

# Tidy Towns Competition 2021

## Adjudication Report

Centre:	<b>Ballylongford - Béal Átha Longfoirt</b>	Ref:	<b>326</b>
County:	<b>Kerry</b>	Mark:	<b>312</b>
Category:	<b>B</b>	Date(s):	<b>23/07/2021</b>

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2021</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	43
Streetscape & Public Places	60	43
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	42
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	33
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>312</b>

### Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Fáilte Chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu 2021. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn. Go raibh maith agaibh as ucht bhur dtacaíocht le linn na paindéime. Lean leis an dea-obair. Welcome to the 2021 SuperValu TidyTowns competition. Thank you for your entry and for your commitment to your place in these difficult times. Keep up the great work.

- A village with a population of just less than 400 people. The committee of ten is supported by another 12 volunteers.
  - Well done on being a participant in the competition for more than 8 years and you can be pleased with how quickly your marks have increased over that period. It is great to learn that the competition has been a force for establishing a sense of pride in your community. The overarching goals which you highlighted are most appropriate.
  - Meetings were moved to online systems because of Covid and many people worked as individuals or in small groups on a roster system.
  - Your very active committee also liaises with several organisations such as KCC and we also note the many projects and links with other organisations.
  - You are fortunate to have 4 CE workers to assist in your village and to avail of Leader funding for the three year plan a summary of which you attached. It is well thought out and presented.
  - The fund-raising activities are very good community projects.
  - You avail of all media types for communicating with the community and further afield.
  - The Covid pandemic has restricted your interaction with the school, which is understandable and hopefully next year many things will be back to normal.
  - The polytunnel is your special project for the past year and it is great to note how you have found it a cost savings project as well as being useful for training purposes, especially in horticultural methods such as propagation. It is also a way of getting works done when there is inclement weather.
  - We note you are preparing projects for implementation as soon as Covid restrictions are lifted. That shows great planning and a strong interest in your community. Well done.
  - Many thanks for including labelled photographs with your application. This helps adjudicators who haven't been in your community before.
  - Many thanks for the map of the area with landmarks and projects marked for our attention.
  - The Tidy Towns Handbook has been revised and you can download it from the website. It includes plenty of suggestions for suitable projects to consider.
  - Please note the icons for the 17 sustainable development goals which are printed on the application form. These are intended to assist you in considering future projects that relate to them.
- Your application form is very well prepared, and we wish to compliment you for paying attention to details

throughout.

### **Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:**

- Well done on addressing some of the sustainable development goals relevant to this criterion and highlighting for our attention how your small urban community is taking care of conserving the urban fabric through partnership and making specific references to them in your heritage trail.
  - You are also working with KCC to ensure that the village character is retained in future developments.
  - You have a correct approach to public spaces in the village and gave a very good description of various features that are important for retention and promotion, including making use of the Irish language on signage and ensuring that access for all people is achieved.
  - It is great that you have the cooperation of KCC in the programme of upgrading footpaths in the village.
  - A children's playground is becoming an essential facility in all communities so well done on that achievement. Please note that there is a movement nationally and internationally away from formal playground equipment which is highly designed to minimise risk for children. Instead, the newer playgrounds have a minimum of equipment and make better use of natural materials such as timber structures that provide a place for children to play and most importantly meet with other children.
  - You are an active committee and we note you are working on brochures for the two heritage trails. We note that they are also online, so perhaps you would consider using QR codes at various places for visitors to download and read the relevant information.
  - Well done on your campaign to ensure that buildings are painted.
  - Thank you for providing information and pictures on four projects on painting buildings, fences, walls and plaques. That is a substantial volume of work for your committee. Well done
- The 2019 report referred to the new cemetery on the coastal road to Tarbert and we are curious to know if our suggestions were considered by you or if you had an opportunity to discuss them with KCC. It is important to landscape this cemetery before it becomes full of headstones.

### **Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:**

- Again, we are pleased to note that you have addressed the sustainable development goals and you are taking a planned approach to planting projects and considering the use of natural hedgerows.
- Many thanks for taking note of the suggestions in the 2019 report regarding having a greater number of perennial plants which support pollination and require less maintenance compared with annuals. We hope you will be pleased with the outcome of Project 9 in your application.
- You no doubt appreciate the value of green spaces in terms of environmental and recreational use and community importance.
- The four projects which you have described and illustrated look very well and we hope the next adjudicator who visits Ballylongford will be able to find the rubber tree rings. It is very impressive to see the pictures of the plants you have raised yourselves with the polytunnel.
- Well done on the picnic area improvements, the new footpath and interpretive signage.

### **Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:**

- It was a great achievement to commission a study of wildlife in the area and we note some of the findings that there are 23 threatened and 22 protected species of birds in your community. The 45 page report made very interesting reading and we note it was submitted to the NDDC in Waterford and that hard copies were distributed to the local school, library and other local organisations. You are fortunate to have such rich biodiversity in your area and to have an SPA.
  - We note your activities such as bat walks and other promotional events that highlight wildlife in your area. Well done on these projects.
  - We enjoyed seeing the pictures of St Oliver's School and hope you can get back in action there soon. The vegetable garden seems to have been a great success.
  - We were very interested in the 100 lavender plant project at the church grounds which by now have established well (noted in the 2019 report). They have no doubt played a significant part in the pollinator plan. Have you considered making any Lavender oil, it is supposed to help people with insomnia.
  - We also noted the 'BEE' project from the 2019 report and are delighted that you have continued with this project.
- It is clear to this adjudicator that you have a good understanding of biodiversity and have done many projects that relate well to this criterion.

### **Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:**

- When this criterion was introduced many years ago, it took several years for communities to understand it and to devise suitable projects on the topic, so we understand why you have found it challenging. Most committees have had the same experience. However, there is now a greater understanding of sustainability, and most people realise that it more than recycling.
  - Thank you for mentioning the waste management ideas of the sports clubs and the school. It is great to learn about the 'Conscious Cup Campaign' and the water butts installed in the village.
  - We have noted the water conservation measures adopted in your village, also the energy saving campaign and the WOW and COW initiatives,
  - The upcycling project is another success, we liked the seat made from tree trunks as well as the cottage and the polytunnel we have mentioned above.
- Well done on the diversity of projects in your application. We are curious if you calculated the volume or percentage

of waste that is recycled in your community. Have you considered a book exchange?

#### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

- We are pleased to know that your appeal for no posters in the local election worked. That is quite an achievement. It would be great if more communities followed your example.
- Your range of actions under this criterion are commendable, including physically removing kerbside weeds before they are established. You forgot to mention your 'no chemical' approach in the previous criterion.
- You obviously have a very caring community when you have no graffiti problem.
- The three projects all associated with clean-ups are well described and illustrated. Keep up the great work.

#### **Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:**

- You are working to increase the standard of a relatively new estate to that of an older estate in the community. Is it possible to have some of the residents join your committee/volunteer group.
- The 2019 report praised the standard of the estates in Ballylongford, so your overarching goals are understood and appreciated by others in the community. The picture of the rose wall looks very well.
- Well done on the playground. Please note our earlier comments about maximising natural play opportunities which does not require expensive equipment.

#### **Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:**

- We note you have some issue that will require discussion with KCC and wish you well in that regard.
- Replacing the wooden fencing will have made a significant contribution to the village approach.
- You are pursuing the treatment of derelict buildings in discussion with KCC.
- The pictures of miscellaneous projects look well.

#### **Concluding Remarks:**

Well done on your persistence in helping to Keep Ballylongford looking its best despite the Covid pandemic. Hopefully in another year we will be back visiting your community again. Well done on completing your application form.