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PRESS RELEASE

North Down Council Reward TIDY Businesses

Five Gold Award winners were among 40 businesses in the North Down area to receive TIDY Business awards at the local council's recent awards ceremony.

North Down Borough Council, the first of five organizations enrolled on the TIDY Northern Ireland scheme, are now entering their third year of the programme, during which time they have seen the number of participating businesses expand rapidly.

"We had a lot of businesses who really took up the challenge, and it was great to see five of them rewarded with the Gold award. This is a testament to the high level of commitment that these businesses have shown to the towns and town centres in which they are located," said Betsy Gray of North Down Council. "The feedback we have had from the participants has been very positive, and they all seem to have benefited from information and publicity provided by the programme. We are now looking to make the 2007 scheme bigger and better than ever."

The award winners received their certificates from Mayor Alan Leslie, who commended their success. "I hope your example will inspire many more local businesses to take up the Tidy Business Challenge over the next year," he said. "There is no doubt that correct handling of waste contributes to clean streets, and attractive streets help to increase trade and therefore I would encourage all local businesses to strive for excellence by applying for an award."

TIDY Northern Ireland CEO Ian Cole was delighted to see the response from the local traders. "North Down Borough Council has put a lot of work into making these awards a success," he acknowledged. "It's great to see such a large representation of local businesses among the award winners, and the diversity of the successful participants shows that everyone can benefit from having a 'tidy' business. I hope that this coming year we will witness existing award winners improve their standards, and we will see new businesses gain recognition for their efforts as they join the programme."

The TIDY Business programme aims to encourage businesses to improve their standard of refuse management and improve the image and cleanliness of their premises. There are three levels of awards attainable; Bronze, Silver and Gold.

The programme is promoted by TIDY Northern Ireland. TIDY Northern Ireland, an anti-litter charity, is the provinces leading authority on litter issues, and provides a unique service to communities, businesses, councils and schools throughout Northern Ireland.

NORTH DOWN TIDY BUSINESS AWARD WINNERS

Bangor Area - Main Street and Abbey Street

Gold:

Northern Bank, Main Street

Silver:

Café Home
Cakeworks
Gordons Chemist
GP Marshall & son
Innovation
JJB Sport
MCCulloughs
Priceless Shoes

Bronze:

JD Sports
Dorothy Perkins,
DV8
Oxfam

Hollywood Area

Gold:

Habinteg
Iona

Silver:

Café Kina
NK designs

Bronze:

Jewels
John Minnis
Karma
Marie Curie
RA Glass Associates
Xtravision

Bangor Area – High Street

Gold:

Feherty Travel
Wallhangers

Silver:

Bangor Fish Company
Focus Menswear
Franskinsense
Hobby Dashery
Kelly Cowan
RE/MAX Property Specialists
The Mortgage Shop
Thomas's Family Butchers
Todd Chart Agency

Wolsey's

Bronze:

Decadence
Nail Care
Peppers
Steinway
Tanners

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*Tidy Northern Ireland runs the **Keep Northern Ireland Tidy** Campaigns, and manages the **Northern Ireland Borough Cleanliness Survey, TIDY Business, TIDY Communities, Eco-Schools**, and the **Blue Flag** scheme for clean beaches and marinas in Northern Ireland.*