ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH 2024

FC18/24: GOOD CITIZENS AWARDS 2024

1. PURPOSE
   1. To consider the nominations received for the Good Citizens Awards 2024.
2. BACKGROUND
   1. 2023 saw the Town Council host its first Community Dinner which enables the Council to thank community volunteers for their contributions.
   2. To recognise those individuals, couples or groups that have gone above and beyond, the Good Citizens Awards were created.
   3. Councillors and the public have the opportunity to submit nomination for consideration, and the recipients are then awarded a certificate of recognition at the Community Dinner.
3. PROPOSALS
   1. The 2024 nominations were launched online and 4 nominations have been received.
   2. Nominee A: 2 separate nominations have been received for this individual who has worked to bring members of the business community together to deliver events which attract visitors to the town and encourages independent businesses to work together to enhance the retail offer the town has. In doing so, the business community is now more engaged and works collaboratively across the whole town.
   3. Nominee B: This couple were instrumental in the setting up of a community canteen and the campaign group which put food politics onto the agenda at the Abergavenny Food Festival. They made valuable contributions with writing grant funding applications to enable the Abergavenny Community Centre to gain funding for solar panels to meet the needs of becoming carbon neutral, plus their active community engagement in a wealth of groups and projects around climate change and the climate emergency brought these to many peoples’ attention long before it was high on the political agenda. Although these nominees no longer live in the area, their contribution to the town is still evident today, and consideration for an exception is being requested to award this accolade to them in recognition of their efforts and contribution to Abergavenny over their years of residency in the town.
   4. Nominee C: This person works tirelessly to ensure the community group they are intrinsically linked with goes from strength to strength since its inception in March 2022. The work they put in to setting up the group and leading it to become the incredible resource it is, encouraging the users of this group to get involved, and give back to the community. This is most evident through recently arranged training for the group which then saved the life of one their members.
   5. Nominee D: This volunteer has been involved for over 10 years supporting this now vital facility and shows their stalwart commitment to helping people in crisis. Described as the heart and soul of this group, their knowledge and empathy makes the continued commitment to helping people in crisis invaluable. Always going above and beyond, they give up no end of hours to help others in need across the town.
   6. Nominee E: This person is a familiar figure around the town, and in particular in the market hall. He always attends the night market and assists with the setting out and putting away of the chairs – as a vulnerable adult, the market is a space he feels safe to attend, and the market staff keep a watchful eye on him in and around the town. (NB: Due to his need for familiarity, the nomination is being made to be presented at the street food market rather than the community dinner).
4. RECOMMENDATIONS
   1. To approve all nominations for the award.
   2. To invite nominees A - D, and those who submitted the nominations, to the Community Dinner on 25th April 2024.
   3. To present a Good Citizen Award certificate to each nominee: A-D at the dinner, and Nominee E to be presented at the next street food night market on 28th March 2024.