, Chambers Ireland; Michael Nevin, Longford County Council; David McCoy, Waterford Crystal; Luie McEntire, Cathaoirleach of Longford County Council; John Paul Phelan TD, Minister of State for Local Government & Electoral Reform; and Fergal Kennedy, Longford County Council.



Enhancing the Urban Environment Award (sponsored by Ervia): Pictured (l-r): Ian Talbot, Chief Executive, Chambers Ireland; TBC; TBC; Séan Power, Mayor of Kildare; Susan Moss, ICF; TBC; and John Paul Phelan TD, Minister of State for Local Government & Electoral Reform.

CHAMBERS IRELAND AWARDS



Heritage and Built Environment Award (sponsored by AIB):
Pictured (l-r): Ian Talbot, Chief Executive, Chambers Ireland; Aoife Duke, Limerick City & County Council; Mags Brennan, AIB; Limerick's Deputy Mayor Cllr Kieran O'Hanlon; and John Paul Phelan TD, Minister of State for Local Government & Electoral Reform.



Festival of the Year Award (sponsored by Fáilte Ireland):
Pictured (l-r): Ian Talbot, Chief Executive, Chambers Ireland; Cork County Council's Aileen Murray, Sean O'Callaghan and Cllr Susan McCarthy; Grainne Millar, Fáilte Ireland; Helen Mulcahy, Cork County Council; and John Paul Phelan TD, Minister of State for Local Government & Electoral Reform.



Commemorations and Centenaries Award (sponsored by An Post):
Pictured (l-r): Ian Talbot, Chief Executive, Chambers Ireland; Cathaoirleach Cllr Tom Kelly, Meath County Council; John Paul Phelan TD, Minister of State for Local Government & Electoral Reform; Barry Lynch, Meath County Council; Gary O'Meara, Meath Enterprise.

