



Sentinel sculpture is nation's favourite

THE **Royal Institute of Architects** of Ireland (RIAI) has announced Westport sculpture the Sentinel as winner of the Public Choice Award in the 2016 RIAI Irish Architecture Awards.

The public space and sculpture were commissioned by Westport Town Council to celebrate Westport being 'conferred' by the Irish Times as the Best Place to Live in Ireland.

The sculpture, called the

Sentinel, by artist Ronan Halpin was the outcome of a national sculpture competition. The public space around it was designed by Westport town architect Simon Wall, MRIAI, to celebrate the piece and integrate it into the townscape while resolving a difficult junction between two streets.

It has become an important landmark within the town and is used as a gathering point for public events and socialising.

Now in its ninth year, the popular RIAI Public Choice Award gives the public the opportunity to have their say by voting for their favourite shortlisted project. The Public Choice Award received over 14,000 votes - the highest number of votes in the history of the award.

The Westport sculpture won the majority of votes followed by Hollyhill Library in second place, designed by Cork City Architect's Department.



The award-winning Sentinel. PHOTO: MICHAEL MCLAUGHLIN