KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME 2027

(SUPPORTED BY KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, THE HIGH SHERIFF OF KENT and MAYOR OF MEDWAY)

OUTLINE

Aim of the Scheme: To acknowledge and give recognition to individuals or groups who have made a significant contribution to their local community.

Implementation: The closing date for nominations will be **Friday 29th January 2027**, so that the presentation of the awards can take place at the 2027 Parish, Town, Community Council or Parish Meeting (Local Council) Annual Meetings, which take place between March and June 2027.

Where a local council already has its own Community Award Scheme, the KALC award may be presented as an additional recognition.

Where principal authorities operate their own awards scheme, the KALC scheme will work at a more local level to avoid duplication or overlap.

Eligibility - Who can be nominated for an Award?

Eligible: **One nomination** may be made from each member Council. This can be any individual or group who lives or works within the Local Council boundary and is considered to have made a significant contribution to the local community.

Not Eligible – Campaign Groups.

What is the nomination process?

Each local council will determine its own process for identifying nominees.

Approaches may include selection by Council based on their own knowledge, or public nomination where the winner could be chosen based on the number of nominations received.

What is the criteria for making an Award?

No fixed definition of a “significant contribution”. Councils set criteria relevant to their local priorities. However, suggested criteria are outlined below.

What does the winner receive?

This will be a Certificate signed by the Kent County Chairman/Mayor of Medway, the High Sheriff of Kent and the KALC Chairman.

The Local Council will provide a short citation (max 30 words) for the certificate.

Councils may choose to present additional tokens of recognition if they wish.

Presentation: The Award should be presented during the Annual Meeting. Councils may also choose to invite the Chairman of Kent County Council/ Mayor of Medway, the High Sheriff of Kent, or the KALC Chairman to participate in the presentation, subject to their availability. Please let KALC know as soon as possible if you would like to request this.

Local Councils are encouraged to publicise the awards locally to promote both the Council and the achievements of the winner.

Is there any funding available to support the Award?

The Award Scheme has been designed to avoid creating undue time or financial burdens on the Local Council. The cost of the Certificates and frames will be met by Kent County Council.

Examples of possible criteria

A significant contribution to the local community may include:

a) Long and sustained service to the community or part of it.
b) Inspiring achievements or actions benefitting he local community.
c) Activities that have brought benefit, recognition, or credit to the area and its people.

In reaching its decision, the Council may consider:

- The level of commitment shown.
- Challenges or obstacles overcome.
- Scale of benefit to the community.
- Number of people positively affected.
- Duration of contribution.
- Any other factors promoting the purpose of the Award.

Example citation: For outstanding dedication to the local community, bringing people together, supporting others and making a positive difference to the lives of local residents.