**The Heritage Council Special TidyTowns Award 2018**

**Online Application:**

**Heritage Council Prize Fund €1,000**

The TidyTowns Heritage Award has been sponsored by the Heritage Council to encourage awareness of the central role of heritage in driving local economies, inspiring creativity and social cohesion and encouraging a sense of belonging.

**Overview**

From its inception, the primary focus of the national TidyTowns Competition has been to encourage communities to improve their local environment and make their area a better place to live, work and visit. The competition aspect was an important element in developing friendly rivalry to boost standards across the board.

The Heritage Council has been involved with the TidyTowns Competition since 1999 and the number of entries has grown considerably each year since. During this European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH) 2018, the Heritage Council seeks to recognise those who work at community level to nurture, promote and inspire new connections with natural, cultural or built heritage.

**Getting Involved**

The Heritage Award seeks to promote a greater awareness of the value of heritage to our quality of life and to sustainable economic development. With that in mind, the Heritage Council seeks projects that benefit heritage and promote its value and relevance to the wider community. During this European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH) 2018, applicants are encouraged to consider linkages to the EYCH theme: ‘make a connection’. [www.eych.com](http://www.eych.com)

The project must benefit and promote an aspect of heritage as set out in the Heritage Act. These include monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, heritage gardens and parks and inland waterways. Benefit is understood to mean enjoyment, conservation and/or identification and promote may be interpreted as any action that communicates the value and relevance of heritage to a wider audience.

Projects not considered  
• New buildings or modern refurbishment of older buildings.  
• New public or commemorative sculptures.  
• Amenity works and environmental improvements.  
This includes works such as seating, spot-lighting, landscaping, curbing, provision of rubbish bins etc.

**The Heritage Council**

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[www.heritagecouncil.ie](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/) | [www.heritageinschools.ie](http://www.heritageinschools.ie/) | [www.heritageweek.ie](http://www.heritageweek.ie/) | [www.eych2018.ie](http://www.eych2018.ie/)

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