

PRESS RELEASE

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Three months after winning “small city” award Pfaffenhofen becomes first web-live town

The energy and forward-thinking approach of its delegation captivated judges and spectators at the 2011 LivCom Awards finals and now Pfaffenhofen in Germany has taken its already impressive level of community involvement a stage further. The town has become the first community in Bavaria to stream city hall meetings live on the internet.

Mayor Thomas Herker, who made the winning pitch for his town at last year’s finals in Songpa, South Korea, said: “The Pfaffenhofener citizens and anyone else who is interested can now view all public sessions in the town hall streamed live into their living room.

“We wanted to create more openness and transparency and give residents low-threshold access to the meetings.”

Citizens who cannot go to the meetings in the City Hall will have the opportunity to follow the discussions and decisions of the City Council with the live stream on their PC or laptop. In addition, the agendas, meeting templates, and minutes of all meetings are available via the council information system on www.pfaffenhofen.de.

Many of the town’s 24,000 citizens crowded into city hall to watch the live streaming of the 2011 LivCom Awards finals. The city has budgeted Euros 30,000 to set up and manage the new live streaming scheme in its first year.

The LivCom Awards, initiated in 1997 and endorsed by the United Nations Environment Program, is the only international competition judged on international best practice for managing the environment while improving residents' quality of life by creating "liveable communities".

LivCom Chief Executive Alan Smith said: "One of the key criteria looks at finalists' focus on involving and empowering the community. In 2011, the judges noted the increasing emphasis in this area and said this was a real strength across the whole city awards. The community involvement of the people of Pfaffenhofen was evident in their participation during last year's awards and this new initiative highlights how the LivCom experience can be a building block to further success."

The city of Al Ain, United Arab Emirates, is set to play host the 2012 finals of the International Awards for Liveable Communities (22nd-26th November).

At the awards finals, which have been held every year since 1997, judges evaluate the approach to individual criteria for sustainable development – enhancement of the landscape, heritage management, environmentally-sensitive practices, community sustainability and planning for the future.

The finals, which see representatives of the various towns and cities make their case to an international jury, last for five days, culminating in an awards ceremony. The closing date for entries to the 2012 finals is 31st May. For more information please contact tel/fax: +44 (0) 118 946 1680 E-mail: info@livcomawards.com