

FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

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Pride in Fenland Awards goes virtual to celebrate district's unsung heroes

Unsung community heroes from across Fenland will be honoured next week when the district's 13th annual Pride in Fenland awards returns online!

Originally due to take place in March 2020, the event had to be postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. But unwilling to be defeated by the ongoing COVID restrictions, organisers Fenland District Council and the Fenland Citizen have taken the ceremony online to ensure the achievements of local people in 2019 and early 2020 didn't go unrecognised.

The event will premiere on the Council's YouTube channel at 7pm on Tuesday 12 January. So, tune in and watch your local heroes celebrated at: <https://youtu.be/FOnisbz83dE>. Viewers can also click the bell icon on the video to receive a reminder shortly before the event begins.

Awards will be presented by Cllr Susan Wallwork, the Council's Portfolio Holder for Communities, and Cllr Sam Clark, Portfolio Holder for Social Housing and Leisure, with the Special Judges Award being presented by Jeremy Ransome, Editor for the Fenland Citizen.

The full list of award categories is as follows:

- Volunteering in the Community
- Young Person in the Community
- Group, Club or Organisation benefitting the Community
- Sports in the Community, sponsored by Freedom Leisure
- Special Judges Award in partnership with the Fenland Citizen

Cllr Wallwork said: "Our Pride in Fenland awards celebrate the work of local people who are not often recognised anywhere else for their dedication and community spirit. The event is one of the highlights of our year here in Fenland and when we had to postpone it back in March we made a commitment to finding an alternative way to show our communities how important they are to us and how proud we are to have these people as our residents.

"2020 was incredibly tough, so we think it's absolutely vital that we make sure our residents and communities don't feel forgotten and we continue to recognise these fantastic people. This new online format will enable all the award nominees and their families to watch and enjoy the ceremony in the comfort and safety of their own homes."

Cllr Clark added: "The awards ceremony is going to be very different, but we're seeing it as an opportunity; usually we're limited to the number of guests we can host at the event but premiering the awards on YouTube allows us to share the event for even more people to enjoy.

"2020 was certainly a bumpy road for many so I'm sure a great event like this will be a fantastic morale booster for many."

The 2021 Pride in Fenland awards will be dedicated to celebrating those who went above and beyond throughout the COVID-19 crisis, with nominations to be opened in the coming months – so watch this space!

ENDS

For more information contact Fenland District Council press office on 01354 622226