Kildare County Council



Gradaim Spiorad Chill Dara 2027

Spirit of Kildare Awards 2027





Brigid | Spiorad Chill Dara
Spirit of Kildare

Introduction

Now in their second year, these awards bring to life the Spirit of Kildare and the legacy of St Brigid, whose influence has had a lasting impact across Kildare, Ireland and the world. These awards celebrate the people and groups who make Kildare a better place to live.

Inspired by the kindness, courage and generosity associated with St Brigid, the awards honour those who bring these values to life, through their dedication to others and their community.

There is also a Special Lifetime Achievement Award which recognises an individual who has made an outstanding contribution in their field, bringing national or international recognition to Kildare through their exceptional achievements.



Categories

1. Contribution to Local Community Life

2. Sports Achievement

3. Youth Contribution

4. Woman in Leadership (Individual only)

5. Contribution to the Arts

6. Contribution to the Environment, Local Heritage and Biodiversity

7. Contribution to Irish Language & Culture

8. Special Lifetime Achievement Award (Individual only)

1. Contribution to Local Community Life

This award recognises a group or individual whose kindness, care and commitment makes their local community a better place to live. It celebrates those who look out for others, notices when someone needs support and goes the extra mile to help. Whether checking in on a neighbour or bringing people together, they help people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities feel valued, included and part of community life in Kildare.

2. Sports Achievement

This award recognises a local individual or team whose sporting achievements inspire pride across Kildare. It honours dedication, determination and sportsmanship. It celebrates those who excel in their sport at local, regional, provincial, national or international level. It recognises an individual or a team who've made sacrifices and trained long nights and early mornings to reach their potential.

3. Youth Contribution

This award celebrates a young person or group, **aged between 16 and 21**, who makes a positive difference in their community. It can be through volunteering, leadership or kindness. It's those who are inclusive, generous and compassionate with others. It can be someone who goes above and beyond for a friend or someone or youth group that looks out for others. **Parental consent is required for all nominees under the age of 18.**

4. Woman In Leadership (Individual only)

This award celebrates a woman who motivates others, brings people together and makes a positive difference through her leadership. Whether in community life, business, or the voluntary sector; this is someone who leads with courage, compassion and determination. It's someone who creates opportunities for others, drives progress and inspires and empowers those around her.

5. Contribution to the Arts

This category celebrates an individual or group who makes an outstanding contribution to the Arts through their creativity, talent and dedication. It could be a local actor, singer, artist, poet or comedian who has exemplified outstanding talent in their field. Or it could be someone or group who brings people in Kildare together through music, dance or drama.

6. Contribution to the Environment, Local Heritage and Biodiversity

This award celebrates those who are making their community a cleaner and greener place to live. It recognises individuals or groups who aim to reduce pollution and litter and promote a circular economy. It recognises local efforts to make a lasting difference whether it's protecting wildlife and restoring natural habitats to preserving and promoting Kildare's rich local heritage. It also honours those who inspire others to care for the environment, support biodiversity and combat climate change.

7. Contribution to Irish Language & Culture

This award recognises an individual or group who makes an outstanding contribution to celebrating, preserving or promoting Irish culture and traditions. From music, dance and storytelling to the Irish language and traditional crafts, it honours those who keep our rich culture alive for future generations. It also includes those who organise the promotion of the Irish language and culture through festival and community events.

8. Special Lifetime Achievement Award (individual only)

This award honours an **individual** whose lifelong dedication and outstanding achievements bring pride and recognition to Kildare, nationally or internationally. This recognises an **individual** who has shown consistent excellence, dedication and achievement in their field. It celebrates someone whose commitment, passion and influence inspires others. It's someone who truly embodies the Spirit of Kildare.

Nominations open Friday 13th November until 5pm Thursday 10th December.



Eligibility Criteria For All Nominees:

- Nominees should be born in, live in or carry out the activities for which they are being nominated within County Kildare.
- Parental consent is required for all nominees under the age of 18.
- Late and incomplete nomination forms will not be considered.
- Information provided in the application may be used in promotional material.
- If you nominate someone and they are shortlisted, you may be asked to verify their consent.
- Entries are open to all individuals and groups **excluding** staff members of Kildare County Council, any KCC subsidiaries and any elected council members.

Eligibility Criteria For Groups:

In order to be eligible for Spirt of Kildare Awards, groups and organisations must:

- Be not-for-profit community or voluntary group/organisation in Co. Kildare.
- Be able to demonstrate an inclusive and transparent ethos.
- Be well organised, responsibly managed and committed to good practice.
- Groups can self-nominate or can be nominated by a third-party individual or group.

Nominations can only be submitted using the online form

- Click here to access the nomination form
- Or Scan the QR Code

For information and assistance, please contact the Brigid, Spirit of Kildare team:

- 045 980 653
- spiritofbrigid@kildarecoco.ie

Presentation of Awards

The awards ceremony will be a highlight of the Brigid-Spirit of Kildare Festival. Winners will be revealed during the Festival at the Awards Ceremony in the Festival Spiegeltent, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare on the evening of Monday, 1st February 2027. Food and entertainment will be included in the ceremony, to which nominees and family/guests will be invited.

Decision Making Process

Judging will be by an independent panel. The Judging Panel's decision is final. The information provided as part of the nomination process will play a central part of the shortlisting process and the decision to include nominees on the shortlist of candidates may be determined based on this information. The Council is obliged to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 in relation to the processing of personal data.
Relevant details submitted as part of this nomination/scheme will be shared with the relevant staff administering the awards process and the independent adjudication panel. Details of the shortlisted nominees, including images, may be used in promotional material related to the Brigid, Spirit of Kildare Awards and Festival.

Freedom of Information Act 2014

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2014, details contained in applications and supporting documents may, on request, be released to third parties. If there is information contained in your application which is sensitive or confidential in nature, please identify it and provide an explanation as to why it should not be disclosed. If a request to release sensitive information under the legislation is received, you will be consulted before a decision is made whether or not to release the information. However, in the absence of the identification of particular information as sensitive, it could be disclosed without any consultation with you.