



**SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL**

## Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

8<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**Report of:** Councillor Annie Mason  
Cabinet Member for People and  
Safer Communities



## SK Community Awards

The inaugural SK Community Awards were held in 2021 with nominations for individuals, community groups, charities, business and local heroes being nominated from across the District. This report provides an overview of the 2021 Awards, looking at the nomination categories, criteria for judging, winners, runners up and costings.

### Report Author

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Corporate Priority:	Decision type:	Wards:
<b>Administrative</b>	<b>Administrative</b>	<b>All Wards</b>

<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Carol Drury (Senior Community Development Officer)	25 November 2021
<b>Approved by:</b>	Ken Lyon (Assistant Chief Executive)	26 November 2021
<b>Signed off by:</b>	Councillor Annie Mason (Cabinet Member for People and Safer Communities)	29 November 2021

### Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s)

1. It is recommended that Members of Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the contents of this report.

# 1 The Background to the Report

- 1.1 The SK Community Awards 2021 expanded on a project in 2020 which recognised community champions and their voluntary contributions with 'Heroes' certificates sent to people nominated via social media.
- 1.2 As with the 2020 project, the aim this year was to recognise and shine a light on organisations and individuals making a real difference within our varied communities.
- 1.3 Inscribed crystal trophies were presented to winners, with extensive print and social media coverage. For many this was the first recognition they had ever received for their achievements in making a difference.
- 1.4 The awards created a huge amount of goodwill and positive relationship building throughout.
- 1.5 Planning and publicity started in early summer to coincide with the nationally recognised Volunteers Week (1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> June annually), with eight different categories and three special awards for outstanding contributions.
- 1.6 The Awards were open to nominations from the public between 1<sup>st</sup> June and 18<sup>th</sup> September 2021. People were able to nominate those whom they felt had positively impacted on the community during 2020/21 directly through the Council's website, by downloading an application form and completing it off-line and they were able to request a hard copy of the form be sent out for them to complete and return. Officers were also available to complete the form on behalf of anyone who was unable to do this directly themselves.
- 1.7 123 nominations were received from across the District, whittled down to a final three by relevant Cabinet members and a support officer with a winner declared following conversations with shortlisted nominations.
- 1.8 Judges were asked to make sure that a nominee fitted the following criteria:
  - Activity for which the nomination has been made must directly benefit people in South Kesteven
  - Nominated groups and individuals must not work for profit or gain (except in regard to Corporate Social Responsibility for the business award)
  - Any Elected Member connected to a nominee must declare their interest
  - All nominations received must be treated fairly and without prejudice. Therefore, if any elected Member has personal dealings with the nominee they must declare it and remove themselves from the judging of that category.
  - There must be evidence that groups/organisations/ individuals make a difference in their community
  - Nominations cannot be accepted by, or for, lobbying groups

## Categories:

- 1.9 **The Neil Smith 'Beyond the Call of Duty' Award: Judged by Candice Smith with Cllr Kelham Cooke, Leader of the Council and Yvonne Swinton, Community Safety Lead**  
Dedicated to our late council colleague, this award reflected Neil's actions in using CPR to save the life of his 11 month old son Tommy following a cardiac arrest. This award was identify someone whose actions went 'beyond the call of duty', including pandemic actions or an emergency situation.  
**Winner:** Ella Tapson, a Lincolnshire Integrated Voluntary Emergency Services (LIVES)

community first responder, who has responded to hundreds of 999 calls and is now training as a paramedic.

**Runners up** were Heidi Latronico-Ferris from The Deepings Apache Cub Scouts in Market Deeping and Grantham man Rob Dixon.

1.10 **Lifetime Community Champion Award: Judged by Cllr Linda Wootten, Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Licensing and Graham Watts, Head of Democratic Services**

This was a category for people who have given their life to an aspect of public service, showing selflessness and a compassion for others – often as an unsung heroes across our communities.

**Winner:** Stephen Hullott, a stalwart of the Air Training Corps, training for more than 50 years for his outstanding work and influence training and developing hundreds of teenagers and adults across Lincolnshire.

**Runners up** were Peter Dobney of Hanby Farms and Chris Needham, from The Danish Invader in Stamford.

1.11 **Helping Hand Award: Judged by Cllr Robert Reid, Cabinet Member for Housing and Property and Andrew Cotton, Strategic Director for Housing**

The pandemic reminded us of the importance of neighbourliness and providing a helping hand and the award reflected the actions of individuals making a huge difference to their community.

**Winner:** Rhea Rayside, Second Helpings, who kept Stamford's rescued food operation active during the pandemic, meeting increased pandemic demand and organising volunteers.

**Runners up** were Nigel Brockhurst, Grantham Foodbank, and Janet Rose from Long Bennington.

1.12 **Community Cultural Action: Judged by Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew, Cabinet Member for Culture and Visitor Economy and Nicola McCoy-Brown, Strategic Director for Growth and Culture**

In a difficult year for traditional arts and cultural activities, this award recognised those people who found ways and provided opportunities to engage with and enthuse through creativity.

**Winner:** Sam Roddan. Sam was the driving force behind not for profit arts organisation Art Pop-Up, which collectively brought joy and wellbeing to the community, tackling isolation and mental wellbeing.

**Runners up** were the White Deer Film Festival (Alastair Railton, Mark Wisdom & Adam Sandy) and Richard Barter, Stamford Arts Centre

1.13 **Cleaner and Greener Award: Judged by Cllr Dr Peter Moseley and Clova Townhill, Waste Team Manager**

Our environment has never been more important and this award was for individuals deserving of recognition for showing pride in the appearance and cleanliness of their local area.

**Winner:** George Done, a five year old boy with a youthful determination to clean up the area around his home and on his way to school, and inspiring a wave of other pupils to follow his example. George's award was presented by Cllr Adam Stokes.

**Runners up** were Francesca Hampton from Bourne's Elsea Park Community Trust and Irvin and Pam Metcalf, Grantham Sunrise Rotary.

- 1.14 **Community Wellbeing Champion Award: Judged by Cllr Barry Dobson, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Karen Whitfield, Head of Leisure and Culture**  
This award recognised people keeping others active or inspired to be active, including community gardening, men’s sheds, online physical activity and mindfulness, all contributing to wellbeing.  
**Winner:** Nicola and Dominic Brister, whose Don’t Lose Hope community counselling charity in Bourne runs a fund-raising café, Man’s Shed and gift shop to help wellbeing and mental health.  
**Runners up** were Hazel Ryan, from Grantham’s Find An Activity Buddy project and Baz Watret, Baz Watret Health and Fitness in Stamford.
- 1.15 **Business in the Community Award: Judged by Cllr Breda-Rae Griffin, Chairman of the Council and Jonathan Hinde, Head of Business Growth and Inward Investment (InvestSK)**  
Businesses play an enormous role in helping to support those in need within our communities. This award recognised businesses who have made an exceptional contribution to their community.  
**Winner:** Jason Price, Price and Son Funeral Director, for his actions over and above normal business helping local nursing homes, Grantham’s vaccination centre, young entrepreneurs and homeless charities.  
**Runner up** was Jamie Clare, Iconic Engineering Solutions.
- 1.16 **Inspirational Young Person Award: Judged by Cllr Adam Stokes, Deputy Leader of the Council and Alan Robinson, Deputy Chief Executive**  
An incredible amount of young people stepped up to help others during the pandemic and this award recognised youthful contributions from the under-25s, often unrecognised.  
**Winner:** Abbie Jayne Walster, who threw herself into volunteering work across the health sector during the pandemic, including training and working as a volunteer vaccinator.  
**Runners up** were Stacey Tagg, of Staceytastic Community Fundraising in Stamford and Sydney-Lily Reddish, Community Books, Grantham
- 1.17 The following awards were designed to recognise outstanding achievement. They were not open to public nominations and were determined by the Cabinet Member for People and Safer Communities Cllr Annie Mason and Ken Lyon, Assistant Chief Executive.
- 1.18 **Individual of the Year Award:** the highest award that we can give to an individual, this accolade celebrated the person of any age for their outstanding contribution.  
**Winner:** Baz Watret, whose fitness and wellbeing activities created a support network helping to keep the Stamford community engaged and fit. He attracted six nominations – easily the highest number received.
- 1.19 **Outstanding Achievement Award:** highlighting community effort without which so many people would have struggled to get grass root support at a time of great need.  
**Winner:** Don’t Lose Hope. The award recognised their dedication to the wellbeing and mental health of the local community with winners described as “selfless in their work for the local community”.
- 1.20 The costs of 2021 SK Community Awards related specifically to the printing and posting of certificates, which acknowledged the amazing work undertaken in the community of all our nominees, and the winners trophies. In total this amounted to £646.63. The costs were met through the existing budgets of Corporate Operations.

## **2 Consultation and Feedback Received, Including Overview and Scrutiny**

- 2.1 Feedback from the nominators and the nominees has been very positive. Nominators were grateful for the opportunity to highlight the work at grass-roots level of the people making a difference in their communities. The nominees, whilst modest about the work they do, have been grateful to their nominators for the acknowledgement and recognition.

## **3 Available Options Considered**

- 3.1 Not applicable to this report.

## **4 Preferred Option**

- 4.1 Not applicable to this report.

## **5 Reasons for the Recommendation (s)**

- 5.1 The recommendation is made to provide Members of the Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee the opportunity of an insight into the process and outcomes of the SK Community Awards.

## **6 Next Steps – Communication and Implementation of the Decision**

- 6.1 Winners and runners up have been announced over social media and in local press. An article with accompanying photographs of the winners is scheduled to be part of the December edition of SK Today.

## **7 Financial Implications**

- 7.1 Any financial implications resultant from the SK Community Awards were met within existing budgets.

**Financial Implications reviewed by: Richard Wyles, Assistant Director for Finance and S151 Officer**

## **8 Legal and Governance Implications**

- 8.1 There are no legal and governance implications related to this report

**Legal Implications reviewed by: Graham Watts, Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer**

## **9 Equality and Safeguarding Implications**

- 9.1 Equitability was a key consideration of this process, from the development of the nomination categories, offering a variety of channels for nominators to make their nominations, through the judging process and into the physical awarding of trophies and certificates. Communications officers met with winners at agreed accessible locations. This was a mix of meeting at community settings and at Council buildings.

## **10 Risk and Mitigation**

- 10.1 No significant risks were identified.

## **11 Community Safety Implications**

- 11.1 No community safety implications relate to the report.

**12 How will the recommendations support South Kesteven District Council’s declaration of a climate emergency?**

12.1 No significant impact on the Council’s declaration of a climate emergency was identified.

**13 Other Implications (where significant)**

13.1 None

**14 Background Papers**

14.1 None

**15 Appendices**

15.1 None

<b>Report Timeline:</b>	Date of Publication on Forward Plan (if required)	Choose Date
	Previously Considered by: Choose Committee	Choose Date
	Final Decision date	Choose Date