

Greener Gateway Community Awards

2023





Introduction

Following a two year hiatus over the COVID-19 pandemic, we are pleased to announce the resumption of a community awards programme in 2022 celebrating the towns, villages, projects and volunteers who keep the Borders looking so vibrant and cared for.

The Greener Gateway Community Awards have been designed to offer those communities and community-led projects that take pride in their local environment the opportunity to celebrate their contribution to civic pride whilst also acknowledging their efforts to make the region more sustainable and environmentally friendly.

The new programme and name is an evolution of the successful 'Floral Gateway Competition' awards that has been running for many years and aims to better reflect the incredible variety of community projects in operation across the region.

Why did we changed the awards?

2022 marks a change in approach to our community gateway awards. This has been done in order to make the awards more inclusive and to engage with as many community groups across the Borders as possible.

We recognise that more and more of our communities are considering the environmental impact of their local area and, as a result, community projects championing sustainability are becoming more widespread.

We are taking this opportunity to adapt the awards to appeal to as many people as possible, ensuring the many committed, hard-working and talented volunteers and community groups get the recognition they deserve for their efforts.

By doing this we have been able to keep the core elements that made the Floral Gateway Awards so successful at the heart of the new Awards, whilst also widening their reach.

As such, some awards that will be familiar to you, including the settlement sized categories, have been combined with some new awards celebrating sustainability, community food growing and biodiversity to create a broader appeal.

Entry submissions and how the awards will be judged

For the first time ever, entries to the Greener Gateway Community Awards can be submitted online via our new application forms. Entrants can also request paper copy application forms if they would prefer.

Unlike the previous Floral Gateway Awards, this year there will be no in-person judging.

Instead, each individual group/project can provide information about their entry via the application forms and can include any supporting information, such as photographs and videos, as part of their submission.

Digital files such as images and videos can be submitted in a variety of ways, including:

- As downloads through file transfer websites (Wetransfer for example)
- On a physical drive such as a USB stick
- As a link via YouTube, Facebook, Flickr page, website or any other similar platform

Physical submissions can be sent to postal address:

Greener Gateway Community Awards
Parks & Environment
Scottish Borders Council Headquarters
Newtown St Boswells
TD6 0SA

Submissions will be reviewed by an in-house panel of judges who will refer to the specified criteria for each award.

The criteria for the awards can be found within the [guidelines document](#).

Awards format

Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates will be awarded across the following categories:

- Wee Village Award (maximum population of 300)
- Small Village Award (population between 301 and 1,000)
- Large Village Award (population between 1,001 and 2,500)
- Town Award (population over 2,500)

Each submission for the above will be assessed against three criteria:

- Horticultural Achievement
- Environmental Responsibility
- Community Involvement

The other individual Award categories are:

- Border Biodiversity Award, for efforts in supporting and increasing biodiversity
- Cultivating Communities Award, for community food growing
- Sustainability Award, for demonstrating best practice in regards to sustainability

Entrants wishing to take part in these can do so on an individual award basis - for a specific project or initiative - or as part of a wider submission.

A 'Best in Category' Award will also be presented for each category.

You can find out more [on the award's dedicated SBC web pages](#).

When do the awards open and when will the judging take place?

Entry submissions are open now and [application forms can be downloaded here](#).

The submission deadline for entrants is **Friday 5 August**.

Judging will take place during August after the submission deadline.

An awards ceremony will be held in late September to celebrate all the projects and community groups who participated in this year's Greener Gateway Community Awards. Further details of this will be shared later this summer.

A Q&A/information session will be held on **Tuesday 24 May at 6pm** to allow any parties interested in applying to the Awards to hear in more detail the changes being made this year to the format, entry requirements and judging.

If you wish to join us, please email neighbourhoodservice@scotborders.gov.uk for a link to the event.

Who?

We welcome submissions from any community groups, in Bloom groups, schools, charitable organisations or other independent community projects who want to showcase their amazing work.

Feedback

This is an exciting new approach to the Awards, we would welcome your feedback on the whole process so we can improve it for future years. Feedback can be submitted to neighbourhoodservice@scotborders.gov.uk