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Tidy Towns Newsletter

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WELCOME

Dear Tidy Towns Committee,

Welcome to another year of SuperValu Tidy Towns. As we prepare to launch the 2020 competition next month, we are sure that each of you have many exciting projects and initiatives well under way to impress the adjudicators when they visit your area this summer. We very much look forward to receiving your entry to the 2020 competition and wish each and every one of you every success in your endeavours.

Submitting an Entry

Submitting your entry to the SuperValu Tidy Towns competition can be done in a number of ways. In late March all Tidy Towns committees who entered the competition in either of the last three years will receive an entry pack in the post. This form can be completed and posted to us. You can also download a form from the Tidy Towns website by visiting www.tidytowns.ie. This form can be completed and posted to us or you can email your scanned entry or electronic entry to the Tidy Towns unit at tidytowns@drcd.gov.ie.

Posting Your Entry!!!



If you are posting your entry to us, please ensure that all photographs, maps etc. are securely attached to avoid them being mislaid. Please keep a copy of all material you post us and also obtain proof of postage in the unlikely event that your entry gets mislaid in the post.



Emailing Your Entry!!!

If you are entering the competition this year by electronic means, please ensure all your material is contained in one single email to tidytowns@drcd.gov.ie and that it does not exceed 20MB in size. Please check the sent and spam folder in your email account to satisfy yourself that your entry has been sent.

Verify your entry has been registered!!!



In previous years, committees whose entries were submitted electronically would receive an acknowledgement email confirming that their entry had been received. This will not be the case for 2020. All entrants to the competition must themselves, ensure that their entry has been received and registered. This should be done by visiting the TidyTowns website www.tidytowns.ie whereby a list will be updated regularly listing all entries that have been registered for the 2020 competition. Further information on this process will issue in due course.

2020 Competition

The 2020 SuperValu TidyTowns competition will be launched in late March and the closing date for entries will be mid May. This year we would love to see an increase in committees entering our Special Awards. Each year we aim to bring on new and exciting awards that can help raise awareness and much needed funds for committees. In a bid to encourage more of you to enter these awards, we are going to extend the closing date just for the special awards by a few weeks after the main competition closing date, therefore it may give you some time after the main entry is submitted to focus on one or more of these special awards. Keep a watch out in late March for your entry pack and visit www.tidytowns.ie for more information.

Bodyke TidyTowns



We are always delighted to hear about projects you are undertaking to help improve your place. Here we see great work that has been completed by Bodyke TidyTowns. We see an old wheelbarrow being given a new lease of life. Work has also been completed on an area which was once occupied by a forge.

Bodyke TidyTowns in Co. Clare have been involved in the SuperValu TidyTowns competition since 1974. Keep up the good work! If any other groups would like to share some images and stories with us, we would love to hear from you.



Leave No Trace Biodiversity Toolkit

Leave No Trace is an outdoor ethics programme designed to promote and inspire responsible outdoor recreation through education, research and partnerships. Leave No Trace Ireland are delighted to share the Biodiversity Toolkit for Communities that was developed through a pilot biodiversity programme. The toolkit is designed specifically for communities and highlights how changing or adapting the management of green and blue outdoor spaces can make a big difference to the biodiversity these areas support. The toolkit offers ideas that communities can undertake to conserve and enhance their outdoor spaces including how to create a biodiversity action plan, useful tips and how to reduce biodiversity loss through the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace. Please visit the Leave No Trace website to find out more. www.leavenotraceireland.org

A copy of the Biodiversity Toolkit can be found here;

<https://www.leavenotraceireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Leave-No-Trace-Ireland-Biodiversity-Toolkit-for-Communities.pdf>

Sustainable Development Goals



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) cover the three dimensions of sustainable development; economic growth, social inclusion and the protection of the environment. There are 17 SDGs, with each goal having a number of sub-targets whereby TidyTowns committees can align their projects or initiatives to one or more specific goals.

The TidyTowns competition has links to many of the goals and we would welcome any attempt made by TidyTowns committees to highlight these goals and raise awareness of them. The 2020 SuperValu TidyTowns entry form will contain further information on these goals and also advice on how committees can aim to deliver under them.

Inland Fisheries Ireland - Funding

Inland Fisheries Ireland have opened a new funding round which is available to community groups and angling clubs across the country. The funding will be awarded to fisheries conservation projects and development projects with over €1.3 million announced.

All applicants must apply through an 'Expression of Interest' form to progress to full application. Full applications may be submitted until the closing date for applications on the 25th of February 2020.

See: <https://www.fisheriesireland.ie/Press-releases/canney-encourages-community-groups-and-angling-clubs-to-apply-for-1-3m-in-fisheries-funding.html?fbclid=IwAR3it0Vpb8VxXRqSsq1N0-XuK8zC5LRNZ0nwhbaHFukMsrwRpLP1UGGFNhk>

Our sponsors SuperValu would like to alert you to something new and exciting that is happening soon that will help raise awareness on how we can improve Ireland's Biodiversity.....



National Spring Clean 2020

In 2019, 5,448 groups registered to carry out clean-ups throughout the country - Over 500,000 volunteers have participated in the Spring Clean 2019 and collected an estimated 3,000 tonnes of litter. Registrations for the National Spring Clean 2020 are now open. For further information, please visit;

<https://nationalspringclean.org/?fbclid=IwAR19leS0YQKmShiZMfbewkH4VgA5REwOP9UzifiXj41dDinz76B-nuJe-Ho>

Gaisce – President's Award

Gaisce – The President's Award would like to invite all Tidy Towns Committees to become a Gaisce Challenge Partner.

Gaisce – The President's Award is a self-development programme for young people between the ages of 15-25, which is proven to enhance confidence and wellbeing through participation in personal, physical, community and team challenges. It is a direct challenge from the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, to all young people to dream big and realise their potential.

Gaisce is interested in partnering with regional TidyTowns who can support young people undertaking the Gaisce Award through suitable opportunities to fulfil their Challenge Area of Community Involvement. Organisations who provide such opportunities to young people undertaking Gaisce are called Challenge Partners, and in addition to facilitating Participants undertaking activities, they act as supervisors by signing off on Participant's weekly activities.

Challenge Partners are promoted through Gaisce's website to inform Participants and their President's Award Leaders, who guide them through the programme, of organisations that they can get involved with as part of Gaisce.

By becoming a Gaisce Challenge Partner, you are joining a community of 1200 President's Award Leaders based in 850 organisations around the country that empower over 25,000 young people each year to become more active, get involved in their community and discover their potential.

If your TidyTowns group is interested in learning more about becoming a Challenge Partner with Gaisce – The President's Award, please visit <https://www.gaisce.ie/challenge-partner-application-form/> and fill out the Challenge Partner application form.

Pollinator Conservation Conference

Ireland's Buzzing: International Conference on Pollinator Conservation will take place in the Strand Hotel Limerick City this May 20th and 21st. This event is being organised by Limerick City and County Council in collaboration with the National Biodiversity Data Centre who manage the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. For more information or to book your place at the event, please visit;

<https://www.pollinators.ie/conference/>

The use of Pesticides/Herbicides

The correct and responsible use of Pesticides or Herbicides is of the utmost importance. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine have produced a very informative guide to assist with responsible pesticide use in public and amenity and garden areas. To download the guide which contains 10 easy steps ([Straight A's for Amenity](#)), please visit;

<http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/media/pesticides/content/sud/ResponsiblePesticideUsePublicAmenityGardenAreas200217.pdf>

The Gum Litter Taskforce (GLT)

The Gum Litter Taskforce (GLT) is an education awareness campaign which aims to encourage positive behavioural change amongst the public with regards to correct gum disposal. Since 2007, the GLT has sponsored a category award in the TidyTowns competition as part of it's national campaign. The GLT is asking TidyTowns committees around Ireland to develop positive, inclusive initiatives to further our campaign objective and influence a positive behaviour change amongst the public.

Previous winners have stood out to judges for their creative and novel approach to tackling the improper disposal of gum amongst people within their locality. In 2020, the GLT and TidyTowns are seeking applications from villages, small towns, large towns and urban centres for this year's awards, demonstrating how they have raised awareness of gum litter throughout their community and the action programmes that have been implemented to continue their awareness raising efforts. Get thinking, the competition will launch next month.

Social Media

Can we remind you all to follow us on Facebook and Twitter for updates and information via the following links;



<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 **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.

To reward those who share their photographs or stories with us for our next edition of the newsletter, a draw will be held and the winning story to feature will receive a SuperValu Gift Card. So get those stories and photographs together on how your projects and initiatives are making a real difference to your area, be it in tidiness, sustainability, Biodiversity or Inclusivity. We would love to hear from you.

Wishing you all the best in the coming months as you prepare for the 2020 competition. Keep up the good work.

Anne, Helen, John and all the team.

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