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

# Prize €2,000

Currently 1 in 65 children in Ireland are registered with the National Council for Special Education as having a diagnosis of autism. 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’

Examples of entries may include but are not limited to: autism friendly events, the autistic voice, awareness and understanding and life long participation. Examples of these can be from one off events activities, communications or changes made to their community in order to evoke changes. Committees will need to demonstrate how they have promoted their inclusion of the autism

community in their overall TidyTowns entry.

# 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. All entrants must have an appropriate Child Protection Policy in place. This is the responsibility of the TidyTowns committee.

# Application

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+

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.

**Electronic entry only, by email to** **tidytowns@drcd.gov.ie**

**Closing date: Wednesday, 5th June 2024**

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