



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS PRESENTS

STAR COUNCILS 2015
WINNERS BROCHURE

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109 Great Russell Street
London
WC1B 3LD

020 7637 1865 | nalc@nalc.gov.uk | www.nalc.gov.uk

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We are delighted to have run a NALC awards programme again in 2015. It has been five years since the last awards were organised so every effort was made to ensure we came back this year with a bang. There were more award categories than previously, enabling us to recognise both individual, county and council level achievements and we were inundated with entries.

The awards had an impressive judging panel and some fantastic prizes for our winners. What's more, we brought the awards event, Annual General Meeting and National Council meetings together, to create an exciting hub of discussions, learning, networking and decision making for the sector in October this year.

The NALC Star Councils 2015 awards recognise the very best in local councils, councillors, officers and workers, celebrating their achievements in representing and delivering for communities. Challenging financial times demand innovative approaches to protect community service delivery and representation. The awards reward those CALCs, councils, councillors, officers and workers who have gone above-and-beyond the call of duty to deliver excellence. In doing so, we hope to shine a light on local councils and all that they do, both within and outside of the sector.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of NALC to thank all those that have contributed to this programme and made the Star Councils awards dinner and event possible. We are incredibly grateful to our headline sponsor AON UK for its support, without which the programme would not have been possible.

We would also like to thank category sponsors, Blachere Illumination, Hugo Fox and Vision ICT for their contribution and to Vaughtons for this year's sponsorship and provision of medals and plaques.

Thanks must also be extended to our judging panel, which was chaired by myself and included representatives from the Department of Communities and Local Government, Action with Rural Communities England, Society of Local Council Clerks, NALC, organisations in the Localism Alliance, as well as the award sponsors.

The judging panel had to make some very tough decisions because the standard of entrees were so high. Indeed the panel remarked it was amazing to see all this incredible community engagement going on in our field. The programme and our awards event have made us all very proud of the sector!

NALC was delighted to welcome Paul Twivy to host the Star Councils awards dinner. Paul is author of the recently published book *Be Your Own Politician* and has been heavily involved in many groundbreaking charity and public service initiatives, working personally with the last three UK prime ministers. His roles have included a 25-year involvement with Comic Relief, the establishment of both Pilotlight and TimeBank, the publishing of *Change the World for a Fiver* and the co-founding of The Big Lunch and Your Square Mile.

The NALC Star Councils 2015 awards event was a wonderful opportunity for us to showcase and celebrate the "localist powerhouse" that is at work and we hope that the winners and finalists will proudly display their certificates, medals and plaques to be seen in years to come.

CLlr Ken Browse
Chairman of NALC

Aon has enjoyed a longstanding relationship as the principal insurance partner of NALC. For over 60 years Aon have worked closely with NALC to ensure that we provide insurance solutions that truly meet the needs of the local council sector. We are delighted to be the proud headline sponsor of this year's Star Councils award scheme.

Working with NALC allows us to get closer to local councils and remain up-to-date with the changing pressures facing councils and people who devote their time to serving their local community. Through periodic surveys of NALC members we are able to gain deeper insight into what keeps councillors and clerks awake at night, and look for ways to help through the insurance solutions that we offer. Getting to see both existing and prospective customers face-to-face at NALC events enhances our understanding of the issues faced by councils, as well as allowing us to build stronger relationships with the people we help. Being able to engage with NALC's network of members, regardless of whether or not they are a current Aon client, only serves to help us continually improve our service as well as the insurance products we offer.

NALC as an organisation has provided invaluable support to local councils since 1947 and the knowledge and experience of everyone working at NALC helps us at Aon to provide the best possible service to the sector. NALC has been instrumental in the redesign of Aon's local council's insurance policy which was launched in June 2015. Their ongoing feedback remains a critical part of Aon's ongoing commitment to providing market leading coverage and innovative new ideas on how councils can manage the risks they face day to day. NALC has a strong commitment to making the lives of councillors and clerks as easy as possible and this is something that Aon shares.

For a number of years Aon have been proud to contribute to NALC for every local council insurance policy that we sell. This is a core part of Aon's ongoing commitment as a business to put back into the communities that we serve.

Having worked with NALC for as long as we have, Aon has been able to develop a deep appreciation and affinity for the people who serve their communities and have a strong desire to support the sector in any way we can.

From protecting new playground equipment, to defending a council in court, Aon will continue to proudly support the sector and our strong, ongoing relationship with NALC – the key advocate for local councils in England – is crucial to supporting this.

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WINNER: CLLR ALEX COLLIER, COTTENHAM PARISH COUNCIL, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

CLlr Alex Collier has lived in Cottenham her entire life. She began her involvement in local politics aged 21, when she served as Lady Mayoress, supporting her father during his term of office in St Ives.

She became a councillor aged 23 in 2012 and manages her responsibilities alongside her work as a teaching assistant at Kings College School, Cambridge.

The Young Councillor of the Year category gave the judges a great opportunity to learn about the young local talent in our sector and they were impressed by all that they read. Alex stood out because of the huge amount she has achieved since 2012. The panel described her as “embodying what is distinctive about the parish eector” because of her deep involvement in, and dedication to, the community she serves.

In addition to leading and contributing to some fantastic initiatives, Alex has now also become a significant contributor to several committees and working parties, as well as being the council - appointed trustee of Cottenham Community Centre and Governor of Cottenham Village College.

The judges were particularly impressed by Alex’s leadership on improving the village’s provision

of services and opportunities for young people – something our young councillors are uniquely placed to do so well. In response to her youth needs survey, she brought back a mobile youth club that she used herself as a teenager, she worked with younger residents to see the creation of a new skate park from start to finish and is currently developing youth-focussed vocational training opportunities – such as first aid and babysitting skills courses.

Perhaps the most innovative of her projects is Alex’s child-designed street signs. Alex wanted to find a way to encourage drivers to take more care as they drive through the village, so she set up a competition for children to enter their design ideas for new street signs. She worked with the local primary school and village college, as well as the numerous village clubs – brownies, cubs, scouts and guides – to promote the competition. Alex set up a judging panel to look the entries and the winners were presented to the village at a family festival this summer.

The signs are now in production and will be appearing on the streets of Cottenham soon. This is a brilliant example of community engagement on an important local issue. Alex has raised awareness of the campaign whilst achieving a productive outcome with the children’s signs actually being produced for use.

Alex has already been recognised regionally as South Cambridgeshire District Council’s Young Councillor of the Year and the judging panel were unanimous in their decision to also recognise her achievements at a national level as NALC’s Young Councillor of the Year 2015.

Runners up

CLlr Simon Gibson, Verwood
Town Council, Dorset

CLlr Hannah Marsh,
Westerham Town Council,
Kent



Vision ICT is a family-run business, based by the river in Exeter and has more than fifteen years of experience providing quality Internet solutions and professional support to local councils.

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Vision ICT Ltd is delighted to be sponsoring the **Clerk of the Year Award** as we are fully aware of the dedication they demonstrate on a daily basis fulfilling their diverse responsibilities as a Parish or Town Clerk. Over the years we continue to be amazed at the level of skill that Clerks demonstrate in a wide range of roles that they fulfil within their communities. Workloads continue to increase and they achieve so much, often working alone or with a small support team.

Going through applications for the award simply emphasised this once again and we are delighted as a company to have the pleasure of working with many clerks. We congratulate them all on their professionalism.

Contact Vision ICT Ltd

Website: www.visionict.com

Email: NHillier@VisionICT.com or MWhite@VisionICT.com

Telephone: 01392 669497

Address: Suite 10, Renslade House, Bonhay Road, Exeter, EX4 3AY

WINNER: DEBRA ROBERTS, FEOCK PARISH COUNCIL, CORNWALL

A contested election in May 2013 resulted in significant changes in the structure and policy of Feock Parish Council. The incumbent parish clerk and two assistants left and were replaced by a new parish clerk, Debra Roberts.

The judging panel were so impressed with what Debra has achieved in her first year, they described her as “epitomising the best of what a clerk to a local council can do”. An impressive all-rounder, she scores highly across the nomination criteria for this category and stood out for going above and beyond what is expected of a parish clerk, with her work having a transformational impact in just one year.

Debra has proven herself to be an effective leader. She has instigated changes in the council’s administration, income generation, communication, website and its interaction with local partners and the community – as well as providing innovative changes and solutions to the parish’s specific problems and services.

With significant cuts to staffing hours, payroll cost and the precept, Debra and the new administration have had to work within stringent financial constraints. The judges were particularly impressed to learn that under Debra’s leadership, the

council has successfully raised an additional £30,000 from rental income and external funding. In 2014/15 Feock Parish Council were awarded grant funding under the Our Place programme and delivered an essential Lengthsman scheme to maintain local rural infrastructure.

All of Debra’s hard work to manage the council’s finances has paid off, with the council achieving a budget surplus of 10% compared to a deficit of 10% in the previous year, which had to be supplemented from reserves.

To streamline the council’s administration and improve efficiency, Debra helped to restructure by forming three sub-committees that report back to the full council. She has greatly improved the council’s relationship with local partners and residents, resulting in a two-way flow of information with locals being more informed about the council’s work – and them being able to give their feedback and impact decision making within the council. The panel were impressed by the wide-range of partners that Debra engages with – from local schools and community groups, to national charities and departments within the principal authority.

Debra has formed good working relations with Cornwall County Council and worked hard to address

a number of the problems that have arisen in Feock as a result of its cuts.

She has established regular liaison with the county highways services to discuss and agree the division of responsibility for maintenance work, she’s developing a local Lengthsman Scheme to plug the gaps in highway services previously provided at county level and she has set up a local transport scheme for isolated residents to replace the existing county council one.

Debra has also played an executive role in the development of Feock’s Neighbourhood Plan, which has been submitted to Cornwall County Council for final review prior to referendum and replaced the councils arbitrary Small Grant Scheme with a much more rigorous and fair “Your Choice” scheme.

Runners up

Jan Nowecki, Wokingham
Town Council, Berkshire

Fiona Palmer, Castle
Donington Parish Council,
Leicestershire

WINNER : CLLR JUNE SALTMASH, WOODHAM FERRERS AND BICKNACRE PARISH COUNCIL, ESSEX

CLlr June Saltmarsh has been involved in Woodham Ferrers and Bicknacre Parish Council for 26 years, initially as a councillor and with appropriate training has worked her way up to being chair. She has held this post three times and currently since 2011.

June stood out to the judges for the way in which she goes above and beyond what is expected of her in her role as chair; for bringing so much of herself and her life into the role.

June is clearly a well-respected, hardworking and dedicated chair that provides excellent leadership to the council. She communicates her vision to the community that she serves through parish meetings that are the most well attended in Essex, an article in the parish newsletter and directly through her conversations with residents. She makes a point of being highly visible – and indeed approachable to parishioners.

Within the council, June is seen as extremely supportive to the clerk who has been in post for 10 years. June has worked closely with the clerk to update all of the policies, standing orders and paperwork to bring it in line with the Localism Act of 2011 to ensure that the parish council provides parishioners with as much

information and opportunities for engagement as they wish. June also works closely with the vice-chairman, provides support and guidance for councillors and regularly attends evening meetings with the clerk.

The judges were impressed to see how the chair's strong leadership and vision have translated into fantastic achievements, including several successful submissions to the Essex County Council Local Highways Panel, raising £40,000 in funding for improvement and development projects, reviewing leasing and licensing arrangements for land owned by the parish council and impressively maintaining a 0% increase on the parish precept for four years consecutively.

The panel were also struck by June's deep involvement in the community and her strong working relationships with different community groups - being on the committee of several - and with Essex County Council.

She brings great care to her work, whether that be by visiting applicants and neighbouring properties to discuss planning applications, by providing valuable contributions to the parish council personnel

committee or by collecting and taking home elderly people so that they can attend the village's Lunch Club.

Runners up

CLlr John James,
Newland Parish Council,
Gloucestershire

CLlr Pat Baldwin, West
Haddon Parish Council,
Northamptonshire

WINNER : STONE PARISH COUNCIL, KENT

Stone Parish Council is often used as a benchmark for successful digital communications and it was easy for the judges to see why. Since setting up its social media accounts in 2009, Stone Parish Council has gone from strength to strength in developing and improving its use of digital technology.

The judges were impressed by the council's smart, forward thinking approach to digital and its strategic use of such a vast range of tools to engage its residents. They commented on the council's ability to "make even the boring interesting", as well as the way that it has encouraged parishioners to get to grips with digital tools.

Stone Parish Council has built a fantastic website that is modern in its look and feel and has intuitive navigation and innovative features to make the user experience more enjoyable and informative. They have project-specific websites and social media accounts that are maintained in house, to separate promoting council business, venue hire, its summer festival and the recently launched Stone Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

The council is developing an interactive map on the Neighbourhood Plan website, to provide visitors with historic, current and proposed development information as a resource to enable

them to contribute effectively to discussions.

The panel was impressed to learn that the Neighbourhood Plan website includes a private group forum feature – giving the steering group somewhere to have discussions and house relevant documents and links. This is a fine example of how digital tools help the council connect people, both internally and externally.

Stone produces a digital council newspaper using an online publishing platform three times a year and uses Mailchimp to send targeted newsletters to segregated database lists, helping tailor communications more effectively to individual groups of residents.

Beyond the website and direct communication tools, the council has developed a digital booking system to streamline venue bookings, uses Survey Monkey to carry out public consultation online and is currently digitising and tagging council minutes since 1896. This impressive piece of work will soon go live and can be used as an online resource for use by residents, local schools and history groups.

Perhaps most exciting to the judges, was the council's innovative use of infographics to communicate more effectively and help people process

complex information. Many residents commented on how easy it was for them to understand how the council earns and spends its money by looking at the infographic of its annual budget. Infographics also proved useful to advertise a new job vacancy at the council, generating over 40 applications in just 24 hours after it was published. They have also been used to support discussions and to successfully recruit Neighbourhood Plan steering group members.

The Judges were delighted to see Stone leading the way with its recent recruitment of a dedicated digital officer who will focus on the councils' social media presence and ensure the council remains at the forefront of effective digital communications.

Runners up

Bognor Regis Town Council,
Sussex

Farnham Town Council,
Surrey

WINNER: HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS (HAPTC) - CLERK LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

HAPTC regularly surveys its membership regarding training needs and through one such survey identified a need amongst clerks for some leadership development training.

The role of a clerk is wide-ranging and often stressful, as it is a pressurised position requiring a variety of skills. It can also be a lonely role, which means peer support is vital, particularly from colleagues in neighbouring councils as it is often difficult to share challenges with staff and members.

Recognising all of this, county officer Carina Helmn, also clerk to Kimpton Parish Council, began discussion with her contacts and with other CALCs to put together the outline of a Leadership Development Programme.

With David Carden, formerly clerk to Burgess Hill Town Council and a professional leadership trainer, Carina presented this to the Annual Hertfordshire Clerk's Conference. The programme that David delivers is custom designed for clerks, there being a clear lack of provision for relevant leadership training and was delivered by Chris Watt, head of learning and development at the London School of Economics and David Carden. The judges noted that whilst this is an 'off the shelf' course, not every CALC facilitates the training for their clerks and as such believe

Hertfordshire to be leading the way for others across the country.

What's more, the panel were impressed to see a huge amount of positive feedback from clerks across Hertfordshire. It is particularly pleasing from a national perspective to see how a county association can strengthen its staff across its region in this way, with clerks that undertook the training now able to support as well as learn from each other.

The course itself addressed issues such as leadership, emotional intelligence and change management and reflected the increasingly wide range of demands and pressures on local councils. The aims of the programme were set by the participants and most expressed a desire to focus on providing excellent leadership to their councils and needing advanced tools and techniques to support their complex role. A key aspect was also how trained clerks could "self-help" colleagues who were experiencing problems and also mentor those who have aspirations to move up the career ladder to larger councils.

The programme was based around creating personal development plans and there was much learning, sharing of experiences, lots of laughter, some tears and the confronting of some really serious challenges, which when

shared seemed a lot less daunting.

All eleven clerks who signed up for the programme saw it through to completion and have become advocates for its development. After the success of the Hertfordshire programme, formal accreditation is being sought. Those taking part in the programme subsequently worked with Hertfordshire County Council (Highways) on a ground-breaking project focussing on the delivery of joint services and redesign of communication channels.

It was clear to see when judging this category that the programme will have long lasting benefits for the ongoing development of clerks in Hertfordshire.

Runners up

Essex Association of Local Councils - Police Partnership Conference

Oxfordshire County Association of Local Councils - Oxford University Digital Partnership Project

WINNER : OSWESTRY TOWN COUNCIL, SHROPSHIRE - VOLUNTEER OPERATED CCTV PROJECT

Oswestry Town Council carried out a crime audit 15 years ago; this audit recognised that Oswestry was a safe place, however there was a genuine perception of the fear of crime.

The overwhelming message was that CCTV needed to be introduced into the town centre, particularly due to the experience of various late night incidents, such as broken windows and anti-social behaviour.

To address this need, Oswestry set about creating a volunteer CCTV system – believed to be the largest of its kind in Britain.

The judges were unanimous in viewing this project as a fine example of innovation, good practice, successful project delivery and excellent value for money. The panel was impressed by the measurable outcomes and the extremely positive benefits and impact on the local community.

The control room for the system is at Oswestry police station and is staffed entirely by volunteers. The project is particularly enterprising as the original camera system, installed in 1999, needed replacing and Oswestry Town Council made a successful bid to the police and crime commissioner in 2014 for a grant of £69,000. With that they have transformed the old system from fibre optic to digital wireless and

reduced annual running costs from in excess of £20,000 a year to just £2,500. This is now cost neutral as the system's monitoring service has been sold to a neighbouring parish council.

Police statistics provided confirm that in terms of benefiting the council and residents, since the original installation, the Oswestry CCTV has monitored or identified 9,986 incidents and had been responsible for 2,424 arrests. On average it carries out 110 reviews of evidence and provides 80 downloads of evidence per year for court purposes. At the time of the funding application in 2014, volunteers were working some 300 hours per month which, even calculated at a minimum wage, equates to funding in kind of £23,000 per annum.

The council looked originally at a county-wide scheme that was deemed impractical. The required standards for the scheme were set and were competitively tendered with four companies. Those standards were endorsed by West Mercia, the police and crime commissioner and Shropshire Council.

The judging panel was impressed to learn that the service has been provided entirely funded by external sources – making it excellent value for money.

What's also impressive is that the system is totally flexible, because it operates through Wifi, so additional cameras can be added or moved easily.

This project is a fantastic example of the police working with the council and the community and it sets a great example for other councils across the country to follow. It is no wonder that lots of towns are visiting Oswestry to learn from this innovative and effective system.

Runners up

Newland Parish Council,
Gloucestershire - Emergency
Services Project

Frome Town Council,
Somerset - Energy and
Recycling Project

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WINNER : FROME TOWN COUNCIL, SOMERSET

Out the nine award categories, the panel found this the hardest to judge. They were looking for an outstanding council, which not only serves and represents the community in an efficient and effective manner but does so with real creativity and innovation.

There were many that do just that but there is one that does all of that – and something more – and that is Frome Town Council in Somerset.

Frome describes its aims for 2014/15 as four fold: to make people feel proud of and engaged in their town, to “sell” the town to the outside world, especially investors as somewhere interesting and “sexy”, to raise the profile of sustainability and to prepare for even more austerity by building on the town’s independence and resilience.

In the process they have boosted the confidence and visibility of the entire sector, through regional, national and international media coverage.

The judging panel, like the media, could not ignore the way in which Frome has fundamentally rethought the role of a town council. In doing so, it provides exemplary and inspiring practice. In fact, one of the town’s councillors has recently written a book based on the Frome experience called “Flatpack Democracy” and the

book is clearly selling well as it is now in its second reprint.

To address and prepare for austerity, the council has focussed on building and supporting the third sector, knowing that the town will have to look increasingly to its own resources.

The council distributes £100,000 per year to local groups, employs a local company to help groups submit bids, works with the county and district councils to transfer surplus land and buildings into the town’s ownership and where necessary the council has also established its own charities, such as the food bank, called Fair Frome.

All of Frome’s services have been reviewed to maximise campaigning, public engagement and to address local issues. Frome has opened up a whole new field on sustainability: working on insulation, provision of photovoltaic cells and establishing an electric car club. Much of their work is now project based including taking on a large regeneration site using a Neighbourhood Development Order and a revamp of the historic market square to be funded wholly by the town council and section 106 agreements.

Frome successfully engages its residents through its improved websites and social media accounts,

which are particularly active, with one local event attracting 100,000 hits online translating into thousands of actual visitor’s offline. Its meetings are well attended and residents are deeply involved with the Neighbourhood Plan – thanks to unconventional engagement techniques used by the council.

Frome may be the first local council elected on a mix of new media, flash mobs and YouTube songs - as well as traditional methods. Interestingly and as testament to Frome leading the way as Council of the Year, local democracy has increased as there were 49 candidates for the 17 seats in the 2015 election. All of the seats have been won by “Independents for Frome”, that were chosen based on the strength of their “What I want to do for Frome” plans, rather than any political allegiances.

Runners up

Oswestry Town Council,
Shropshire

Campbell Park Parish Council,
Buckinghamshire



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We have been proud supporters of NALC for a number of years and are delighted to be part of the Star Councils Award programme, which celebrates everything that is good in the sector.

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WINNER : CLLR DEREK AILES, CHRISHALL PARISH COUNCIL, ESSEX

Cllr Derek Ailes has lived in Chrishall for over 35 years and been a councillor of the parish council for seven. In that time, he has undertaken a number of impressive projects and achieved a huge amount – often in the face of obstacles and challenges.

The judges were highly impressed by Derek's strength of character to persevere and see difficult projects through from start to finish – a great testament to his excellent negotiation and communication skills.

Derek's focus and indeed his expertise lie in acquiring, maintaining and improving assets for his community.

He has worked hard to get the freehold of Jigneys Meadow – a recreation area in the centre of the village, of the methodist chapel and hall, the village pavilion and old village hall.

Each of these major projects have had their own problems, but Derek has overcome them one by one, never giving in and seeing each to successful completion.

The panel were impressed to learn that Derek attended a cemetery course run by his county association to ensure he had all the information needed to negotiate the leasehold of the open burial ground of the methodist chapel. With this

information in hand he then negotiated a 'Right to Bid' application to the district council and also to the Public Works Loan with the county association to obtain the funding needed to buy the buildings.

Derek undertook this work with the community behind him – with 77% of the parishioners in favour of the purchase – but as with most of the projects described – many would not have believed he could succeed in the face of bureaucracy and challenges.

Chrishall's pavilion has become very run down and is only used by the village's cricket club eight times a year. It is problematic because it is costing a significant sum to insure and maintain to a high enough standard.

In an effort to make the building more efficient and effective, Derek is pressing ahead with a planning application and building regulations application for extension of use.

He has great plans for the building to include new offices within the building to house the museum, a community library, a drop in cafe to reduce social isolation and loneliness, a parish office and information centre.

Derek has liaised with a number of people in the village, and taken a personal interest in their respective projects in order to accommodate

their desires and dreams for this community run building.

His enterprising plans for volunteers to run the centre, for the café to be funded by donations and income made from renting unused space within the pavilion and for skill and knowledge sharing to take place, all make for an impressive model. The centre will be self-sustaining and tackle some of the village's key social problems at the same time.

Overall, the judges had great admiration for all that Derek has achieved and felt his hard work, determination and tenacity must be recognised with the Councillor of the Year Award.

Runners up

Cllr Susan Jones, Dover Town Council, Kent

Cllr Alix Martin, Alston Moor Parish Council, Cumbria

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"We are sponsoring the Council Worker of the Year award because it celebrates someone who isn't a councillor, but who dedicates their time to working for the benefit of the community.

We share these same values.

At HugoFox.com we provide free websites to help empower community groups such non profit making organisations, Parish Councils, sports clubs, societies and associations."

WINNER: ALLAN MOFFAT, BRACKNELL TOWN COUNCIL, BERKSHIRE

Allan Moffat is Recreational Facilities Manager at Bracknell Town Council. Bracknell is a large town council, responsible for 250 acres of public recreational and leisure space, 34 parks and children's play areas.

Allan caught the attention of the judges because of the vital and successful role he plays in managing these responsibilities – and in ensuring the town council achieves excellence in services provided, many recognised nationally as being provided to the highest standard.

Perhaps more importantly, in a recent residents survey carried out by the principal authority (Bracknell Forest), Bracknell's parks and open spaces also came out the most highly regarded services provided locally.

The panel were particularly impressed by Allan's dedication to his role – and indeed to his community – working long hours and outside of hours - and by his ability to form strong working relationships with others.

Allan works closely and collaboratively on local initiatives and projects with other councils, schools, voluntary organisations and individuals and is well-known and respected in the community. He oversees several major projects each year, such as the opening of a new splash pad, refurbishment of the tennis courts

and a major project to rebuild one of Bracknell's main pavilions.

Indeed, over the last year, Allan has managed the refurbishment of a third of the 34 play areas across the town.

He has purchased equipment at keen prices, raised considerable external funding and overseen the installation of the play areas. The judges were impressed to learn that some of the equipment has been made from recycled trees.

Allan has also overseen Bracknell's pavilion winning the national 'Loo of the Year' competition in the parks category and Bracknell's parks achieving 'Green Flag' status.

Allan holds many responsibilities beyond his role as Recreational Facilities Manager, including chairing the Bracknell in Bloom partnership, for which he has ambitious plans to rejuvenate the environment at two of Bracknell's neighbourhood centres. This project will involve other councils, a housing association, local schools, residents and volunteers in planting shrub beds, installing planters, re-decorating buildings and installing seating.

He also organises several key events throughout the year that attract thousands of people and families, fundraises for his local Rotary club

and helps run the scouts.

Overall, the judges were blown away by Allan Moffat's dedication to ensuring that the services within his control are run and managed to exceptional standards for the benefit of his community.

Runners up

Nigel Saunders, Ditton Parish Council, Kent

Frances Lawrence, Hermitage Parish Council, Berkshire

