

Date: 5th July 2018

Title: Report Item 9 – Star Council Awards

By: Cllr L d’Urso

Purpose: To provide information on the NALC annual award scheme

Recommendations: To consider whether to apply in 2018/19

The Scheme details are as follows:

It is **FREE** to enter the awards and there are five categories:

- Young councillor of the Year (aged 18-30)
- Clerk of the Year
- Councillor of the Year
- County association Outstanding Project of the Year
- Council of the Year – decided by public vote. The entry must relate to work carried out since 2017

Entries can come from anyone. Entrants have until **17 August** to submit their entries. There will be an experienced judging panel of local government and community experts from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, County Councils Network, Society of Local Council Clerks and De Montfort University: Local Government Research Unit. In assessing applications for the awards, the judges will be looking for achievements in terms of:

- Contribution to the community and local life
- Engagement with the community
- Partnership working with local bodies
- Innovation and creativity
- Efficient use of resources

Brief details of some past winners are given in the Appendix to this report, by way of illustration. The bar is set high.

APPENDIX

Young councillor of the Year: Cllr Hinton is the youngest ever Mayor of Henley. She has been a councillor since 2011 and has chaired Henley in Bloom for over five years – leading the town to Gold on many occasions and a silver gilt at the International Entente Florale. In 2012 she became one of the leading figures involved in the development of Henley Skate Park, which is a £300,000 Olympic standard facility, which has opened recently. She focuses on the needy in Henley – the YMCA, the Youth Centre and the schools via her mayoral charity work.

The judging panel said: “I really liked the way that she involved her family in her work and how she juggles having such a young family with the extensive amount of work she clearly does in her councillor role. She uses her experience of being a mother to work on the playground so she is drawing on her own experiences to then benefit the whole community and connecting up with the Help for Heroes and other civic activities in the town.”

Clerk of the Year: Mark Williams, Falmouth Town Council, Cornwall

Mr Williams is both the clerk and responsible officer for the council. He has seen the council grow from five staff when he joined to more than 40 today. He is responsible for council projects ranging from the award winning art gallery to a town environmental team that has taken over Falmouth’s award winning parks and gardens.

The judging panel said: “We were really impressed by the way that Mr Williams had worked innovatively with the Public Works Loan Board to enable the council to borrow money. On a wider point - that’s going to significantly advantage the sector in terms of the work that they can undertake, particularly given current financial constraints. We were very impressed with the amount Mr Williams had done with double devolution in Cornwall and the way that he used it to help guide the process for other councils, he’s clearly a centre point for them there.”

Councillor of the Year: Cllr Mike Brownlow, Bruton Town Council, Somerset

Cllr Brownlow has chaired the council’s Highway Committee since its inception in 2015 and has made the committee a significant part of the council’s activities. Through tireless effort, he has built key partnerships and brought forward solutions to highway issues that have long been a source of complaints, leading to traffic schemes that are the envy of other towns with many times our resources.

In the past year, he has overseen the implementation of two major traffic schemes and has already started laying the groundwork for two more. In addition, he has been at the forefront in leading discussions to take on much loved local land and property, bringing his thoughtful and passionate approach to two key future projects to secure the future of vital community assets.

The judging panel said: “We were very impressed with Cllr Brownlow taking what was obviously a new committee and really running with it in both addressing some of the long-standing issues that had obviously been present in the community and then also looking forward with his 20-year wish for the community.”

Council of the Year: Barrow Gurney Parish Council, Somerset

Barrow Gurney is a rural parish on the outskirts of Bristol, 2.5 miles from Bristol Airport. The historic centre of the village is in the process of being designated a conservation area but had no pavement or walkways. For many years, the community has suffered the effects of heavy traffic of up to 12,000 vehicles per day passing within feet of the front doors of some properties. The project succeeded in the construction of a walkway through the village, which enabled people to walk safely

through the centre accessing amenities including the village hall and green as well as the local pub. This has helped to reduce social isolation.

Judging panel said: "I think we were really impressed with the fact that it was a successful project that was carried off pretty effectively by using S106 contributions. There was no need for them to raise the precept. It's quite an important outcome we think which allows the community to move around their village unimpeded. It's delivered by such a small council and in such a cost-effective way is an example to others." "This was putting pavement into a very busy road that had been developed in a way that the people in the village could otherwise not have walked around the local environment.