



For Immediate Release

March 9th 2021

Active Community Awards 2021

Cork Sports Partnership is delighted to announce the launch of the Active Community Awards. The Awards were established by Cork Sports Partnership under its Active Cork Communities Initiative to honour, recognise and celebrate the individuals and groups in our local Cork communities that go above and beyond in their efforts to promote community sport and physical activity opportunities, while equally promoting positive health and wellbeing for all.

This is the first year of the awards, which seek to highlight the important role that community groups, organisations and individuals play in promoting local community health and wellbeing through physical activity. This last year has been particularly challenging but communities have come up with unique and innovative ways to keep people engaged in physical activity and sport, supporting them to look after their physical and mental health.

Speaking about the launch of the Active Community Awards, Kristine Meenaghan, Coordinator with Cork Sports Partnership highlighted, *“These awards are being organised to acknowledge the invaluable contributions made by individuals, groups, clubs and organisations in ensuring their local communities are active through sport and physical activity”*. *“Cork Sports Partnership is looking to showcase the phenomenal work being undertaken by local communities across Cork every day in keeping Cork Active”*.

Niall O’Callaghan, Healthy Ireland Coordinator with Cork County Council highlights the importance of the awards and how Cork County Council are delighted to part of this project *“Cork County Council under its Healthy Ireland Fund are delighted to support the inaugural Active Community Awards. In what has been a challenging year across every sector the efforts of individuals, groups and organisations across the Community & Voluntary Sector to support local communities has been extraordinary. We want to encourage the public to get behind these awards, and to acknowledge the efforts community groups, individuals and campaigns are having on the health and wellbeing of people across Cork”*.

Dympna Murphy, Head of Sports and Sustainability with Cork City Council outlined the important role communities play in creating local sport and physical activity opportunities. *“Community groups and individuals volunteer their time, energy and skills to ensure people of all ages and abilities are active and well, this has been truly inspiring particularly over the last 12 months”*.

Through the Cork Healthy Ireland fund with the support of local partners, Cork County Council and Cork City Council we can now begin to recognise these efforts across the many communities in Cork with our Active Community Awards 2021. This awards scheme is now open and is seeking nominations from groups and individuals, community campaigns and inclusive initiatives across Cork.

Nominations are welcome across the following four categories:

1. **Active Community Group:** This award is to acknowledge a **volunteer group/team of people** working in the development and or promotion of locally led physical activity and community sports programmes.

2. **Active Community Campaign:** This award is to acknowledge and recognise successful **community campaigns, events or initiatives** that encourage people to be active.
3. **Active Community Champion:** This award is to acknowledge an **individual's work** in the development and or promotion of locally led physical activity and community sports programmes.
4. **Active Community Inclusion:** This award is to acknowledge **groups/organisations** that provide a leading role in the area of **inclusion** in their communities.

The Active Community Awards will be organised in adherence with all Government Covid-19 guidelines and the process for nominations will be online. Nominations can be submitted by any member of the public. The closing date for applications is April 12th. For further information on the awards and to make a nomination follow this link: www.corksports.ie/active-communities-awards

Contact: Catherina Lane: Healthy Ireland Sports Facilitator

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Ends



The poster features a blue border and a central graphic of three stylized human figures in red, blue, and green. At the top left is the Cork Sports Partnership logo. The main text reads 'Active Community Awards 2021' in large red font, with '*APPLY NOW*' below it. The bottom of the poster contains logos for Healthy Ireland, Active Cork Communities, the County Council of Cork, SPÓRT ÉIREANN SPORT IRELAND, and the Cork City Council crest.

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Active Community Awards 2021

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