

10.3.7

Mayor's Office has further info

The International Awards for Liveable Communities

Recognising international best practice for management of the local environment

The International Awards
for Liveable Communities
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JUL 05 2013

Council

Dear Colleague,

The International Awards for Liveable Communities, (The LivCom Awards), was launched in 1997 and is now firmly established as the World's premier event concentrating on a major issue of our time – the local environment. The LivCom Awards is, however, far more than an Awards Programme; it is also a unique learning experience.

The LivCom Awards is attracting an ever increasing number of communities from an increasing number of countries in many different cultures. Communities from over 50 countries have participated in the LivCom Awards, with at least one new country being represented each year. In both 2011 and 2012 over 500 delegates attended the Awards Ceremony on the last evening of the Finals.

The LivCom Awards is unique in that it brings together representatives of many communities, rather than arranging for Judges to travel from country to country. This coming together enables representatives of a community to attend the Best Practice presentations of other communities, both large and small, and from different cultures. Delegates learn that many communities face similar challenges to those faced by their own community, which vary in local priority on account of culture or political philosophy.

LivCom is totally non political.

This experience often leads to discussions between delegates, culminating in agreements to work together in addressing mutual challenges through the sharing of technical knowledge and experience and practical exchange visits. These arrangements, together with the understanding acquired through attending Presentations, lead to new ideas being introduced in communities, which leads to an improvement in the local quality of life and greater value for money expended.

There is no LivCom Registration Fee.

The first stage of the LivCom experience is the submission of a Report, structured in line with the LivCom Judging Criteria, following which, many communities have advised that the experience can be likened to a free self audit, at the end of which communities become more aware of the areas in which they are performing well and those where they are not. Communities have also advised that the initial LivCom Report has formed an excellent basis for the Community's wider Strategic Plan.

There are many more benefits accruing from participation in the LivCom Awards, and several of these are detailed on the final page of the LivCom Registration Brochure.

Many parts of the world are experiencing difficult financial times and fresh ideas and policies are needed to meet rising expectations regarding quality of life issues and improve cost effective spending.

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It is no longer acceptable to be aware of Best Practice in a community's Region, country or even global region, as there is an expectation that anyone responsible for local environmental issues be informed about current global Best Practice. Participation in the LivCom Awards is the only global event where a community has the opportunity to learn of global Best Practice in addressing challenges that their own community is facing.

The LivCom Awards is truly unique and participation in the Awards is an investment in the community that can produce returns year after year, far in excess of the cost or time invested in participation in the Awards.

Following each LivCom Final delegates contact LivCom to comment that;

- "LivCom has been the highlight event of my professional career"
- "We came home with so many ideas that will save our community money and improve the quality of life",
- "We found that we had the same challenges as other communities and have teamed up to exchange technical information"
- "We were expecting a Competition and the opportunity to learn and we were not disappointed"
- "LivCom is a fantastic, unique, steep learning curve".

The LivCom Awards is managed by a UK Registered Company that is a UK Registered Charity. The Awards shares a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Each year the LivCom Criteria are reviewed to ensure their relevance to the changing world of Local Government. Each year, UNEP is invited to suggest matters that are being discussed within the wider United Nations that will increasingly become issues that will need to be addressed at local level and should be covered by the LivCom Judging Criteria

My request is that you give serious consideration to your community participating in this year's International Awards for Liveable Communities.

If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Alan Smith'.

Alan Smith
Chief Executive