

## Press release

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# Minister Humphreys congratulates winners in Ireland's Best Kept Town Competition

From [Department of Rural and Community Development \(/en/organisation/department-of-rural-and-community-development/\)](/en/organisation/department-of-rural-and-community-development/).

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- Carrick-on-Shannon, County Leitrim named Ireland's Best Kept Town, 2023
- all island winners announced at an Awards Ceremony in Farmleigh House, Phoenix Park, Dublin

Carrick-on-Shannon, County Leitrim is the overall winner of Ireland's Best Kept Town competition, 2023. The results were announced today (20 June 2023) at an awards ceremony at Farmleigh House.

Carrick-on-Shannon also won the Best Kept Small Town category. Enniskillen, County Fermanagh won the Best Kept Large Town category, Blackwater, County Wexford won the Best Kept Village category and Antrim, County Antrim won the Best Kept Large Urban Centre category.

Ireland's Best Kept Town is an all-island competition in which some of the best towns in the SuperValu Tidy Towns competition compete against their counterparts in Northern Ireland's Best Kept competition.

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, congratulated the winners of 2023 Competition.

Minister Humphreys said:

"I want to congratulate all of the winners and nominees in the all-island Best Kept Town competition, and in particular Carrick-On-Shannon, Co. Leitrim for winning the overall title along with the title of Best Kept Small Town and Blackwater, Co. Wexford, as winners of the Best Kept Village category. I also want to pay tribute to Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh the winner of Ireland's Best Kept Large Town and Antrim, Co. Antrim, the winner of the Best Kept Large Urban Centre category."

The Minister continued:

"The all-island Best Kept Town Competition recognises the great pride people have in their own communities, both in Ireland and Northern Ireland. It is testament to how local volunteers take ownership of their local area and work to improve them, for both now and into the future. Being nominated for these awards represents an achievement in itself, and is recognition of the efforts made by volunteers and local communities in the SuperValu Tidy Towns competition and the Best Kept competition in Northern Ireland."

Doreen Muskett, MBE, Chairperson of the Northern Ireland Amenity Council, the body that organises the Best Kept Awards, said:

"Throughout the pandemic thousands of volunteers and gardening enthusiasts kept our towns, villages and the country looking its best. These awards illustrate and emphasise how much voluntary work is undertaken to keep our Towns and Villages throughout Ireland beautiful and how the community works together to make where they live desirable. These awards create links between community involvement, our natural environment and our wellbeing, helping us to recognise the value of our biodiversity and coming together to play our part in making our own parts of the country places we are proud to call home."

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## Notes

The Department of Rural and Community Development and the Northern Ireland Amenity Council initiated the Ireland's Best Kept Towns competition in 1995 to help raise the profile of both the SuperValu Tidy Towns and Northern Ireland's "Best Kept" competitions, and therefore help to improve the standard of towns and villages across the island of Ireland. All entrants were marked against strict adjudication criteria that included cleanliness, the outward appearance of buildings, the presentation of roads and public facilities and the natural environment.

## 2023 nominees

### Village

- Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare
- Blackwater, Co. Wexford
- Donaghmore, Co. Tyrone

### Small Town

- Athboy, Co. Meath
- Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim
- Randalstown, Co. Antrim
- Royal Hillsborough, Co. Down

### Large Town

- Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan
- Longford, Co. Longford
- Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh

## Large Urban Centre

- Antrim, Co. Antrim
- Derry/Londonderry, Co Derry
- Tralee, Co. Kerry
- Limerick City, Co. Limerick

The Award winners are:

- Best Village - Blackwater, Co. Wexford
- Best Small Town - Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim
- Best Large Town - Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh
- Best Large Urban Centre - Antrim, Co. Antrim
- Overall winner - Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim

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