

# Community Champions Award 2023

Serving the Communities of Portlaoise | Abbeyleix | Athy | Stradbally

## Guidelines



### WHAT IS THE AWARD?

The People First Community Champions Award 2023 is a special €10,000 prize for one of our local community groups. It's to appreciate the hard work and dedication shown by these groups in making our society better. We want projects that are not just creative but also have the power to make life better for people in our community. This award shows how much we care about working together and making our community a great place for everyone. This award is supported by Laois County Council and Laois Public Participation network.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Any not-for-profit community or voluntary group can apply.  
Commercial organisations and individuals are not eligible for funding.

### WHAT PROJECTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING?

### WHAT COSTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING?

The following provides a non-exhaustive list of projects that could receive funding under the award. This award should benefit our common bond areas of Portlaoise, Abbeyleix, Athy, Stradbally and surrounding areas of the common bond within a 5km radius

- Development/renovation of community centres
- Community amenities
- Development of youth clubs or facilities
- Development of sports/recreation facilities
- Improvements to town parks and common areas and spaces
- Public realm improvements
- Streetscaping
- Development of play/recreation spaces
- Energy efficiency type projects
- Purchase of equipment
- Website Development

### WHAT IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING?

- The following expenditure is not eligible for funding:
- Any project not in keeping with the ethos of the Programme
  - Employment costs
  - Legal fees

- Project management fees
- Purchase of lands or buildings
- Feasibility studies
- Private or commercial operations
- Costs which are being paid for by another funder or department
- Day to day running and expenses
- Utility Bills (electricity costs, refuse charges, heating charges)
- Operating costs (eg existing rental/lease costs, insurance bills)

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications will be judged by People First Credit Union Community Funding Committee along with Laois Public Participation Network and Laois County Council to ensure eligibility and that they are targeted at addressing our guidelines.

Projects may also be judged having regard to how they:

- Support local groups and clubs, for the development of the community.
- Invest to increase or extend the use of the facility, for example, to voluntary and community groups;
- Have a positive impact on the environment, for example, a reduction in energy consumption;
- Support the creation of a sense of place within the community including through the enhancement of the built environment;
- Address health and safety issues; and/or,
- Invest in technology which will be accessed by individuals and communities

Projects may also be judged having regard to additional criteria deemed appropriate by People First Credit Union which demonstrate the added value of the project or element of a project in suitably addressing the programme's aims in our common bond area.

## HOW TO APPLY

### Application Form

The application form is detailed and is designed to ensure that it has the necessary information to evaluate each proposal accurately and fairly. Please ensure that you complete this application form in full and that any documentation in support of your application is submitted with your application.

You can use this application form, or Online applications can be found through our website: [www.peoplefirstcu.ie/communityawards](http://www.peoplefirstcu.ie/communityawards). Online applications are preferred.

Only projects that meet the criteria outlined above will be considered eligible.

### PLEASE NOTE THAT INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS OR LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Submission of false or misleading information at any stage is treated very seriously. Any organisation that does not comply with the terms and conditions of the award may be subject to inspection, have their award withdrawn, be required to repay all or part of a grant and/or be barred from making applications for a period of time. All serious breaches of the terms and conditions of the award will be notified to An Garda Síochána.

Applications are preferred through our website [www.peoplefirstcu.ie/communityawards](http://www.peoplefirstcu.ie/communityawards)

Or you can post to

Community Champions Award  
People First Credit Union  
JFL Avenue  
Portlaoise  
Co. Laois  
R32XE18

For any queries please email: [info@peoplefirstcu.ie](mailto:info@peoplefirstcu.ie)  
Canvassing will disqualify.

