

## KEEP BRITAIN TIDY NEWS RELEASE

### **#LitterHeroes celebrated in charity's awards**

*Friday 9 February 2018.*

#### **Keep Britain Tidy honours those making a difference on their doorstep at annual awards ceremony.**

Environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy was delighted to announce its Network Award winners at a glitzy ceremony in Brighton last night.

One deserving winner was Wayne Dixon, who attended last night's awards ceremony with his loyal companion Koda the dog. His 7,000 mile litter-picking journey is an inspiration to us all, and why he won the outstanding Litter Hero award.

Delighted on receiving this award, and being the charity's first #LitterHeroes ambassador, Wayne's message to everyone is, "If you feel as passionate about our country, the people, the wildlife and the environment as I do, then please volunteer your time and energy, and help create a better future."

Through innovative campaigns, dedicated volunteering and new partnerships, the ten winners announced last night are improving their local areas, inspiring others and making a massive difference.

From a ten-year-old Litter Hero to celebrations of our parks or sprucing up a whole county, the winners show that together, everyone's actions can add up to make a massive difference.

The winners included:

- **Durham County Council who won Campaign of the Year award, for "Operation Spruce Up"**. Council departments and communities came together to give the county's towns and villages a deep clean – improving the area and achieving more by working together.
- **Leicester City Council's Environmental Volunteers - Community Engagement award**. Helping local people by offering conservation volunteering on land and water, this innovative scheme has engaged nearly 6,000 people already, as well as improving the county's natural environments.
- **Amir Delic, from Central Bedfordshire Council, won the Excellence in Enforcement award**. A dedicated staff-member who shows that, when used correctly, enforcement is a winning tool in the fight against environmental crime.
- **Jess Stones from Hartlepool who won the Litter Hero award**. An inspiring ten-year old with an unwavering passion for protecting the environment, Jess had

been fundraising, organising and litter-picking, to put her passion into action, with outstanding results.

- **Northumberland County Council who won the Love Parks award.** Winning for their social media campaign highlighting why communities, residents and visitors love Northumberland's parks. It was also a great way to announce £2.3m of Lottery Funding to improve one of their urban parks.
- **East Herts Council who won the Partnership award,** for their work across the county, cutting fly-tipping by 15% with the multi-agency Hertfordshire fly-tipping group.
- **Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council who won the Outstanding Service Delivery award, for transforming their street scene services.** With efficiency savings needed, Doncaster put customers at the heart of what they do, recognised there was an increased demand for a seven-day service and up-skilled their workforce to achieve this.
- **North Lincolnshire Council won the Great British Spring Clean award,** for supporting over 300 Litter Heroes to clean up for the campaign, and to sustain the initiative in the long term.
- **Ashfield District Council who won the Local Authority of the year award, for the fantastic breadth of their work.** Centred on improving the area and services for their residents, they've improved local green spaces, innovated how they tackle fly-tipping and helped residents with their waste, to name a few examples.
- **And finally, Wayne Dixon is our outstanding Litter Hero.** Wayne's 7,000-mile walk with his faithful dog Koda around the UK coastline, litter-picking and raising awareness as he goes, is an inspiration to us all. And he's leaving a legacy of motivated school children, new litter-picking groups and a real feel-good factor along his tour. A true Litter Hero.

The charity's Chief executive, Allison Ogden-Newton said: "Each year, our award winners show just what is possible when people have the passion and commitment to make a difference to the environment on our doorstep.

"This year is no exception and I would like to congratulate them and thank them all for their incredible work."

The awards were presented by the charity's Ambassador, actress and charity campaigner Vicki Michelle MBE.

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### **Notes to Editors**

Keep Britain Tidy is a leading environmental charity that cares for the environment on your doorstep. We work to eliminate littering, reduce waste and improve public space. We run programmes including Eco-Schools, the Green Flag Award for parks and green spaces and the Blue Flag/Seaside Awards for beaches. To find out more

about Keep Britain Tidy, our programmes and campaigns visit [www.keepbritaintidy.org](http://www.keepbritaintidy.org).

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