

# SuperValu TidyTowns Newsletter

## Issue 2020-5

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*Caring for our environment*

Administered by the  
Department of Rural & Community Development

Supporting the  
Sustainable Development Goals

Think Global – Act Local



A Chairde,

Welcome to our SuperValu TidyTowns newsletter. Hoping you and your families and communities are well as we work our way through these challenging times. Progress may be slower than we might have hoped, but we must continue to be vigilant and adhere to the public health advice as it emerges. Social distancing should be maintained and the wearing of face coverings should be used where the 2M distancing is not possible. We would urge you all to be careful in your TidyTowns activities and to be mindful and respectful of those who maybe in the vulnerable or at-risk categories.

As we enter the peak holiday season, we see some increased movement and activity on our roads and in our towns and villages, it is not what it should be, far from it, but we hope that all will be safe and will adhere to all the protocols in place, that way we can all “stay safe” together. Remember to support your local business and suppliers so that when we do get back to normal, and we will get back to normal, we want all our towns and villages to be the places they were before the pandemic.

We hope you find the stories and information in this issue informative and encouraging, perhaps you might have a story to tell, if so, we want to hear it. There is some fantastic work going on throughout the country and you should all take pride in what you and all the TidyTowns volunteers do to make our country the great place it is, to live and work in and why so many millions of tourists visit here each year. Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir!

## Sense of Place and TidyTowns by Ann O'Leary

Over the years the TidyTowns Competition through the committees and communities of its participating centres has successfully addressed a number of issues in the visual and recreational amenity status of Irish towns and villages. These issues have ranged from the visual clutter caused by a plethora of inappropriate signage; the restoration and conservation of traditional shopfronts and the delivery of recreational amenity facilities providing a better quality of life for communities.



Littering and illegal dumping has all but been eliminated from the streets of our towns and villages, it is rare indeed for adjudicators to note littering to the degree as shown in these photographs which was once the norm.



There has also been a fair degree of success in the care and conservation of both our natural environment and our heritage. TidyTowns committees have achieved these successes through their networking activities with all sections of the local and wider community, by raising awareness through providing information and education where appropriate and of course by all involved 'rolling up their sleeves' and donning the rubber gloves!

The TidyTowns Competition continues to evolve and respond to the needs of new generations within communities; there are new issues to be addressed by TidyTowns committees one of which received a thoughtful and timely review in last month's Newsletter on Covid 19 and Sustainable Living. This writer attempts to bring greater clarity to the issue of the 'Sense of Place' criterion which is assessed under the category "Streetscape and Public Spaces" in the competition which in the opinion of this adjudicator is perhaps the least well understood adjudication criterion facing committees today. In this adjudicator's experience committees are unclear as to what is being assessed and indeed what their contribution might be.

Like many other things in life the concept of 'Sense of Place' is open to interpretation; what might constitute a strong 'Sense of Place' for one person may not do so for another! However, there are a number of tangible elements involved in generating a strong 'Sense of Place' which will be considered below.

Many Irish towns and villages have evolved in a linear pattern along National Primary and Regional Roads. The travelling public in many instances having little choice but to continue driving through due to traffic congestion often caused by on-street parking and other issues which work to discourage the travelling public to stop and spend a while in the centre and without having achieved any sense of the beauty or heritage on offer.

My own understanding of a strong 'Sense of Place' is a feeling of having arrived at a destination where I'm drawn to park the car and perhaps do a bit of shopping, certainly have a cuppa and an appreciative stroll soaking up the cultural and natural heritage in addition to the visual interest afforded by the built environment. I like to feel that this centre will stay with me as a special memory and that I will find something unique here to maintain that memory into the future!



This image of one such memory I have of an Irish village visited last year where I experienced a palpable 'Sense of Place'.

Although experiencing a 'Sense of Place' is subjective, there are tangible elements, which are a basic requisite, and these include;

- **Connectivity**; i.e. walkable street networks that can be easily navigated and are well connected;
- **Quality of the built environment** i.e. how buildings and spaces interact with each other and levels of pedestrian activity, enclosure created by orientating buildings along or facing the street and the use of trees.
- **An active front** i.e. frequent entrances and openings ensuring the street is overlooked and generates pedestrian activity.

As can be seen above pedestrian activity is essential for creating a 'Sense of Place' however, pedestrians must be placed at the top of the road / street user hierarchy followed by cyclists, public transport, and lastly private cars. The needs of the car must not take priority over the needs of other road users or the value of 'Place'; this may require a multidisciplinary road user audit followed if necessary, by a design study.

The following considerations are important in trying to ensure the basic elements necessary for a 'Sense of Place':

**Connectivity**: are all sections of the town / village easily accessible and walkable in relation to each other? Are there safe footpaths and cycle paths throughout? Is there universal accessibility? How walkable is your town/village? Is road signage adequate? The management of back lanes and vacant/derelict sites is important also for generating a 'Sense of Place' particularly when it comes to connectivity. This can be facilitated/addressed by landscaping in many instances particularly the use of container plants for temporary enclosure of vacant sites pending redevelopment, However, there are certain rules governing the use of container plants; for maximum visual impact containers should be grouped together in a pleasing arrangement rather than spread out in the straight line.



The containers themselves should not be visually predominant unless there is some special feature to be highlighted, the planting should catch the eye. The height and potential movement of plants will also add visual interest. Back lanes can be incorporated into the walking network of the town / village by featuring climbing plants and other appropriate landscaping along with lane identification plates.

**Quality of the Built Environment:** The overall general maintenance of buildings continues to be important especially in relation to the use of colour and the presentation of shopfronts. The use of roller security shutters on the latter outside of business hours diminishes the visual amenity of streetscape and as with large window stickers blocks the view into the premises from the street and vice versa, both of which have the effect of diminishing the pedestrian activity necessary for a strong 'Sense of Place'. Enclosure can be created to vacant sites and side areas as an interim measure pending redevelopment using container tree planting; again, it is essential that cognisance be taken of the appropriate grouping and choice of containers and tree species for visual interest.

**An Active Front;** frequent entrances and openings to ensure the street is overlooked and generates pedestrian activity is essential. If there are too many vacant premises or lengthy stretches of wall with no openings these can be used to display the heritage of the town / village thereby generating interest and the necessary footfall. Heritage panels can be featured along walls. Themed street furniture can reinforce the centres uniqueness related to its heritage. Street furniture ranging from public seating to street lighting, street signs, litter bins and bicycle stands all of which have a role to play in generating a 'Sense of Place'. The local historian would have a significant contribution to make in this regard.



TidyTowns committees have been successful in addressing many of the issues noted above. Undertaking on street car parking and other traffic related surveys, liaising with local historians to identify unique elements of their town/village for heritage initiatives; liaising with property owners

regarding the presentation of their premises particularly in respect of shopfront presentation and roller window shutters; liaising with local authorities on the design and installation of street furniture and much more!

So, working to generate a strong 'Sense of Space' is unlikely to involve new activities but will involve a focus on a new, and in some respects, less tangible outcome!

## Sligo Says 'Thank You'

Sligo TidyTowns over the past number of years have supported the installation of many murals around Sligo town centre and its environments. These murals covered such diverse topics as nature, history, art and some with local themes. Last year a wall became available and our thoughts turned to the topic of the mural. While we were considering our choices, the COVID-19 pandemic arrived.

The committee then focused their attention on possible COVID-19 related themes and the theme of the front line worker emerged. STT took a broad definition of the front line worker, not only recognising health care workers, but all workers who worked to provide services while the country was in lockdown. The artist Friz, (Marian Noone) was given the brief to develop a suitable mural to suit the available wall.



This was a challenging design as Friz said:-

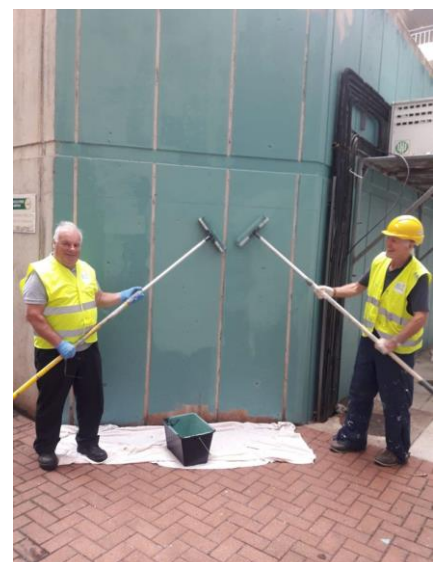
*“By no means does the image capture all aspects of the roles that were undertaken by essential workers but hopefully it gets the message across; from health and care workers, to the civil service, to cleaning and refuse collection, those who served us at the tills and those who delivered to our doors, to name but a few!*

*I don't think there is a wall big enough to cover everyone who shouldered the burden!*  
*Sligo Says 'Thank You'”*



Sligo County Council and Sligo Business Improvement District supported the mural, with support in kind by a number of local businesses.

The mural was officially launched on Friday 10th July with representatives of the front line workers present with the Mayor of Sligo Cllr. Rosaleen O'Grady and members of Sligo TidyTowns.





A close up of the mural shows the five frontline workers that were chosen to represent all front line workers.

Garda,  
Shop worker,  
Medical worker,  
Cleaner and a  
Delivery person.



In order that the people of Sligo can thank individual workers a thank you postcard was produced. This postcard features a mural on one side of the postcard, and a space on the other side to write a note of appreciation. This postcard will be distributed to local businesses and Sligo TidyTowns will present a number of framed postcards to organisations and businesses employing front line workers at their upcoming awards evening as a thank you to public and private sector workers who assisted the town during the pandemic.



When Friz completed the mural her work was not finished. She completed a second mural in Sligo University Hospital, a nature scene featuring native plants and wildlife on a much unloved wall. Sligo TidyTowns assisted by painting the base coat and organising local services to prepare for FRIZ. While Sligo TidyTowns provided support and technical assistance, the cost of the mural was funded by fundraising efforts to support the staff of Sligo University Hospital. See above some photos of Sligo Tidy Towns teams carrying out the preparatory work and the finished work. Both posts were well received on our Facebook pages, with over 20,000 views each of both the frontline worker post and the Sligo University Hospital post.

Well done to Sligo TidyTowns and to all involved on this fantastic initiative to honour our front line workers, to whom we all owe a great deal.

## SEAI – Energy Rating Video

Did you know that by improving the energy efficiency of your home, you could lower your energy bills, make your house warmer, more comfortable and reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions?

The SEAI have released a new video on BER and Carbon. To get more information on energy ratings or how to get the most from sustainable energy visit; [www.seai.ie](http://www.seai.ie).



The video is available through their website or on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWy9D0Ljy8U>

## Tell us your Story

This is our 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the TidyTowns Newsletter; we issued our first one back in April 2019 and in those months, we have had the pleasure of reading and sharing some fantastic initiatives and stories from so many dedicated and enthusiastic TidyTowns groups. There would be no competition without you all doing what you do and in the same way, there would not be a newsletter without your input and contributions.

The main sponsor of the competition are **SuperValu**, who have been sponsoring the competition now for nearly 30 years. To acknowledge and applaud the great work you are doing, **SuperValu** gift cards will be presented to some groups whose articles, we feel really demonstrate what community is all about and how the TidyTowns volunteers have and continue to rise to the many challenges presented to them, that has been so evident during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**SuperValu**  
Real Food, Real People

We have asked an independent Manager in the Department of Rural and Community Development to go through the articles published in 2020 and they have selected a winner and runner up as follows. We want to thank Geraldine for her assessments.

In issue 2 of 2020 we read all about the heart-warming gestures of Denis O' Leary and all in Kilbride TidyTowns. They decided to treat frontline workers in their area to a surprise to brighten up their days and to acknowledge their massive effort and commitment. A Thank You card, flowering plant, homemade colourful butterfly, a solar light and a packet of Rolo sweets were delivered to these frontline workers. A **SuperValu** gift card worth €100 is on its way to Denis and the entire group in Kilbride TidyTowns.



In Issue 3 of 2020 we read how Ennis TidyTowns used this gap year in the competition to foster a sense of community and knowledge sharing by starting a series of Sustainability Fact-Sheets. Their first in the series featured their Community Cups Campaign. They have since shared with us a factsheet on Car idling and make sure to check out No. 3 in the series in this issue on household waste. For their initiative, a **SuperValu** gift card worth €50 is heading to all the team in Ennis TidyTowns.



We want to extend our congratulations to both Kilbride and Ennis TidyTowns and encourage more of you to send in your photos, poems, puzzles and stories to us for future issues. Huge thanks go to **SuperValu** for sponsoring these prizes and the good news is that we have more gift cards to give away in October and in December so keep those pieces coming in, why not tell the country what you are doing in your town or village.

*Congratulations!!!*

# **The TidyTowns Map and Legend by Michael Hannon**

## **Some ideas to help you with your TidyTowns Map**

### **The Map**

The provision of a Map is specifically requested in the guidelines of the Supervalu TidyTowns Entry Form. It is also mentioned on a number of occasions in the TidyTowns Handbook. The map, and as we will see later on, the Legend are two of the important items to consider when your Committee is preparing its plan for the year ahead or its multi annual plan and later when completing its Entry Form for the Competition. Unfortunately, these are items that are often neglected until the proverbial “last minute”. They can also be two of the most frustrating items for the Adjudicator!

Why do you need a map at all? The map can help both the Committee and the Adjudicator in the following ways:

### **Helping the Committee**

- The TidyTowns Competition requests it!
- When produced properly the map can be a visually attractive document that can provide clarity for your Committee and the Volunteers, who undertake the TidyTowns work. Committee members like to see an overall simple picture of what they are involved in and a map is often clearer than the written word – but only if it is produced properly.
- The map can show the locations of new work areas, work areas already undertaken and future work areas that might, for example, be part of a three or five Year Plan for the Committee.
- The map can aid in planning and programming for future work.
- The map can help individual volunteer groups to focus on the work they have been allocated and to suggest new areas that might be significant for the TidyTowns Committee to add to the overall plan.
- The map can show local landmarks that will have significance for some or all of the Committee members. It makes the work personal.
- A good map can help to inform and also generate enthusiasm for the TidyTowns project in the wider community.

### **Helping the Adjudicator**

- A good map can provide the Adjudicator with a clear picture of the town or village that s/he will be adjudicating and can help to make his/her work efficient - and even enjoyable. An Adjudicator who has to spend unnecessary time attempting to locate a project or a building that is mentioned glowingly in the Entry Form but that is not clearly identified on the ground can frustrate the Adjudicator.



- The map can provide a clear picture for the Adjudicator of where the boundary is to the village or town that has entered.
- The map can show clearly the location of projects undertaken by the TidyTowns Committee.
- The map can give an indication of how well organised the Committee is.

## **Making the map**

Think about the map very early on. If you are a first time entrant then work on the Map should commence at the latest in the early Autumn and a draft should be ready to use by November. So how do you produce a good map that is legible and easily understandable by all of the interested parties – the TidyTowns Committee, the Volunteers, the wider population, other voluntary groups, the local Council and the Adjudicators to mention but a few? Whether you are a Committee that has large resources or few the following guidelines apply. Not every Committee has the resources to engage a professional map maker or Graphic Designer. If, however, the Committee has such a resource then what it needs to do is to sit down with that person and explain:

- What the purpose of the Competition is (remember, your Committee may understand what TidyTowns is about but not everyone is aware of the breadth and complexity of this competition - even if it is widely publicised)
- What the Competition rules demand and the extent of what is suggested it might contain.
- After that, it will be a matter for the Graphic Designer or map maker to interpret the information provided and make some suggestions for a clear and attractive map.

In the case of a Committee that is short on resources the above also applies and here are a few suggestions that might help where you do not have the resources to employ a professional:

- The Committee looks within the local population to ascertain what professional Visual Communication resources there are. Few towns or villages do not have someone who might be in a position to produce the Map. An Artist, a Graphic Designer, a Draughtsperson, an Engineer, an Architect, an Art Teacher, a local person who has great artistic competencies, etc. That person may not currently live locally but might be willing to help out with his/her home place. That person may not have the time to engage full time as a Volunteer but might be quite happy to be involved in one specific project - in this case, the map making.
- The Committee will ideally have contact with the local schools and there are opportunities to use the skills of the students and the teachers to prepare a suitable map. For example, Transition Year is a time for looking outside the School Curriculum and undertaking projects that extend the student knowledge

in a practical way – the TidyTowns map could be one of these opportunities. Such a project could extend the student knowledge of the local area simply because it now has to be investigated in more detail in order to produce a useful and visually attractive map that is useable by many different persons. Could it even be a potential Young Scientist Competition entry project?

## **The Legend**

Very often maps can be ruined and can become of no value to either the TidyTowns Committee or the Adjudicator when too much information has been added to it. A cluttered map will confuse and end up not being used. This is where the Legend will be important. In essence, a Legend is a numbered and short explanation of, for example, plans, projects, places of importance and street names. The legend should be A4 size and clearly printed. The numbers used on the Legend are added to the map and the accompanying legend details under each number the information for that location. For example, a Church might be 1. St Marks (RC Church) and 2. Christ Church (Church of Ireland). The numbers can then be referenced on the Map. Similarly, the Projects for 2021 might be listed in the same manner. If the Committee wishes to distinguish between New, Current and Future projects or show landmarks then each of these could be numbered separately. To explain this more clearly the following example might help:

### **Map Legend for An Baile Nua**

#### **1. Local Landmarks**

- 1.1 St Marks (RC Church)
- 1.2 Christ Church (Church of Ireland)
- 1.3 Davitt GAA Club
- 1.4 Eden Rovers FC Club

#### **2. Projects**

##### **2.1 Current Projects**

- 2.1.1 Tree Planting in Graveyard
- 2.1.2 Repainting Main Street Shop Fronts

##### **2.2 New Projects for 2021**

- 2.2.1 Creation of new wildflower area at entrance to west side of village
- 2.2.2 Undergrounding of overhead electrical cables in Hill Street

##### **2.3 Ongoing Maintenance**

- 2.3.1 Cutting of wildflower meadow in late September
- 2.3.2 Focus on Litter Black Spot area

There are four important points to focus on when the Committee is discussing the map and legend with the map maker:

**One**, the map and accompanying legend should be as simple, attractive and legible as possible, easy to use by the Volunteers, the Committee and the Adjudicator.

**Two**, when planning the map and legend it should be prepared in a way that it is possible to add to or amend it each year because projects change or new projects emerge and new infrastructure might be constructed.

**Three**, for a small location or for a centre entering for the first time you may be able to prepare a map that is A4 in size and with an accompanying Legend of one or two pages. For a bigger centre you may need a larger map but this should only be A3 size and folded. For a bigger centre your legend will probably need a number of pages to explain clearly the different projects.

**Four**, make sure to present your map and legend in a format that is light and easy to use. Don't have pages that fall out and don't have large unwieldy folders for the Volunteers or the Adjudicator!

Thank you Michael for that very useful information. Perhaps your adjudication report in recent years contained praise from the adjudicator on your map, if so we would love to hear from you. We are hoping to feature some good examples of maps on the TidyTowns website and if you would be willing to have your map displayed, please contact us here in the TidyTowns unit and we can discuss it with you.

## Social Distancing in Carrick on Shannon – Say it with Flowers

Hi there and greetings from Carrick on Shannon TidyTowns. The family owned Bush Hotel has a novel way of keeping its customers safe by placing planters to show 2 meter distancing rather than the usual black and yellow tape and stickers in its new outdoor space.

It has decided to

“Say it with flowers “ 🌱








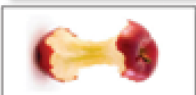

## School's Out!!

In the July newsletter, we gave you a few brainteasers to pass away an hour or two for our young or not so young readers. Here are the solutions to those teasers, see how you got on!

### Sudoku

7	9	2	8	1	6	4	5	3
6	4	8	3	5	9	2	1	7
3	5	1	4	2	7	9	6	8
9	2	3	1	6	4	8	7	5
4	7	6	5	9	8	1	3	2
1	8	5	7	3	2	6	9	4
8	6	9	2	7	5	3	4	1
5	3	4	9	8	1	7	2	6
2	1	7	6	4	3	5	8	9

### Leave No Trace Ireland The Breakdown Game

	⇒	1 million years
	⇒	400-500 years
	⇒	2 years
	⇒	2 months
	⇒	10-20 years

M	C	G	L	E	N	T	I	E	S	H	Y	R	G	E
R	A	S	D	Q	S	U	I	Y	S	T	E	N	G	G
O	T	I	R	A	D	N	T	D	I	G	I	R	B	A
F	E	L	A	D	C	I	W	S	I	T	P	R	O	L
Y	G	V	W	J	N	D	R	O	N	E	O	D	I	L
R	O	E	A	U	N	E	N	I	T	N	S	W	S	I
T	R	R	M	D	V	A	A	O	Z	Y	D	T	I	V
N	Y	M	S	I	L	P	R	E	S	I	D	E	N	T
E	O	G	D	C	O	M	P	E	T	I	T	I	O	N
C	O	O	I	A	G	N	I	T	N	A	L	P	T	R
H	I	L	F	T	V	O	L	U	N	T	E	E	R	H
B	B	D	N	O	Q	E	E	T	T	I	M	M	O	C
S	U	P	E	R	V	A	L	U	H	E	L	I	X	X
E	L	B	A	N	I	A	T	S	U	S	R	K	D	I
L	A	D	E	M	R	U	O	V	A	E	D	N	E	A
L	A	D	E	M	R	U	O	V	A	E	D	N	E	A

### SuperValu Tidy Towns WORDSEARCH

ADJUDICATOR  
AWARD  
BIODIVERSITY  
BRONZE  
CATEGORY  
COMMITTEE  
COMMUNITY  
COMPETITION  
ENDEAVOUR  
ENTRYFORM  
GLENTIES  
GOLD  
HELIX

HERO  
MEDAL  
PAINTING  
PLANTING  
PRESIDENT  
REGIONAL  
SILVER  
SUPERVALU  
SUSTAINABLE  
TIDIEST  
TIDYTOWNS  
VILLAGE  
VOLUNTEER

Hope you found these few teasers enjoyable, if you have any you would like to share with us, please send them in and may feature them in an upcoming issue of the newsletter. Everyone likes a good riddle also, so if you have any to share, send them in.



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



<https://twitter.com/TidyTownsIre>

# Ennis TidyTowns- Factsheet No. 3



## HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING FLYER

ENNIS TIDY TOWNS

065-6842988, 0872787463

INFO@ENNISTIDYTOWNS.COM

WWW.ENNISTIDYTOWNS.COM

FACEBOOK.COM/ENNISTIDYTOWNS

@ENNISTIDYTOWNS

## BACKGROUND

At the time, the new Household Recycling Flyer had just been issued. However we were still hearing from the public about confusion on what could be recycled as well as an interest in reducing waste. We felt that by combining the list with a graphic of our local main street we would connect the need to prevent and recycle waste with peoples sense of place

## HOW IT WAS DELIVERED

- The aim of the project was to relay alot of information in a visual yet user friendly way, so we engaged a professional graphic designer. **FEE: €420**
- To ensure maximum use, we printed it as a sticky label (using a local supplier) which could be affixed to kitchen cabinets, fridges or wheelie bins. **FEE: €1,900**
- We partnered with our local free paper, The Clare Echo, which meant 7,000 copies were circulated. In Ennis this was delivered straight to your door. **FREE**
- As well as Recycling Information we also included information on Waste Prevention along with a link to [www.mywaste.ie](http://www.mywaste.ie)
- To help cover costs we applied for a grant through our local Environmental Awareness Officer in Clare County Council.

## RESULTS

The project was a great success with 7,000 copies circulated, 1,000 copies and a pull-up banner for public events as well as the image made freely available online. It also involved multiple stakeholders to ensure its success. **Total Cost - €2,320**

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG) ACHIEVED



Sustainability is key going forward, each of us in our own homes can do so much, we may think it is a small action but it is by thinking and acting at a local level, that collectively we can make a huge impact on a global level. This initiative by Ennis TidyTowns demonstrates how four of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) are being delivered.



Huge thanks to Ennis TidyTowns for their third in the series of TidyTowns sustainable Factsheets. This month we read about how we can reduce our household waste. The colourful Household Recycling flyer was designed and over 7,000 copies were distributed. Getting the message out there in different ways to your audience is key. Well done Ennis TidyTowns on yet another fantastic initiative.

## WASTE PREVENTION TIPS

- AVOID SINGLE USE DISPOSABLE ITEMS, E.G. RAZORS, BATTERIES, WIPES
- MAKE A SHOPPING LIST FOR YOUR GROCERIES, & STICK TO IT
- CHOOSE LESS PACKAGING BY BUYING LOOSE PRODUCE & BUYING IN BULK WHERE POSSIBLE
- SWITCH TO REUSABLE WATER BOTTLES
- SAY NO TO JUNK MAIL - PUT A 'NO JUNK MAIL' STICKER ON YOUR LETTERBOX



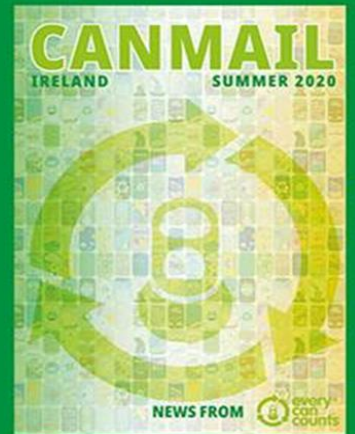
## Every Can Counts

Every Can Counts who have been loyal supporters of the Competition and who sponsor the Can It special award are delighted to present their very first newsletter.

To find out about the latest Every Can Counts activities in Ireland and how they are rising to the challenges of the COVID-19 era, make sure to read the CanMail newsletter.

## READ THE LATEST COPY OF **CANMAIL IRELAND ON ISSUU.**

Find out about the latest Every Can Counts Ireland activities and how we're rising to the challenges of the COVID-19 era.



Read [CanMail](https://everycancounts.ie/) Ireland via ISSUU via the link below or through the Every Can Counts website at; <https://everycancounts.ie/>  
[https://issuu.com/aluprouk/docs/canmail\\_2020\\_ireland\\_final\\_web](https://issuu.com/aluprouk/docs/canmail_2020_ireland_final_web)

## Gaisce – Presidents Award & TidyTowns



You may recall earlier in the year we featured some information on the Gaisce President's Award. We have now teamed up with Gaisce to try to raise awareness and involvement in this going forward.

TidyTowns and Gaisce are looking to gather further information about groups working with TidyTowns Committees to achieve their Gaisce Award.

If you have any examples or stories of groups working with your committee, we would love to hear from you, we know that some groups are involved but there is great potential here for both the individual partaking in the Gaisce process and for the TidyTowns group. We hear from so many groups that it can be difficult to attract new members and volunteers to help, especially in the younger population groups, this might be a way to change all that.

Please send any stories you may have to [comms@gaisce.ie](mailto:comms@gaisce.ie) or [tidytowns@drcd.gov.ie](mailto:tidytowns@drcd.gov.ie) likewise if you have any queries or simply want to find out more email either of these for information.

We have created a very short survey to get a better picture of what is happening out there. This survey will only take a couple of minutes to complete and we would be so grateful if you could spare those few moments to help us out.

The survey is at;

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GaisceTidyTowns2020>

Thank you for your support.



## Dunboyne TidyTowns – Pollination

You may recall last month, we brought you an article from Dunboyne TidyTowns on how they have embraced the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and the great work they are doing with local schools. Here we get a first-hand account from sisters, Ciara and Niamh Sutton on what being involved meant to them.



Ciara tells us the pollinator project is a project to help spread awareness about the bees and that the bees are becoming extinct. Without bees, we won't be able to grow many of our delicious fruits and vegetables. She decided to take part in this project in school, as she loves nature and animals. Firstly, she entered a competition through school for a pollinator friendly action and planted bee friendly plants in their garden. The following year Ciara entered again with her friend Ella and together they built a bee hotel which is a wooden house filled with bee friendly plants and logs with holes in them for the bees to crawl into if it's raining. They were the overall winner in the competition. Well done Girls!



Later the Pollinator plan was introduced into Ciara's Cubs night. Within her team of six, they built a bee hotel and painted it bright colours to attract the bees. They also filled it with lots of bright bee friendly plants. After the leaders decided, they said that Ciara and her group's bee hotel could go to Supervalu in Dunboyne for their bee friendly flower plant section.

This year the cubs with thanks to Dunboyne tidy towns were very lucky to have Paddy from Bee Wise visit our Den to talk to us about hedgehogs and Irish birds. We built a hedgehog box and some bird houses. It was a very interesting night. We all had fun and learnt lots of interesting new facts.

As part of Ratoath Municipal District Pride of Place, Éanna Ní Lamhna visited Ciara's school where she and her sister Niamh talked about the Pollinator Project. Éanna also inspected their garden for the Pride of Place competition.



Ciara was one of the group that represented their school at a breakfast conference in the Newgrange Hotel in Navan, where she made a presentation to over 200 people. Ciara has won many awards from the pollinator project and she is proud of her success. So you should be Ciara, well done for all your hard work, thank you from all of us and all those busy Bees.....



Niamh tells us about a pollinator plan project in Dunboyne called the “Dunboyne 2020 bulb”. This project involved the community taking on the challenge of planting 2020 bulbs around the village and school each year for 2018 to 2020. Niamh took part in this project and spent 10-15 minutes at the end of the school day in their school garden watering all the beautiful plants that students had planted. This Garden was an area that was judged as a part of Tidy Towns Pride of Place.



Niamh's school took part in Open Schools for Open Societies and she was one of the students that gave a presentation to the 50 delegates from around Europe that attended our school.

The school's STEM group also took the project to

Science Blast in the RDS. This was a great experience as they all had an opportunity to discuss their project with the judges and other schools.

To move this project into the community, Niamh and some of her friends involved in Cubs introduced the pollinator plan to their scout group. They gave a presentation to the cubs and then the pack took it upon themselves to hold a competition. Each six designed a bee hotel. They began to build bee houses. This process took several weeks with construction and decorating. A winner was then picked and the winning bee house can be seen on display in the local SuperValu.



The work done on this project was submitted to Scouting Ireland and the group were awarded the Scout Eco Badge. They are continuing with their environmental work and hope to be awarded the scout World Eco badge in the future. Niamh's school went on to display their work at the opening of the new Dunboyne SuperValu where Niamh was asked to give a brief talk about their project.

Niamh tells us she found the whole process a great experience that she feels so lucky to have been part of it all. She would highly recommend it as something to try to get involved in as you can get so many amazing experiences out of it.

Well done Niamh for doing all that great work, both in School and with your Cub group and congratulations on all your success. The Sutton sisters know a thing or two about Pollinators and protecting the Bees. Thanks again Girls.





## Kilcock TidyTowns

Fionnuala from Kilcock TidyTowns was in touch with us to tell us all about their community garden, which was developed during the period of lockdown as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

During lockdown a random post share of a video of Rathcoffey's lovely zero waste community garden with the words *"Anyone like something like this in Kilcock?"* generated so much interest and enthusiasm that Kilcock TidyTowns decided to create a group to progress it.



The group shared ideas and decided to begin with the little community garden in Kilcock as a pilot project. A bit of checking and planning had to be done first, and

then volunteers from the group made the beds and they were then put together and filled ready for planting.

The triangular beds will be for herbs and the rectangular ones for vegetables and salad. The group hope the beds will add something to the garden making it a serene, beautiful and useful space for the community.



This group has big plans; they would like to see the development of community gardens all over Kilcock, maybe each with different themes, creating a walk to visit the gardens. They hope there will be gardens for growing vegetables, fruit, even little orchards, wild flower meadows, biodiversity friendly gardens, bug and bee hotels, community composting and progressing to allotments or similar.



A big thanks to Kilcock Tidy Towns who funded this pilot project and who have taken this new group under their wing as a sub group who will focus on community gardens.



## County Galway – Virtual TidyTowns

TidyTowns groups throughout County Galway have been coming together virtually to stay connected while staying safe and at home during the Covid-19 outbreak.

Williamstown TidyTowns led the way by starting a Virtual TidyTowns Facebook group for their area to provide a platform for people to show what they were doing in their own place during the challenging times for their family, community and the environment, and to celebrate their local heritage and biodiversity.



## Tionscadal Bhailte Slachtmhara Fíorúla Chontae na Gaillimhe



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe agus Grúpaí Bailte Slachtmhara ag obair le chéile agus ag fanacht ceangailte.



Fad atá gach duine ag fanacht slán sa bhaile agus ag fanacht óna chéile, tá daoine fós ag déanamh nithe go leor mar ag bearradh gairdíní (cuimhnigh áiteanna a fhágáil gan bearradh do phailneoirí), ag cur bláthanna is maith leis na beacha sa ghairdín, ag beathú na n-éan, an dramhaill a chosc, a scagadh agus a laghdú, múirín a dhéanamh srl. Smaoinigh ar na meáin shóisialta a úsáid chun a bhfuil ar bun agat sa bhaile agus sa ghairdín a roinnt leis an bpobal ar mhaithe leis an bpobal agus an timpeallacht.

Ar an tsli chéanna, má bhíonn tú amuigh ag siúl gar don teach, ach ag fanacht amach ó dhaoine ag an am céanna, seol grianghraf nó pictiúr d'aon nithe sa dúlra, sa bhfiadhúlra nó a bhaineann leis an oidhreacht chuig do ghrúpa áitiúil Bailte Slachtmhara ar Facebook le roinnt daoine eile nó bunaigh leathanach Baile Slachtmhar fíorúil do do cheantarsa. Chun moltaí agus noda a fháil, féach leathanach Facebook Bailte Slachtmhara Fíorúla Chontae na Gaillimhe nó seol ríomhphost chuig [Galwayvirtualtt@gmail.com](mailto:Galwayvirtualtt@gmail.com) <https://galwaycommunityheritage.org/>

While everyone was staying at home and maintaining social distancing many people were still doing things such as cutting the grass (remembering to leave areas uncut for pollinators!), planting bee-friendly flowers in the garden, feeding the birds, preventing, reducing and segregating their waste, composting etc. Williamstown Virtual TidyTowns encouraged people to send in a photo or description of what they were doing to share with others in their village and stay connected.

If people were out for a short walk near their homes while maintaining social distancing, they may have heard or seen some beautiful nature and wildlife, maybe a robin or blackthorn in blossom.



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council



a member of  
**GALWAY** COMMUNITY  
HERITAGE

County of Galway  
Virtual Tidy Towns



Perhaps you encountered built heritage of interest such as a holy well, milestone or old graveyard. People were encouraged to send a photo, poem, story or picture to their local TidyTowns group Facebook page to share with others.

There are many active TidyTowns groups in County Galway with a strong record of supporting their community and working to enhance their towns and villages. Galway County Council encouraged them to stay connected while staying safe and at home following HSE Guidance.

Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr Jimmy McClearn said "Anyone can set up a 'Virtual TidyTowns Group' for their area or keep connected using an existing TidyTowns Facebook page to post photos of what they are doing in their own gardens and homes while staying safe."

For tips and ideas check out the County of Galway Virtual TidyTowns Facebook page or email [Galwayvirtualtt@gmail.com](mailto:Galwayvirtualtt@gmail.com).

## Sharing is Caring, so they say.....

We are so thankful to all of you who have contributed stories and articles for our newsletter over recent months. We are delighted to hear all the great community work that is going on and happy to share it with others. Congratulations to our winners who have demonstrated true community spirit and determination during difficult times.

Thanks to our sponsors **SuperValu** for all their support.

They are going to continue to reward groups who demonstrate what it takes to make a community, so keep those stories and photos coming in, more vouchers will be issued in the October Issue.



So until next month, stay safe, keep adhering to the public health advice. Look after yourselves and your older and vulnerable residents and even though we are somewhat apart, I think we are more together than we ever were before. Together we will come through this and we look forward with hope and determination to the 2021 competition.

Here in the TidyTowns unit, we are happy to help in any way we can, so please keep in touch through the website or social media or feel free to call or email the office, we would love to hear from you.

Anne, Helen, John in the TidyTowns Unit

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