Press Release

29th February, 2024

**Re: Tidy Towns Civic Reception**

On Monday evening, Chairman of the Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal District Cllr Pip Breen hosted a Civic Reception at the Ashdown Park Hotel to thank the members of all the Tidy Towns groups within the district for the trojan work they do in their towns and villages. There was a great turn out for the event with most of the Tidy Towns groups being represented.

In his speech the Chairman said “I was pleasantly surprised to learn that there are some 28 Tidy Towns groups operating in the Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal District. This represents a huge amount of people that are willing to put in the time and effort to improve the towns and villages they live in. It means a lot of hard work, but the rewards speak for themselves. These groups range from well-established groups that have been serving the community for years to groups that are just coming together and finding their feet. There are large and small groups, volunteers of all ages represented here but all joined in one common purpose – “to make your place a better place.””

Cllr Breen noted the history of the Tidy Towns competition from its roots in 1958 devised by An Taisce. Last year over 700 Tidy Towns groups took part in the competition including 31 groups from Co. Wexford. Speaking of the District’s successes the Chairman said “we are rightly proud that our District has won one of two Gold Medals awarded to the County in Blackwater and one of the two Bronze Medals given to Gorey Tidy Towns (it should be noted that this was only a couple of marks shy of a Silver and we have high hopes for Gorey next year). We are also delighted that Blackwater Tidy Towns won best in County for the 3rd year in a row.”

Director of Service for the District Liz Hore added her thanks to the Tidy Teams groups remarking that the success of the evening was demonstrated by the number of Tidy Towns groups that had attended the Civic Reception.

District Manager Philip Knight remarked “when I took up my position just over two years ago, the first thing I noticed was how relatively clean the district was. And as I have been around the district meeting Tidy Town groups, I have been genuinely blown away by the spirit of the people in North Co. Wexford and their commitment to the towns and villages they live in.”

During the reception, the Chairman presented each group with a certificate of appreciation for the work they do on behalf of their communities. Blackwater and Gorey Tidy Towns groups received special awards in acknowledgement of their respective Gold and Bronze Medals in the national competition.

Cllr Andrew Bolger summed up the evening “It was great to see the groups recognised for the work they do. They make their areas look beautiful and that’s no easy task. You’ll find them out in all weathers improving their environment.”

ENDS

A group of people posing for a photo

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