

Tidy Towns Competition 2021

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tinahely - Tigh na hÉille** Ref: **245**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **309**
Category: **C** Date(s): **09/09/2021**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	47
Streetscape & Public Places	60	43
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	42
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	38
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	53
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34
TOTAL MARK	470	309

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. Well done on keeping up so much work during the pandemic with some lateral thinking. You focussed on the opportunities to learn more with online webinars and training. You have a huge long list of supporting bodies and businesses illustrating how much your work in Tinahely is valued. There's terrific work being carried out by the pupils of your local schools judging by the Derry Bubbles project; award winning outdoor classroom designs etc.! It's great to see that you are all helping each other and we can look forward to resuming interactive projects as we ease out of the Pandemic.

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

Many thanks for your invaluable photos that aided the work in this strange year of desktop-only adjudication. There has been great work looking after your streetscape. Well done in particular to Tinahely Mens Shed for their work on the Haskins house – we love the Oil Lamps & Lanterns sign in particular! Great to hear of your plans for the Old Market Building – it's such a prominent building that dominates the character of Tinahely town centre. Even though you list this as a future project with next year's adjudicator getting to see the newly painted building, you will have had to put in work already getting this project up and running and this is acknowledged here! There's also been a lots of work carried out on various projects including painting your lovely green street signs that were complimented in your 2019 adjudication and new and repaired benches. The new paving in The Square looks very well. Your newly refurbished Community Hall looks really well – the before and after photos tell a tale!

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Your Facebook page alone shows a huge amount of landscaping work carried out around Tinahely and we're so delighted to see that all your planting follows the Pollinator Planting Code guidelines. The rejuvenated bed on the Hacketstown Road was a huge job as acknowledged in the Approach Roads category below. Lovely to see the little used native tree the Whitebeam planted at Shrubwell. The Mens Shed project planting an edible hedge beside the picnic area is inspired! The bird boxes sound great. Unfortunately, we can't find any photos of the picnic area after all the work was done. Terrific to hear that a reduced mowing regime is happening across Tinahely – this one simple measure will make such a huge beneficial difference for your local biodiversity. Well done Tinahely!

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

We read your Tinahely Bee Friendly Pollinator Plan and it is great – full of good explanatory information as well as suggestions. Has the document been publicised locally? It would be great to think that many Tinahely (and further afield) residents could follow with pollinator-friendly actions in their own private gardens or farmland. We enjoyed a good look through your facebook posts and loved your Dandelion week – another great idea. Lots of great photos of local biodiversity. Use your social media to post links to lots of different helpful guides and information for Tinahely's residents e.g. all the wonderful guides available at www.pollinators.ie/resources. There are so many you could have at least one post a week! You could also encourage people to become citizen scientists and send their records into the Biodiversity Data Centre. With all the great actions resulting from your Pollinator Plan, have you thought about doing bee and butterfly transects around Tinahely so that you can quantify the increases in pollinator populations that will result? It will be so gratifying to have the facts and figures to prove the benefits of your work in years to come! Also have a look at the newly updated TidyTowns Handbook on our website. The Nature & Biodiversity section has a great list of helpful websites and ideas. The River Derry Bubbles Project is a terrific initiative and a wonderful way for the local school children to see how the different parts of their environment are all linked up and how their local river links them to places that seem far away and also how our actions can impact many others even though we don't realise it. A wonderful way to encourage a sense of environmental responsibility for our actions. Lots of future TidyTowners in the making in Tinahely we reckon! Your photos of the bluebells and primroses in Whitefield Graveyard are beautiful. This heritage project sounds very interesting and we look forward to hearing more about it in the future. Hopefully now as restrictions ease, you will be able to enjoy the benefits of all your great biodiversity work and hold some fun community events celebrating nature around you.

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

You have a long list of projects for this category across a wide range of sustainability themes – well done. Great to hear that you no longer use peat compost and you are aware of the implications of using it – we are just wondering do you have your own composting system in Tinahely or do you buy in your peat free compost? Your Mens Shed are very active, great to hear of their recycling of materials for use in their bird boxes and feeders. Lucky Tinahely to have such a talented group working for the town's benefit! Rain harvesting makes so much sense! We look forward to hearing more developments of this project in future competitions. Again we recommend having a look through the Sustainability section of the newly updated TidyTowns Handbook for more hints and helpful websites. Also note that this is the first year that the UN Sustainable Development Goals are integrated throughout the Competition Entry form. Have a look further into the SDGs and you will find that you are already fulfilling several of the seventeen in Tinahely already!

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done on all the litter picks and tidying projects completed. It's been great to see the community spirit in so many places this year where people still wanted to do their bit locally so they took responsibility for local spots and kept them litter free. Gratitude goes to your CE scheme as well as your volunteers for all the work they continuously do to keep Tinahely litter free. Great painting jobs have been completed too picking out Tinahely's finer details – beautiful old gates and transforming light poles!

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

Your focus on trees for National Tree Week was great – especially with Tinahely being situated in a part of Ireland so famous for its woods. Have you come across the charity 'Trees on the Land'? They work with community groups all over Ireland like yourselves give out thousands of native Irish tree saplings every year. Many groups run successful garden tree campaigns with their local Residents Associations each spring this might be something that would go down well in Tinahely? There's certainly scope to approach your local housing estates and see if a lessening in their mowing regimes was possible. Tall wildflower meadows are clearly not practical for estate greens where children want to play but a short wildflower meadow is perfectly possible thus allowing Dandelions, Clovers and Selfheal to blossom.

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

Your refurbished flowerbed on the Hacketstown Road was a huge undertaking. Well done, it looks terrific now and we're delighted to see it filled with pollinator-friendly plants. As well as benefiting the local pollinators, the prominence of this bed will hopefully inspire others to think of pollinator-friendly planting for their own gardens when they pass it. Your new Tinahely signs look great and you plan to create pollinator-friendly flowerbeds at their bases. Your wildflower verges sound wonderful – you had some gorgeous Dandelion photos. We look forward to our next trip to Tinahely in reality! It sounds like it's going to be very floriferous!

Concluding Remarks:

You have achieved a huge amount since the last competition which is very impressive considering the difficult pandemic we have all been through. Clearly your community spirit in Tinahely is very healthy and energised you all into lots of actions! Your pollinator work is pioneering amongst your peers in Co. Wicklow. We wish you every success with it and look forward to hearing lots more in the future.