

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**Bellshill Local Area Committee**

To: BELLSHILL LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE	Subject: BEAUTIFUL LANARKSHIRE AWARDS 2009
From: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	
Date: 21 OCTOBER 2009	Ref: KW/JT/LP

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the outcome of the judging of the North Lanarkshire entries to the 2009 Beautiful Scotland Awards Scheme.

2. Background

- 2.1 On behalf of the council, and as part of the council's Streetsmart initiative, Land Services co-ordinated the submission of 22 entries to the 2009 Beautiful Scotland Awards Scheme, a national initiative organised by the Keep Scotland Tidy organisation to promote civic pride and a sense of place for communities across the country.
- 2.2 The decision to enter the scheme was taken following the significant investment made by the council through the growth fund and the capital programme to address various environmental issues across the council area and the introduction of the urban colour programme, including the wildflower meadows for biodiversity and the street-scene planters in town centres.
- 2.3 A major element within the awards scheme is the need to illustrate strong community involvement in caring for their local environment. The strength of various community environmental initiatives within North Lanarkshire, including the "Friends of the Parks" groups, the Village Committees and many others were a major factor in the decision to submit so many entries in the first year of North Lanarkshire Council's participation in the Beautiful Scotland Awards.

3. Outcome

- 3.1 Following the formal submission of portfolios for all the entries in June, and the judging tours during the early weeks of August, the results were announced at the annual awards ceremony on 21 September, held this year in the City of Aberdeen.
- 3.2 At the invitation of Beautiful Scotland, the awards event was attended by a delegation from North Lanarkshire representing the community champions from the various entries, escorted by 4 officers from Land Services. North Lanarkshire was successful in 15 of the 22 entries, and gained a further 4 discretionary awards reflecting good practice in a number of diverse areas.
- 3.3 The appendix to this report details the various awards received by the North Lanarkshire entries.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That the committee note the success of the North Lanarkshire entries to the 2009 Beautiful Scotland Awards Scheme and congratulates all the community partner organisations which played such an important role in the success of this year's initiative.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Wilson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

KENNETH WILSON
Head of Land Services

Local Government Access to Information Act: for further information about this report, please contact Ken Wilson on 0141 304 1846

Appendix

- North Lanarkshire has achieved 19 awards in this year's Beautiful Scotland competition. Presented on Monday 21 September, at the prestigious award ceremony in Aberdeen's Beach Ballroom, North Lanarkshire's haul included one major award; one silver gilt medal; five silver and nine bronze medals, and four discretionary awards.
- Coatbridge was named as the 'Best Small City', while Kilsyth took the Silver Gilt medal for its high standard of entry that 'meets the judging criteria and Beautiful Scotland objectives' and 'includes sections of exceptionally high standard'. It also shows potential for a future Gold Award.
- Motherwell, Airdrie, Coatbridge, Cumbernauld and Banton are all celebrating Silver Medal wins as 'above average entries that meet most of the judging criteria and objectives of Beautiful Scotland' and show 'more than one section that demonstrates exceptionally high standards', with 'potential to progress to Silver Gilt standard'.
- Bronze medals this year went to Croy, Gartcosh, Plains, Shotts, Bellshill, Caldercruix, Condorrat, Cumbernauld Village and Glenboig. Bronze is awarded to areas that have achieved 'most of the judging criteria and objectives of the competition', have 'at least one area of an exceptional standard' and 'the potential to progress to Silver Medal standard'.
- North Lanarkshire Council received the Wright Sustainable Development Award for efforts to deliver sustainable development through Local Agenda 21; and a Special Endeavour Award for promoting the campaign to local communities on such a large scale.
- A second Special Endeavour Award was presented to the group running the Craigneuk Allotments in Airdrie, while Kilsyth received the award for Best New Entrant.
- North Lanarkshire's communities were competing with 71 other entrants from across Scotland, and were visited by highly experienced assessors during a national judging tour in August to discover the cleanest, most sustainable and most beautiful communities in Scotland. A full list of the North Lanarkshire winners, along with comments from the judges, follows:

North Lanarkshire Council

Trophy: Special Endeavour Award, Wright Sustainable Development Award for Motherwell.
The Wright Sustainable Development Award is awarded to a local authority for efforts to deliver Sustainable Development through Local Agenda 21.

Airdrie, North Lanarkshire - Award for Special Endeavour for Craigneuk Allotments; Silver Medal
Beautiful Scotland judges commented: "This is an area of surprising qualities. Airdrie impressed the judges with an overall commitment to improving the natural and urban heritage. The introduction of colour into the city centre by the intelligent use of planters complements the high quality streetscape."

Coatbridge, North Lanarkshire - Small City Award; Silver Medal

Beautiful Scotland judges commented: "Coatbridge showed a plethora of green spaces, the obvious jewel being Drumpellier Country Park. The local initiatives being carried out in conjunction with North Lanarkshire Council showed a level of local and higher level consultation which together are showing good results."

Kilsyth, North Lanarkshire - New Entrant Award; Silver Gilt medal

Beautiful Scotland judges commented: "The judges were most impressed with this Lanarkshire

town which has a number of especially noteworthy features including Burngreen Park, the Walled Garden at Colzium, the planters and the barrier baskets. Kilsyth exceeded all expectations of a first time entry to the campaign.”

Banton - Silver Medal

Beautiful Scotland judges commented: “The many groups involved in the village have a well structured future plan. Meantime, the level of horticulture throughout the village is of a very high standard, with excellent co-operation from the council but maintained by the residents. In particular the judges were impressed by the standard of the Church gardens.”

Bellshill - Bronze Medal

Beautiful Scotland judges commented: “The Business Park is not only well landscaped but also meets many biodiversity targets. The newly landscaped low maintenance roundabouts are good for resource management, and the improvements at the Jewel estate will be interesting when completed. The history of the Douglas Estate was very interesting. The use of solar collectors to power lighting at the play area is to be commended.”

Caldercruix - Bronze Medal

Beautiful Scotland judges commented: “This community still has a strong village feel to it. There is good evidence that a well-led community centre is acting as the focus for improvement in the local environment. The work of the staff and volunteers on the committee has led to a productive partnership with the local authority and obvious improvements in facilities for young people.”

Condorrat - Bronze Medal

Beautiful Scotland judges commented: “As a part of Cumbernauld, Condorrat has a backdrop of woodland and areas of greenspace. It also retains a strong sense of community. Working with the local authority, local voluntary groups are taking forward projects to commemorate important events in the area’s history.”

Croy - Bronze Medal

Beautiful Scotland judges commented: “This North Lanarkshire village has the foundations for doing well in the Beautiful Scotland campaign. The village has lovely open spaces and parks which have their own natural beauty.”

Cumbernauld - Silver Medal

Beautiful Scotland judges commented: “Cumbernauld impressed with its extensive tree plantations which give shelter to the housing and gives it an all round green aura. The diversity of habitats and the community respect for the environment also impressed. There are a number of projects in the pipeline and it will be good to see them progress.”

Cumbernauld Village - Bronze Medal

Beautiful Scotland judges commented: “This community is drawing on its history to revitalise its present and future. Medieval gardens are now areas of public open space, with considerable potential for further restoration and interpretation. Considerable effort is going into several key buildings in the village, and there are plans to improve both hard and soft landscaping. There is an active group of volunteers taking these ideas forward in conjunction with the local authority.”

Gartcosh - Bronze Medal

Beautiful Scotland judges commented: “A new entry to the campaign, the village has some nice features - especially the unique memorial cottage, lovely church and the nature reserve. The latter is an excellent facility and is well used by local residents.”

Glenboig - Bronze Medal

Beautiful Scotland judges commented: “Glenboig is a new entrant to Beautiful Scotland, but is a community with a long established tradition of self help. Glenboig Village Park, with the focal point of Garnqueen, provides an excellent resource at the heart of the community for the appreciation of nature and associated activities such as angling, nature study, walking etc.”

Motherwell - Silver Medal

Beautiful Scotland judges commented on Motherwell, "An excellent effort from a first time entrant. Good horticultural standards are displayed, and there is evidence of community involvement in a number of areas. Duchess Park and the Greenlink project will make good future entries when completed."

Plains - Bronze Medal

Beautiful Scotland judges commented, "A new entry into the campaign and it still is very early days for the group. Plains has great potential to do well in the campaign, and with some guidance the judges reported that the highly motivated group will grow from strength to strength."

Shotts - Bronze Medal

Beautiful Scotland judges commented: "The Torbothie walk and other footpaths provide an excellent facility for all types of walkers. The community garden in the grounds of the E.U congregational Church is a perfect example of what can be achieved by all groups pulling together."