

# Six nominated for pride awards

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**Six communities and groups are in with a chance of being awarded for how they shape, change and enjoy all that it good about their area.**

Cork City Council has linked with Co-operation Ireland in nominating the communities, groups and organisations for the 2020 IPB Pride of Place awards, which are an all-island competition that recognises improvements made by local communities to create civic pride in their area.

Director of Service for Community Culture & Placemaking in Cork City Council, Adrienne Rodgers, said: "Every year this competition is one that all community groups look forward to as they get to show the rest of the country the innovative and interesting ways they help their community and its people; from the small village to the stand alone community project group focussed on wellbeing the Pride of Place is just that, an opportunity for the groups to showcase why they are so proud of their projects and places."

Cork City Council said it had the "difficult task" of nominating just one nominee in each of the above categories. The nominees are:

- Blarney Village for Urban Neighbourhood/Village under 3,000 population
- Ballincollig for Urban Neighbourhood/Village



**Blarney and Tower Community Response Forum members helping the community during this year's lockdown.**

over 3,000 population

- The Hut (Youth & Community Resource Centre) in Gurrabraher for Creative Place Initiative
- Lantern Project for Community Wellbeing Initiative
- SHEP Earth Aware and Elders for Earth for Community Climate Action Initiative
- The South Side Youth Forum in the category of Community Youth Led Initiative.

**RIGHT - Community Health Worker Micheál O Connor and local community gardeners, who volunteer thier time, on the rooftop garden of The Hut in Gurrabraher. PHOTO: CLARE KEOGH**



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**There's an onsite swimming pool at Kinsale Hotel & Spa.**

the first hotel or last hotel on the Wild Atlantic Way route.

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## Nominee profiles

### BLARNEY VILLAGE

Blarney was nominated as a small village with a big heart. Blarney's strong community spirit is shown through its many community initiatives such as Blarney Community First Responders who have trained over 300 local people, Blarney Tidy Towns group; Blarney Community Council, in existence for more 30 years who revived the Blarney St Patrick's Day Parade; Blarney Men's Shed who recently created outdoor classrooms for the national schools to help them as they reopened, and Blarney Meals on Wheels which was a real community effort during Covid-19, tripling the number of meals delivered.

### BALLINCOLLIG

The people of Ballincollig have been working hard for the past three years, encouraging an ethos of working together to benefit the social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being of their community. A strong community forum and working groups for initiatives and areas to address particular issues and bring forward solutions contribute greatly to this, a shining example of which is the Ballincollig Covid-19 Community Response Forum Area Team, who responded to hundreds of calls during the lockdown.

### THE HUT

The Hut has proven itself to be a truly creative space and often a transformative one for young and old in the area. Community members attending The Hut can work creatively through the anchor project Youth Work Ireland Cork through various mediums like art, music, spoken word, rapping, group work and general youth groups. The jewel in the crown is the new creative space in the revitalised rooftop garden which was started by community member the late Eileen Walshe and now through local volunteers.

### LANTERN PROJECT

The work of the Lantern Project plays a very important role in assisting in the inclusion of those who are marginalised or vulnerable and are seeking to take steps towards improving their lives or wellbeing.

Founded in 2007, and located in Nano Nagle Place, the Lantern is first and foremost a place of welcome and

safety for all, regardless of nationality, background, or abilities. It is a place where there is always an opportunity to meet someone, to make contact, find connections and build community. The project does this by offering learning opportunities in a community setting. During the lockdown the project found new ways to keep everyone connected and the co-ordinators and tutors used technology creatively to keep in weekly contact with everyone, including with live music performances.

### SHEP EARTH AWARE AND ELDERS FOR EARTH

SHEP Earth Aware and Elders for Earth are part of the community education and development organisation SHEP (Social and Health Education Project). They aim to raise awareness about the climate and biodiversity crisis and they work with a wide range of other groups to put on courses, workshops, talks, films and conferences. In 2019, in collaboration with several other groups, they organised the Cork Conference on Intergenerational Climate Justice in the City Hall. It brought together a speaker panel of adult and teenage climate activists with an audience of over 200, made up of equal numbers of teenagers and older people.

### THE SOUTH SIDE YOUTH FORUM

The South Side Youth Forum (SYF) was established in 2018. Young people who attended a Positive Health and Wellbeing event identified the need for a Youth Forum. A meeting was set up with young people from participating schools who drafted a plan of action on issues they faced.

SYF's aim is to change the way young people are perceived in their communities and they work to create a positive impact in their locality. They do this through positive community initiatives such as adding a memorial bench and tree in their local park and creating mental health awareness among their peers. The forum now has approximately 30 young people and a steering committee consisting of teachers, youth officers and representatives of Togher/Ballyphehane CDP, Cork City Partnership and Cork City Council.

**PR • PRESS • EVENT**

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