

# Application for the SuperValu and AsIAM Inclusive Communities Award

Special Award to recognise examples of sustainable inclusion by TidyTowns committees towards their local autism community.



## Prize €2,000

In 2018 SuperValu began a journey with Ireland's National Autism Charity, AsIAM to create more inclusive communities across Ireland. Clonakilty in West Cork became accredited as Ireland's first Autism-Friendly Town. During this process we found that there is amazing goodwill towards the autism community and would like to further strengthen and recognise the valuable work being carried out in communities right across Ireland.

Currently 1 in 65 children in Ireland are registered with the National Council for Special Education as having a diagnosis of autism. \*(NCSE, 2013) However it is widely recognised that the actual number of children and adults in the community who are on the autism spectrum is much higher. Autism is a complex invisible condition which a person is born with and that affects the way a person communicates, interacts and understands people and the world around them. Autism is often described as a 'hidden disability', and members of the autism community experience barriers to participation in their communities as a result. AsIAM considers barriers of this nature to be an accessibility issue, not unlike the barriers which can be experienced by members of the community who live with physical disabilities.

The Clonakilty Commitment was a standard which AsIAM established in 2018 to provide supports around these barriers faced by the autism community. Together, our work continues throughout Ireland creating Accredited Autism-Friendly Communities. The principles applied in designation were: Judgement & Attitudes, Communication, The Sensory Environment, and Predictability & Control. These principles are recognised by AsIAM as the barriers to autism inclusion. Each entry for the Inclusive Communities Award will be judged on these four themes.

Examples of entries may include but are not limited to: autism friendly events, the autistic voice, awareness and understanding

and lifelong participation.

Examples of these can be from once off events, activities, communications or changes made to their community in order to evoke changes based on the 4 principles listed above. Committees will need to demonstrate how they have promoted their inclusion of the autism community in their overall Tidy Towns entry. Special points will be awarded to mainstreaming or normalising the accommodations required for people who experience autism related barriers to inclusion.

Resources and information regarding autism friendly practices are available on SuperValu.ie, AsIAM.ie, AutismFriendlyCommunities.ie and ILoveClonakilty.ie

## Who can enter the competition?

Any TidyTowns Committee, Junior TidyTowns Committee, subcommittee or group working closely with a TidyTowns committee. Only one entry from each town or village will be accepted.

## How will the winner be chosen?

A panel of independent adjudicators will assess all entries. The last stage of adjudication will involve a prearranged visit by a member of AsIAM to the shortlisted finalists. All entrants must have an appropriate Child Protection Policy in place. This is the responsibility of the TidyTowns committee. For Child First guidelines and training information please contact Túsla at 01 6352854 or the Department of Children and Youth Affairs website.

As part of the overall prize, an AsIAM spokesperson will visit the winning town to hold a talk on autism in the community.

Village / Town / City / Island: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Details: \_\_\_\_\_

TidyTowns Committee name: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of the TidyTowns committee? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, what is your role with TidyTowns? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the population of your community? \_\_\_\_\_

How many members on your TidyTowns Committee ? \_\_\_\_\_

Age profile of members – both committee and those who volunteer to carry out work for TidyTowns;

under 18                      18 – 40                      40+ \_\_\_\_\_



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Do you have members of the autism community in your locality, and if so, are they involved in your committee and the work that you do?

Do you work with schools, recreational or local sporting groups to engage conversation around autism. If so, please give examples?

What efforts have you made to promote awareness and understanding amongst the general public of the autism community in your area?

Do you have a local autism support group in your area? If so, what have you done in relation to collaboration with them?

If so, how do you go about this?

Can you give an example of an event or activity you produced that was deemed as autism friendly or inclusive in practice?

What initiatives have you carried out that demonstrate an inclusive approach towards the autism community, and neurodiversity in the general public?

By submitting an application you are confirming that you are adhering to child protection legislation. For further information on your responsibilities to safeguard your underage volunteers please contact Túsla at 01 6352854 or the Department of Children and Youth Affairs website.

**Please return your entry form to Tidy Towns Unit, Department of Rural and Community Development, Government Offices, Ballina, Co. Mayo, F26 E8N6**

**If you have any queries please contact the Tidy Towns Unit at 096 24309**

**Late entries will not be accepted. For further information see [www.tidytowns.ie](http://www.tidytowns.ie)**