



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

Administered by the  
Department of Rural and Community Development

## Tidy Towns Newsletter Issue 6 - 2019

Dear Tidy Towns Committee,

As we come to the end of another year it is a time to reflect on the year that has passed. In that year, yet again, Tidy Towns committees the length and breadth of the country have given so generously of their time to make their towns and villages better places. It was a year that saw an unprecedented number of entries to the competition and also a record number of brand new entrants. To all of you who have entered and for all your efforts, thank you.



### 2019 Regional Awards Ceremonies.

Over the past few weeks we have had the privilege of attending the four regional awards ceremonies. These are a fantastic opportunity to present each of our winners with your awards, they are also an opportunity for you, the committees, to get together and celebrate your success together.

This year we received such wonderful welcomes in Blackrock in Louth, Terryglass in Tipperary, Ennis in Clare and of course in Glaslough in Monaghan, Ireland's tidiest town for 2019. We wish to thank those involved in the preparations of each of these events, the community centres were decorated so well, fantastic food, music and such warmth and welcome extended to all.

We include a small selection of photographs below from some of the events.



It can be difficult at this time of year to travel long distance, so for those award winners who were unable to attend their regional event, your award, if not posted already, will be posted to you in the coming days. All payments in respect of awards have now issued, if you have not received your payment or your award, please contact the Tidy Towns unit and we will investigate the matter for you.



## Funding Opportunities

We would like to inform you all about the Community Water Development Fund which has recently been launched. This may be of interest to Tidy Towns committees interested in working to protect or enhance their local rivers, lake wetland or coastal water areas.

Further information on how to apply for funding under the Community Water Development Fund can be found by visiting the link below;

<http://watersandcommunities.ie/community-water-development-fund-2020/>

We would also like to draw your attention to a funding scheme entitled “Historic Towns Initiative 2020” which has been announced by The Heritage Council of Ireland. These funds will be administered through the Local Authority network. If you would like to find out more about this scheme, please visit the website listed below and discuss with your Local Authority.

[https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/Historic-Towns-Initiative-2020\\_guidance\\_for\\_applicants.pdf](https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/Historic-Towns-Initiative-2020_guidance_for_applicants.pdf)

## Ireland’s Best kept Competition 2020

Ireland’s best kept competition is a North-South initiative and is in place since 1995. Next year 2020, we will celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this all-island competition. The awards ceremony will be held in June 2020 in Belfast. The TidyTowns unit will be assessing each of the entrants to the 2019 competition and will select one nomination from each of the 8 categories. Those centres that are selected will be offered the opportunity to go forward to represent their category in this special anniversary year competition. You never know, you may be getting that phonecall in the New Year. We wish all those who will be taking part the very best of luck in their endeavours.

## Entente Florale 2020



Ireland will be putting two centres forward for the Entente Florale 2020 competition. In the village category, Keadue in Co. Roscommon have welcomed the nomination and likewise in the town category, Carlow are looking forward to the jury visit in July 2020.

We wish both centres and their committess and all who will be involved in the process the very best of luck in their preparations and for the jury visit.



## 2020 Competition

We have already commenced the preparatory work for the 2020 competition and are in discussions with special award sponsors. We would encourage you all to enter the special awards for 2020 and keep an eye out for some new awards that we hope to introduce next year.

We are in the process of returning all hard copy material that was submitted as part of your entry for the 2019 SuperValu TidyTowns competition, we hope to have all material returned to you before the end of the year.



## Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's)



On September 25th 2015, 193 UN Member Countries, including Ireland, adopted 'Transforming Our World': the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Integral to the 2030 Agenda are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which aim to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity.

The SDGs cover the three dimensions of sustainable development; economic growth, social inclusion and the protection of the environment. They aim to address inequalities, economic growth, decent jobs, cities and human settlements, industrialization, oceans, ecosystems, energy, climate change, sustainable consumption and production, peace and justice.

There are 17 SDGs, with each goal having a number of sub-targets for a total of 169 targets across the 17 goals. The targets are to be achieved by 2030.

The TidyTowns competition has links to many of the goals and we would welcome any attempts made by TidyTowns committees to highlight these goals and raise awareness of them. A leaflet is issued with this newsletter which we hope will assist you in applying some of the sustainable development goals into your every day life.

## 2019 TidyTowns Grant Funding

At the announcement of the 2019 awards back in September, Minister Ring announced a funding package of €1.4 Million for TidyTowns groups. The closing date for this funding has now passed, we do hope that all groups who were eligible have returned their application form to Pobal who are administering the payments on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development. If you have any query on the grant, please contact the TidyTowns unit immediately.

### Social Media

As advised previously 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>

As referenced in previous newsletters we would like to feature some of the great work you do throughout the year, so if you have any news features or 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@drccd.gov.ie](mailto:tidytowns@drccd.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 by 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.



If you require any further information please visit our website at [www.tidytownns.ie](http://www.tidytownns.ie) or contact the TidyTownns unit at [tidytownns@drcd.gov.ie](mailto:tidytownns@drcd.gov.ie)



We would like to thank each of you, the committees and volunteers for your interest in the SuperValu TidyTownns competition throughout 2019 and indeed to some committee's right back to 1958. It has been our pleasure working with you and meeting so many of you throughout the year.

We also extend our gratitude to our main sponsor SuperValu who have been sponsoring the competition now for 28 years and to all their local retailers who support TidyTownns committees throughout the year.

We also want to thank our other sponsors, our dedicated team of adjudicators and to all the Local Authorities, business's and groups who assist you in anyway, we thank them all for their support and generosity.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family members and all your volunteers all the very best for Christmas, may it be a time when you get a chance to rest from your busy schedules and enjoy the fruits of your labour.

We wish you good health, happiness and prosperity for 2020 and of course it goes without saying, the best of luck in the 2020 competition.

With our very best wishes.....

Anne, Helen, Mary, John and all the team.

The Tidy Towns Unit  
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