



# OFFALY COMMUNITY & SPORTS AWARDS

## OFFALY INDEPENDENT

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí  
Offaly County Council



Tadhg Carey  
Offaly Independent Editor

**A**s a local newspaper serving the county of Offaly since 1894 we have never ceased to be impressed by the strong community spirit and sporting excellence that define this unique part of the country.

Offaly Independent has always been happy to give a voice to the unsung heroes of our local communities - our volunteers, our activists, our business people; many of them just ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

It's the same with sport. Some of today's successful sports stars, national and international, all started out in local clubs, each spurred on and encouraged by volunteer mentors who believed in them.

That's why we are delighted to launch the Offaly Community and Sports Awards 2020.

We are delighted that Offaly County Council, as the premier body in the county, is partnering with us in this exciting venture.

There will be nine categories across sport and community in total, with an award for the

winner of each - as nominated by our readers and voted on by our panel of judges.

Our shortlisted nominees will be invited to the gala awards ceremony in the Tullamore Court Hotel on May 8.

In addition, the winners of the 2020 Pride of Place and 2019 Tidy Towns Merit Awards will be honoured on the night.

The overall winner of the 2020 Offaly Person/Group of the Year will also be chosen from the winners of all of the above categories.



## AWARDS 2020

*Entries and nominations are now being accepted*

*Those shortlisted will be invited to a*

# GALA AWARDS CEREMONY

in the **Tullamore Court Hotel Friday, May 8th**

HOST ON THE NIGHT **EAMONN HORAN RTE Sport**

- ◆ Entries for Community and Sports Awards are now invited
- For details on how to enter see
- ◆ Entry Form on opposite page.
- ◆ A panel of independent judges will select a shortlist of three in each category.
- ◆ They will each receive 2 complimentary tickets to the awards dinner when the winners will be announced.

- ◆ Everyone shortlisted will be presented with an award in recognition of their achievement.
- ◆ Further tickets may be purchased from Tullamore Court Hotel – price €40.
- ◆ Tickets include a drinks reception & a gala dinner.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES IS  
FRIDAY APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup> AT MIDNIGHT

Should you require any further information please email: [sandra.mccann@celticmediagroup.com](mailto:sandra.mccann@celticmediagroup.com)

Thanks to all our sponsors



## COMMUNITY CATEGORIES:

### COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

This award acknowledges Individuals/Groups who dedicate their time and energy to supporting a community and providing valuable leadership in their areas through active citizenship in their communities and by promoting a sense of civic pride.

Examples include: Community Facilities, Community Services, Civic Activities and Civic Engagement.

### CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROJECT

This award recognises Groups/Organisations who have a positive impact on the lives of children/youth and enhance the quality of life for communities by providing educational and social development opportunities for children/youth.

Examples include: Community Childcare Services/Facilities, Youth Groups, Sports Clubs, Homework Clubs, also those who work with children with additional needs and disabilities.

### AGE FRIENDLY PROJECT

This award acknowledges the work of Groups/Organisations who focus on the needs of older people, enhancing wellbeing and promoting an Age Friendly community in which older people can live full, active, valued and healthy lives.

Examples include: Active Retirement Groups, Senior Citizen Clubs, Meals on Wheels, Men's Shed and Befriending Services.

### ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE GROUP PROJECT

This award acknowledges Groups/Organisations who are working to enhance the sustainability of the local environment and to enhance their local areas, by conserving and protecting the heritage of their local community.

Examples include: Environmental Groups, Community Groups, Tidy Towns/Village, Estate Management Groups, Enterprise & Youth, Tourism, Resident Committees, Conservation and Heritage.

### EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

This award recognises Groups/Organisations that actively work to promote social inclusion and equality at a local level to improve people's lives and target and support those who are disadvantaged.

Examples include: People with Disabilities, New Communities, Low Income Workers, Unemployed, People with Disabilities, Ethnic Minority, Travelling Community, The LGBTQ Community, Older People, Rurally Isolated and The Homeless.

**The winner in each of the Community Awards will receive a generous bursary of €1000 from Offaly County Council**

## SPORTS CATEGORIES:

### LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION TO SPORT/LONG SERVICE AWARD:

This award will be made to a very special person who has dedicated their own time to furthering the interests of others in the sporting arena.

Someone who has supported their team or club and made a difference in their local community will be the ideal recipient of this award.

### SPORTS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR:

Without the work of volunteers our communities would be a poorer place. It would be impossible for our sporting organisations to function without the selfless role of individuals who give so generously of their time for the benefit of others. Who is the first person who comes to mind – and why – when you hear the words Sports Volunteer?

### SPORTS ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR:

We have filled thousands of column inches over the years with sports stars who all went on to achieve great things in their chosen field. They can come from any and all disciplines and of all abilities. From boxers to runners, hurlers to rugby players, footballers to special Olympians, the Sports Achiever of the year award will go to that individual who epitomises the sporting spirit. Who comes to mind for you?

### TEAM OF THE YEAR:

Is your local team a source of tremendous pride in your community? It may have achieved sporting greatness or perhaps is deserving of a nomination because it has been successful against all odds.

We all love an underdog story with a happy ending.

**The winner in each of the Sports Awards will receive a generous bursary of €250 from Offaly County Council**

### OTHER AWARDS PRESENTED ON THE NIGHT

#### 2020 PRIDE OF PLACE:

Pride of Place Birr MD  
Pride of Place Tullamore MD  
Pride of Place Edenderry MD

#### 2019 TIDY TOWNS MERIT AWARDS:

Offaly Tidy Towns Overall County Winner  
Offaly Tidy Towns Awards 2019 Birr MD  
Offaly Tidy Towns Awards 2019 Tullamore MD  
Offaly Tidy Towns Awards 2019 Edenderry MD

**OVERALL WINNER OF THE 2020 OFFALY PERSON/GROUP OF THE YEAR WILL BE CHOSEN FROM THE WINNERS IN EACH CATEGORY**

## YOU HAVE THREE WAYS TO ENTER THE AWARDS

1. Log onto [www.offalyindependent.ie](http://www.offalyindependent.ie) and follow the link
2. Email: [sandra.mccann@celticmediagroup.com](mailto:sandra.mccann@celticmediagroup.com) and request an entry form

3. Fill out the entry form below and return by post to:  
Awards, Offaly Independent, Unit 19H, Axis Business Park,  
Clara Road, Tullamore

## Entry / Nomination Form

Name of Person/Organisation you wish to nominate

(Use this also if you are entering yourself)

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Your Name .....

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Your Contact Details .....

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Reason why this person/organisation should win this award

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Please tick the box beside the category you have chosen. Please include any information relevant to your entry/nomination