

# MAGNIFICENT SEVEN FOR WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Wicklow County Council was crowned 'Council of the Year in Ireland' at this year's All-Ireland Community and Council Awards ceremony, and the accolade for the Garden County came as Wicklow also won six other honours in the annual awards ceremony organised by the Local Authority Members' Association (LAMA) in Dublin on 9 April.

The prestigious 'Council of the Year' award gives due recognition to a local authority which has gone above and beyond for the people of the community, and for developing continuously a range of innovative projects and initiatives which improve and enhance the social, environmental, cultural and economic aspects of community lives.

Wicklow was judged to be the 'Council of the Year' for 2022 at the special awards ceremony, in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dublin on 9 April. These awards illustrate the collaborative work between Wicklow County Council, the community and volunteers creating a better place to live and work in Wicklow.

The All-Ireland Community & Council Awards were again presented by LAMA (the Local Authority Members' Association) in partnership with IPB Insurance, to recognise and celebrate the outstanding work undertaken out by local authorities in their communities all over Ireland.

In addition to 'Council of the Year', Wicklow County Council won six other awards across different categories:

- Wicklow Sustainable Development Goals Mapping Tools won Gold in Best Environmental or Ecological Project or Initiative.
- Carrig Eden Housing Project won Gold in Best Social Housing Project or Initiative.
- Wicklow Tourism Passport won two awards – Silver in both Best Tourism Initiative and Best Arts/Culture Initiative (inc. festivals & events)
- San Remo Housing Project won Silver in Best Community Health Initiative.
- Arklow Courthouse & Enterprise Hub won Silver in Best Local Authority Innovation for Attracting Inward Investment.



Wicklow County Council's Chief Executive Brian Gleeson and An Cathaoirleach Shay Cullen hold aloft the 'Council of the Year' Award following the presentation at the LAMA All-Ireland Community and Council Awards ceremony in Dublin.

Wicklow's Chief Executive Brian Gleeson added that it was a wonderful achievement to be shortlisted for 16 awards and to have won across six categories.

"The 'Council of the Year' award shows the importance of the work and the commitment by our elected members, staff and everyone involved in the great projects delivering excellence in local economic, social and recreational development across our county."

Commenting on their achievement, An Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County

Council, Cllr Shay Cullen said that he was delighted that the council has been recognised nationally by these awards and congratulated all involved.

"I particularly want to pay tribute to the management and staff for all their hard work, it is recognition of the fact that so many people in the local authority are delivering great projects in our community," he added.

Wicklow County Council would also like to extend congratulations to Rathnew Afterschool Ray of Sunshine Ltd, on winning Gold in the Best CSR Community Programme.