

Councillor John Finucane
Lord Mayor
Belfast City Council
Lord Mayor's Office
Belfast City Hall
Belfast
BT1
5GS



19th October 2019

RE: BRITAIN IN BLOOM 2020

Dear Councillor Finucane

On behalf of the Northern Ireland Local Government Association, congratulations on your council's continued success in the Translink Ulster in Bloom competition.

To take the success further, we are planning - with your council's support – to nominate Belfast City to represent Northern Ireland in the City Category of the 2020 Royal Horticultural Society, Britain in Bloom Competition.

Please note - all nominations are subject to RHS approval, RHS nomination guidelines attached.

We believe the Translink Ulster in Bloom Competition has made a major contribution to the community, environmental and economic improvement of Northern Ireland. In association with Britain in Bloom, it has generated hugely positive coverage for councils, and all involved.

It's been a tremendous experience working with your communities, your officers and members on this In Bloom work, so renewed thanks and I look forward to your corporate decision. If this can be provided for decision to Council or an appropriate Standing Committee, we'd be most grateful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Derek McCallan'.

Derek McCallan

Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Local Government Association

Cc. Ms Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive, Belfast City Council & Mr Ricky Rice, City Parks Manager, Belfast City Council.

Att. RHS Britain in Bloom nomination guidelines.



RHS Britain in Bloom UK Finals 2020

1. The Nomination Process

- Each Region or Nation may nominate up to five entries.
- Nominations can be into any category, but not more than one entry into each.
- Nominations should be from a corresponding Regional category.
 - BIDs, and Town Centres & City Centres can be from any of these three corresponding Regional categories.
 - London Village and Town entries can be entered into the Village or Town category that reflects their electoral role numbers.
- All nominations are provisional until confirmed by the RHS.
- The management of the balancing of entries into categories shall be in the hands of the RHS.
 - No category shall run with less than three entries, or more than ten entries.
 - Where a category has less than three entries, a second round of nominations may be offered.
 - Second round nominations into undersubscribed categories will be offered out to Regions and Nations based on the total number of core category entries for the previous year, with priority given to those Regions with the highest number of entries.
 - If insufficient entries are nominated into a specific category in a particular year, that category will not run in the UK Finals in that year.
 - If the nominations for any category exceeds ten entries, then the RHS will open a process of negotiations with Regions & Nations – e.g. to see whether a town entry could be moved into the BIDs, and Town Centres & City Centres category, etc.
- Category winners will be excluded from re-entering the UK finals for one year.
- Please note Champion of Champions will not be running as a separate category this year. Instead a 'Champion of Champions', i.e. an overall winner, will be selected from the cohort of regular 2020 entrants.

2. The 2020 Categories & Judging Allocations

Band/Category	Electoral Roll	Judging Allocation
Villages		
Village	1 - 1,000	1 hour
Large Village	1,001 - 2,500	1 hour 30 minutes
Towns		
Small Town	2,501 - 6,000	2 hours
Town	6,001 - 12,000	2 hours 30 minutes
Large Town	12,001 - 35,000	3 hours
Cities		
Small City	35,001 - 100,000	3 hours 30 minutes
City	100,001 and over	4 hours
Urban		
Urban Community ^a	0 - 25,000	2 hours 30 minutes
BIDs ^b and Town Centres & City Centres	N/A	2 hours
Coastal^c		
Coastal (12,000 and below)	12,000 and below	2 hours 30 minutes
Large Coastal (12,001 and above)	12,001 and above	3 hours

PLEASE NOTE: The above allocations **do not** include the 15-minute press call nor the 15-minute presentation.

- a. A **BID entry** must be an official business improvement district; a business improvement district is a defined area within which businesses pay an additional tax (or levy) in order to fund projects within the district's boundaries. For a list of bona fide BIDs please visit the UKBIDS website on www.ukbids.org. Town or City Centres are also welcome to enter this category.
- b. An **urban community** must be an identifiable community within a larger conurbation (sometimes described as an urban 'village or town'). It must have its own sense of identity and have its own "Bloom" group (a group dedicated to leading the "in Bloom" initiative locally). An urban community may not have its own Council, or be able to stand alone, but it will have its own 'sense of place'.
- c. A **coastal** entry is a coastal community by a sea or estuary.

3. Support and Information

If you require support or additional information about the 2020 nomination process then please do not hesitate to contact the RHS Communities Team via telephone 0207 8213122 or email communities@rhs.org.uk.