



**LIVE
HERE
LOVE
HERE**

Tales of the Times



Belfast City Council



Application Pack

A night of storytelling...

Each year, the **Community Awards** are an opportunity to thank and celebrate environmental heroes who have demonstrated consistent hard work, instilling civic pride and tackling environmental issues in their local community. Although what would have been our fourth annual awards evening was cancelled in November, celebrating volunteers has not been cancelled. Community action is not cancelled. 'Doing good' is not cancelled. During these unprecedented times, you, our volunteers, adapted quickly to support those most in need in your communities and found ways to continue your activities.

This year on the 25th March 2021, we will be showcasing a number of these community actions through an online event, to thank you for your efforts and find out a little more about the people behind these stories.

Tell us your story or the actions of another group or individual you've been inspired by - If selected, our friends at Sparq AV will come and film your activities at your volunteer location (subject to government guidelines) to be shown on the night!

If the past number of months have taught us anything, it is that our communities are able and willing to pull together to make a big difference to society. We need volunteers now more than ever, so we want to celebrate your gestures of civic pride and community spirit through storytelling and conversation!



“We have more in common than that which divides us”
Joe Cox



Selection Criteria and Application Advice

Go beyond words - “A story, if broken down into the simplest form is a connection of cause and effect.”

Storytelling is one of the most powerful techniques we have to communicate and motivate. When we tell stories that have helped shape our thinking and way of life to others, it can have the same effect on them too.

“When the woman spoke, the volunteers understood her story, and their brains synchronised. When she had activity in her insula, an emotional brain region, the listeners did too. When her frontal cortex lit up, so did theirs. By simply telling a story, the woman could plant ideas, thoughts and emotions into the listeners’ brains.”

Uri Hasson from Princeton

A simple story is more successful than the complicated one.

Storytelling can seem daunting to most of us, but usually that’s because we think we have to use fancy words or inspiring phrases. In fact, using simple language is the best way to activate the parts of our brains that make us relate to the story. Try using simple, yet heartfelt language.

Some top storytelling tips...

1. Four P’s - People, Place, Plot, Purpose

Think about who’s story you are telling and introduce the group/ individual (but keep it short!). What kind of area does your story take place in? Now the main bit - what’s your plot? Talk about the conflicts and the journey. Lastly, your purpose. Why do you want to tell this story?

2. Less is more

You’ll likely be writing about the past year, and a lot may have happened in that time. Select the details that are need to know and be specific - little details will bring your story to life!

3. Make it as personal as possible

This is either your story, someone you know, a group you’ve been involved in or been watching from afar. Think about how we are interested in hearing how other’s have responded to different events. We all love a good protagonist!

4. If you can, end on a positive takeaway

Good stories often end with a ‘spark’. What little piece of wisdom or advice would you give another group or individual in your position?

What to include in your application

Tell us your lockdown story - here is some guidance on what to include in your application. Minimum requirements: All nominees must carry out activities on a voluntary capacity.

Adapting to Overcome - How have you adapted your environmental activities during covid-19? Tell us what you have learnt this year and how you've still supported your community. Have you paused gardening to support the local food hall? Maybe you used to carry out clean ups and started to make masks and scrubs? Did you move your weekly meetings online and supported the older generation with this transition?

PLEASE NOTE: Selected groups/ individuals will be contacted after the judging to arrange a date to film the group/ individuals' activities and talk about their work. Please ensure that at least one member of the group, the individual or a representative is available and willing to be filmed. There may also be a possibility to go live to them on the night if necessary. Filming will be take place outside following social distancing measures by Sparq AV, who have permissions to be out on location during this time. **Filming will take place between 19th February and 19th March 2021.**

Health and Wellbeing - Many of us have been taking steps to look after ourselves and those around us. Tell us how you supported yourself or some you know through the 5 Ways to Wellbeing – Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Learn and Give.

Rediscovering the Outdoors - Tell us how you or someone you know has reconnected to the outdoors through environmental action. What does the outdoors and our natural environment mean to you? Many of you started gardening through Food for Thought and litter lifting on your daily family walks. Tell us how you have learnt how to appreciate nature more and want to improve it.

Supporting Your Community - This group or individual has stepped up to look after vulnerable people and vulnerable environments. Showing kindness and caring attitudes during this time can translate to looking after green space. Did you apply to one of our programmes on behalf of a vulnerable group or individual?

Keep on trucking - This year has been difficult and many of you have just kept going to maintain your sites and spots. Maybe there is a person or group of people who have taken on the responsibility of looking after the community garden when not everyone is able to? Tell us about that person or family in your community who has continued to clean up their Adopt A Spot!

Terms and Conditions

HOW TO ENTER

Group and/or individual nominations must be made by completing the attached nomination form and forwarding to lara.walsh@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org. Please read the guidelines carefully to give your group or your nominee the best possible chance of being selected. The deadline for all entries is **12 noon 19th February 2021**. These awards are to reward groups and individuals carrying out activities in a voluntary capacity.

HOW YOUR ENTRY WILL BE ASSESSED

Each application will be judged by a panel of judges with relevant experience in community development, resilience and the environment. All nominations will be examined carefully by the judging panel.

WHEN YOU WILL FIND OUT IF YOU HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL

If you have been selected as a group or individual to be showcased on the night, you will be notified on the

23rd February 2021 and will be contacted to make arrangements for the online event taking place on the **25th March 2021 at 7pm**.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. Applications are open to Live Here Love Here volunteers involved in projects or activities in Northern Ireland. i.e. individuals/ groups must have taken part in a Live Here Love Here activities in some capacity.
2. Nominated groups or individuals must be working within a voluntary capacity.
3. Employees of Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, supporting councils, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and Northern Ireland Housing Executive are not eligible.
4. The groups/ individuals selected will be showcased on the night and will be published on www.liveherelovehere.org and social media channels after the online event. A press release will also be circulated to local and national press.

5. The above information is correct although the organisers reserve the right to change any of the above without prior notice.

6. Any breach by the entrant of the above terms and conditions will render their entry invalid. If a breach has occurred but is discovered after the selection process, the organisers may select another group/individual.

7. All decisions are final, and no discussion will be entered into on these decisions.

8. Entrants must affirm that they have complied with all local and national regulations pertaining to: protection of vulnerable habitats, places and activities; COVID-19 and social distancing guidelines.

9. If selected, the nominee will be contacted in the first instance. If contact cannot be made with the nominee, the nominator will be notified.



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Good luck!



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Contact karina.robinson@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org for more information