



Committee Newsletter July 2019

Dear Tidy Towns Committee,

Hope you are all enjoying the summer and keeping your area looking its best. The SuperValu Tidy Towns Adjudicators are out and about, while a good deal of the centres have been visited at this stage, second round adjudication will take place in a number of centres. All adjudication visits will be complete by Saturday August 3rd, 2019, so nearly there.

Thank you to all of you for your commitment and dedication to making your towns and villages much better places in which to live and work and more inviting places for visitors both national and international.

Interest in the SuperValu Tidy Towns competition is at an all-time high, we had a record number of 918 entries this year so thank you to each and every committee who have entered, those who are with us from the very start in 1958, those who took a break and have come back to us and to our new entrants for 2019, you are very welcome.

We have seen great interest in our Special awards also so thank you to all who entered those and best of luck to you all.

Ireland's Best kept Town 2019

The awards ceremony for the 2019 Ireland's Best Kept Towns took place on June 25th in Farmleigh House in Dublin.

This year Ballymacarbry, Co. Waterford and Silvermines, Co. Tipperary were finalists in the village category, Ballymore Eustace, Co. Kildare and Bantry, Co. Cork were representing the small town category with large town category entries from Ardee, Co. Louth and Arklow, Co. Wicklow. The finalists for the large urban centre category were Wexford. Co. Wexford and Galway City Centre.

We had a great turn out from all our TidyTowns finalists together with six finalists from the Northern Ireland's Best Kept competition. The awards were presented by Mr Kevin Mc Carthy Secretary General of the Department of Rural and Community Development who administer the SuperValu TidyTowns, Mr Dave Foster from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland and Ms Doreen Muskett MBE, President of the Northern Ireland Amenity Council.

Bantry were crowned as Ireland's Best Kept Small Town while Arklow were named as Ireland's Best Kept Large Town. Other winners included Donaghmore in County Tyrone in the Village category and Bangor in County Down in the Large Urban Centre category



Bantry – Ireland's Best Kept Small Town 2019 and overall Ireland's Best Kept Town 2019



Arklow TidyTowns
Ireland's Best Kept Large Town 2019



Bantry TidyTowns
Ireland's Best Kept Small Town 2019

Communities in Bloom 2019

This year Malahide in County Dublin represented Ireland in the Communities in Bloom competition. Judges visited Malahide earlier in the month. Malahide put on a very impressive show and left the judges well impressed with what they saw. The winners will be announced in Canada later in the year and we wish Malahide every success.



Entente Florale 2019

This coming week judges from countries across Europe will visit Listowel in Kerry and Mulranny in Mayo as they are the Irish finalists for the Entente Florale Europe competition for 2019. Entente Florale is a Europe wide competition and aims to encourage the development and maintenance of green spaces, parks and landscaping in harmony with our natural and built environment. It also promotes awareness of green issues through education and through the development of environmental and green polices to improve the quality of life for all inhabitants. Each year Ireland put 2 entrants forward and we have been very successful to date having received over 45 medals. Over half of these have been at Gold standard. We wish the committees, Local Authorities and all involved in both centres the very best of luck for their Jury visits this week. The results will be announced in Austria in September, we will keep you updated on how our Irish entrants do this year.

Social Media

The use of social media is ever increasing and is a great vehicle in which to share information. Can we remind you all to follow us on Facebook and Twitter for updates and information via the following;



<https://www.facebook.com/OfficialSuperValuTidyTowns>



<https://twitter.com/TidyTownsIre>

We would also like to feature some of the great work you do throughout the year, so if you have any news features of projects you have undertaken and have some photographs or video clips to share with us, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please forward any items of interest to us at tidytowns@drcd.gov.ie **please note**, only forward material to us if you are happy for us to share it on our website or social media forums. We are aware of great work being done by communities in the areas of sustainability, inclusivity and biodiversity and so many of you have done great work in association with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, why not share this with us so we can tell everyone else about the fantastic efforts being put in TidyTowns committees throughout the country.

Logo

We would like to remind all committees that the SuperValu TidyTownns logo has been updated. The logo is shown below and this is the only logo going forward that should be used in all signage, promotions, publications etc. if you require the logo in any particular resolution, please get in touch and we will make it available to you.



Other items of interest;

The awards ceremony for 2019 will be held in The Helix on Monday September 30th. This is an invitation only event, invitations will issue in September. Results books and copies of your 2019 Adjudication report will issue to you on October 1st but will be available to view from 1:00pm on Monday September 30th on our website; www.tidytownns.ie.

The Community Foundation for Ireland's Environment and Nature Fund 2019 is now open for applications.

A fund of €100,000 is available to projects which focus on creating Sustainable Communities through the Circular Economy and Sustainable Consumption and Waste.

The fund is open to community groups. There are three strands within the scheme, as follows:

Strand 1: Grants of up to €3,000 to develop a Community Action Plan focused on reducing consumption and waste in the areas of food waste, plastic and packaging, clothing/textiles and electrical items.

Strand 2: Grants of up to €5,000 to support community groups to trial new and innovative approaches around reducing consumption and waste in the areas of food, plastic and packaging clothing/textiles and electrical items.

Strand 3: Grants of up to €10,000 to support community groups to grow current small scale initiatives to reduce consumption and waste in the areas of food, plastic and packaging, clothing/textiles and electrical items that reach a larger number of users and could act as a viable demonstrator for other groups.

Full details and application form are available here https://www.communityfoundation.ie/grants/types-of-grants/environment-and-nature-fund-sustainable-communities?fbclid=IwAR1e5zPYpDhGT6o4ZxKqUj4b_bPYmkgrnO9kwQ9EvzqyJzWSKQGYV6k3Ho0

Closing date is 2nd August 2019

If you require any further information please visit our website at www.tidytowns.ie or contact the TidyTowns unit at tidytowns@drcd.gov.ie

We would like to thank each of you for your interest in the SuperValu TidyTowns competition. We wish each of you and your committees every success in the 2019 competition.

The TidyTowns Unit
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Government Buildings
Ballina
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