



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



Caring for our environment

Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals
Act Local – Think Global

Administered by the Department
of Rural & Community Development

SuperValu Tidy Towns Newsletter Issue 2021-6

- ❖ Welcome
- ❖ SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2021 Entry Process
- ❖ Dromiskin Tidy Towns
- ❖ National Outdoor Recreation Strategy
- ❖ Poets Corner
- ❖ Kanturk Tidy Towns
- ❖ Special Awards 2021
- ❖ Stay Safe – Drinkaware
- ❖ Sneem Tidy Towns
- ❖ Placemaking Awards 2021
- ❖ Net Zero Carbon
- ❖ Gift Card Winners
- ❖ SuperValu Tidy Towns Survey
- ❖ Keep in Touch

A Chairde,

As we approach the half way mark of 2021, we are delighted to bring you the June issue of the SuperValu Tidy Towns Newsletter. We are sure you are all very busy these weeks completing your competition entry forms, you still have loads of time yet, the closing date is not until July 2nd.

In this issue we bring you details on all of the special awards that form part of the 2021 competition. We also bring you details on how to submit your entry for the 2021 SuperValu Tidy Towns competition

We want to encourage all groups old and new to enter the competition this year, we appreciate it has been a very difficult period for all Tidy Towns groups and their volunteers but this will bring some sense of normality back into our daily lives, the excitement as we head towards the latter part of the year in awaiting the results will give us something to focus on. So please do not be discouraged if the level of work is not what you would like it to be, how could it be? You were following the rules by staying at home. Our sponsors and Adjudicators fully understand this and that will be reflected in the adjudication process for 2021, no negative marking.

Please do not be worrying over what to put in your form, perhaps you kept your community or volunteers connected, phone calls, a wave across the street, medicine or grocery deliveries etc. all of these things are what makes a community and communities strong, strong because of the people in them, people like you, who make a difference, isn't that enough to be proud about, so make sure and tell your Adjudicator!!

Remember the closing date is Friday July 2nd, 2021

SuperValu TidyTowns Competition 2021

Entry Process

Entry to the 2021 SuperValu TidyTowns Competition will be by electronic means only. Groups should access the entry form and associated terms and conditions at www.tidytowns.ie. The closing date for the submission of entry forms will be Friday, July 2nd, 2021. Late applications will not be accepted.

Once the group have their entry form completed, they should rename it to their town or village name, e.g. "The Town Entry Form", they should rename their Map and TidyTowns plan likewise. If you wish all three items can be incorporated into one document.

Your entry material should be saved in a folder on your desktop or computer for ease of access when emailing your entry.

Once you have your entry complete you should email it together with any associated material to the TidyTowns unit in the Department of Rural and Community Development. The email to use is tidytowns@dracd.gov.ie

In recent years, some groups encountered difficulties in emailing their entries due to the size of the material they were submitting. We have raised this with the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer and this issue should now be resolved. The limit on the size of material allowable has been increased from 20MB to 30 MB, so that should be more than sufficient. However, if you do encounter any difficulty in emailing your entry, please get in touch with the TidyTowns unit.

We are requesting groups to please visit the TidyTowns website at <https://www.tidytowns.ie/competition/registered-entries/> to ensure your entry has been received and registered for the 2021 competition.

If your entry has not been listed by July 14th, please contact the TidyTowns unit at tidytowns@dracd.gov.ie and we will assist you.

Thank you all for your ongoing cooperation, the competition would not be possible without all of you and the efforts you put in all year round in keeping our towns and villages much nicer places in which to live, work and visit.

We want to wish each and every one of you the best of luck with your entry.

Dromiskin TidyTowns doing it's bit for Climate Change!!

The County Louth village of Dromiskin is buzzing with excitement following the completion of its most recent LEADER funded project. Despite the recent challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic Dromiskin rose to the challenge of fundraising in excess of €20k through a 'Go Fund Me' page, Corporate Companion Scheme, individual donations, calendar sales and clothing collection schemes.

The TidyTowns committee, in its 30th year, was conscious of the need to increase the tree stock in the village but were severely restricted by the lack of public green space and had to be inventive in terms of delivering on their objective. The committee is exceptionally lucky to have the voluntary input of local resident Kevin Halpenny, a professional Landscape Architect employed as Chief Parks Superintendent with Fingal County Council who recommended and project managed a SuDs tree planting scheme which involved the construction of 4 Integrated Constructed Tree Pits, incorporating Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) located along the public footpath in the village centre. The Tree Pit Construction works included the resurfacing (paving) of the section of public footpath located above the tree pits in question with Castlestone Concrete Paving along approximately 30 metres of 2 metre wide footpath and supply of 4 specimen street trees (Columnar Oaks) using an approved root anchor system, compatible with the Constructed Tree Pit Specifications, which formed a key element of the overall project.



To their knowledge Dromiskin TidyTowns is the only voluntary group to procure funding for and manage this type of project which was made possible as a result of having Kevin as project manager and using his professional experience of implementing larger scale similar projects in urban areas. The overall cost of the project was €48,000 with a 75% grant received from LEADER under the Rural Development Programme (RDP) and the balance of €12,000 raised through two extremely generous contributions under Dromiskin TidyTowns Corporate Companion Scheme. The completed project has made a huge difference to the visual appeal of the village centre as well contributing to reducing the carbon footprint of the community with climate positive actions and sustainability an integral element of the project.

Shown above is a before and after picture of the project, well done to all involved, it looks fantastic.

National Outdoor Recreation Strategy Public Consultation

Minister Heather Humphreys, T.D. launched a public consultation on 2nd June, seeking the views of stakeholders and the public to inform the Government's new National Outdoor Recreation Strategy.

A key action in Our Rural Future is a new National Outdoor Recreation Strategy. The strategy will provide a vision and an overarching framework for the growth and development of outdoor recreation in Ireland, creating a shared vision for the many strategies, programmes, agencies and elements in Ireland's outdoor recreation sector.



Outdoor recreation is going to play a valuable role in supporting Ireland's future recovery as restrictions on movements are relaxed and the tourism sector fully re-opens. A cohesive National Outdoor Recreation Strategy has the capacity to benefit our local economies, while also promoting responsible use of the countryside.

So what is included in outdoor recreation? By 'outdoor recreation', we mean activities that take place in the natural environment, such as walking, canoeing, mountain biking, orienteering and wild swimming. It does not include activities that take place outdoors on confined courses or pitches (such as golf, football, show jumping) nor motorised activities (such as quads).

The development of the Strategy is being led by [Comhairle na Tuaithe](#) (The Countryside Council) in partnership with the Department and will be delivered as a cross-Government Strategy. Comhairle na Tuaithe is a collaborative body which comprises of representatives from farming organisations, recreational users such as Mountaineering Ireland, Canoeing Ireland and State bodies such as the Coillte and Fáilte Ireland.

This is the first stage of a two-stage consultation process whereby interested stakeholders and individuals are encouraged to share their views on outdoor recreation via an online questionnaire at <https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/42e3a-public-consultation-on-a-national-strategy-on-outdoor-recreation/>. The closing date for receipt of submissions is **5pm on 23rd June 2021**. At the second stage of the public consultation later this year, a draft Strategy document will be issued whereby interested stakeholders and individuals will be invited to give detailed feedback before the Strategy is finalised.

So please click on the link and have your say!!

Poets Corner

John got in contact with us in relation to litter black spot near where he lives. He decided to take action and placed a sign with these few lines, which he penned himself. It had the desired effect, the area is now litter free, well done John on the penmanship and on the initiative.

BE A LITTER QUITTER

When you feel inclined to litter
Resist the urge and be a quitter
I hope you listen to this poem

BAG IT UP AND TAKE IT HOME

Kanturk tidy Towns

There was huge excitement in Kanturk recently as one of the towns oldest citizens celebrated a very big birthday.

Mrs Nellie Browne celebrated her 100th birthday on May 21st and a number of outdoor events were held to mark the occasion. Mrs Browne is such a bright and lively and active woman. She is a huge fan of TidyTowns and does her part by regularly sweeping the pavement in front of her home. On their Tidy Tuesday clean up, the local group popped around to say hello to Mrs Browne and to show her their appreciation and to wish her a very happy birthday 🎂

Happy birthday Nellie from all the TidyTowns family around the country, hope you had a wonderful day and well done on playing your part in keeping Kanturk tidy.



Special Awards 2021

Each year in the SuperValu TidyTowns competition, we include a number of special awards. These awards add a different but associated dimension to the competition. We only bring special awards on, if they align to one or more of the competition categories, so no new work is required. If you are entering a special award, make sure and reference it in the relevant category. The following will give you a flavour of some of the awards on offer this year, all with fantastic prizes. In excess of **€66,000** is up for grabs in the special awards categories.

To encourage and support groups in entering one or more of these awards, we have extended the closing date just for the special awards. The closing date for each award is given below, some are the same as the main competition, others are some weeks later.

Please do not confuse these with the closing date for the main competition entry form, which is **Friday July 2nd, 2021**.

Covid-19 Community Award – Staying Together while Apart

For this award, we are asking groups to tell the adjudicator what steps they took to keep their community, connected, engaged and most important of all, how they kept focussed and positive. The adjudicator will take these points into consideration for this special award for 2021 and also for the overall mark given to each group in the main competition. All groups who complete the section in the entry form will stand to gain marks in the competition and also be considered for the “Covid-19 Community Award”

Sponsored by the SuperValu, this award has a prize fund of €5,000. Closing date for this award is **Friday July 2nd 2021**. In line with the closing date of the main competition.

SuperValu
Real Food, Real People

The Islands Award

The Islands Award is awarded to the two highest scoring entrants that is an island not connected to the mainland by a bridge, is cut off daily from the mainland by the tide, is permanently inhabited and is not in private ownership.



**An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail**
Department of Rural and
Community Development

This award is sponsored by the Department of Rural and Community Development and has a prize fund of €1,500. The closing date for this award is **Friday July 2nd 2021**. In line with the closing date of the main competition.

Gaeltacht Award

The Gaeltacht Award is awarded to the two highest scoring entrants from a Gaeltacht area. The Entry Form must be completed in Irish.



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

This award is sponsored by the Department of Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and has a prize fund of €2,500. The closing date for this award is **Friday July 2nd 2021.** In line with the closing date of the main competition.

NOTE

The closing date for all the other Special Awards has been extended by three weeks to Friday July 23rd, this should give you an extra chance once you have the main entry form sent it, to have a look at some of these wonderful awards, great prizes to be won across the range of awards.

Agent Brite Litter Awareness

Recycling-on-the-Go' RotG is a way of providing public-facing recycling facilities to enable people to recycle when they are away from home or work. PEL Waste Reduction Equipment are sponsoring the 'Agent Brite Litter Awareness' Special Award to raise awareness and benefits of RotG to the local community. The purpose of the award is to promote 'Recycling-on-the-Go' and encourage the public to segregate different types of litter when depositing in a bin.

This award is sponsored by PEL Waste Reduction Equipment and has a prize fund worth €7,000 through the rental costs for four units of the PEL120 SolarStreetBin™ in the 'Agent Brite' livery. Workshops in the winning area will be facilitated to promote the concept of "RotG". The application will be a written submission describing the expected benefits to be accrued from winning the 'Agent Brite Litter Awareness' Special Award.



Please note the closing date for this award is **Friday July 23rd, 2021**

SuperValu and AsIAM Inclusive Communities

This award aims to recognise the outstanding work done by committees in embracing and including the autism community. SuperValu and AsIAM are working in partnership to promote the creation of more inclusive communities and this award is to acknowledge the hard work done by the committees who are making changes to promote and facilitate inclusivity of the autism community.



This award is sponsored by SuperValu and AsIAM and has a prize fund of €2,000. The closing date for this award is **Friday July 23rd 2021.**

Leave No Trace

Now in its second year, the Leave No Trace TidyTowns Special Award recognises communities for their significant efforts to protect and enhance the natural environment and the promotion of responsibility in the outdoors. Through recognising these communities, Leave No Trace Ireland seeks to inspire other communities to take extraordinary actions to protect and promote responsible outdoor recreation. The award is open to any community group who has shown an appreciation for their outdoor environment.

This award is sponsored by Leave No Trace Ireland and has a prize of training to the value of €1,000. The closing date for this award is **Friday July 23rd 2021.**



EPA Circular Economy Award

The EPA Circular Economy Award is to recognise communities that have undertaken activities that support a circular economy. In a circular economy waste is prevented and products are reused or repaired for reuse. By preventing waste and supporting the circular economy we can make the most of our resources while protecting the environment. Work done under the main competition category 'Sustainability – doing more with less' can be relevant to this special award.



This award is sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency and has a prize fund of €2,000. The closing date for this award is **Friday July 23rd 2021.**

Waters and Communities

The Waters and Communities Special Award aims to encourage community groups to get more involved with their local waterbodies by helping to preserve, promote and fully utilise their local natural water heritage. The award is open to any community group who has shown an appreciation for their water environment and water heritage by showing examples of initiatives undertaken during, and in line with, Covid-19 restrictions.



Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

This award is sponsored by the Sponsored by Inland Fisheries Ireland, Waterways Ireland and the Local Authority Waters Programme and has a prize fund of €7,000. The closing date for this award is **Friday July 23rd 2021.**

Can It! - Every Can Counts

Every Can Counts inspires and empowers people to recycle their drink cans and make a real difference. We're aiming for 100% can recycling, and we want TidyTowns groups to join us and help make it happen. The 'Can It!' award challenges groups to increase the drink can recycling points throughout their town. Entrants will be judged on the number of can recycling points and the variety of locations in relation to population. Help spread the message of drink can recycling and tag us in your efforts on social media and your group could win a can crusher.



This award is sponsored by Every Can Counts and has a prize fund of €1,500 and a can crusher. The closing date for this award is **Friday July 23rd 2021.**

Tree Project

The Tree Project Award recognises the huge impact that properly positioned trees can have in a town or village and the importance of having the right tree in the right place. It is essential that careful thought is put into not only the planting but also the management of the trees over their life-span. The award rewards the TidyTowns Committee which has demonstrated the highest tree placement and maintenance standards.



Tree Council
of Ireland

This award is sponsored by the Tree Council of Ireland and has a prize fund of €1,000. The closing date for this award is **Friday July 23rd 2021.**

Climate Action & Air Quality

The overall aim of the Climate Action and Air Quality Award, sponsored by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications is to recognise the great input local communities can make in addressing climate change and air quality. The purpose of this award is to raise awareness and promote behaviour change.

This award is sponsored by Department of Environment, Climate and Communications and has a prize fund of €6,000. The closing date for this award is **Friday July 23rd 2021.**

Also sponsored by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications is an award on the;



**An Roinn Comhshaoil,
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide**
Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications

Sustainable Development Goals

The purpose of this award is to promote the national awareness of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, (SDGs) by recognising the great input local communities can play in helping Ireland play its part in fully achieving the SDGs by 2030. The purpose of this award is to raise awareness and promote behavioural change at a local and community level.

This award has a prize fund of €5,000 and also closes on **Friday July 23rd 2021.**

Young Persons in TidyTowns

The Young Persons Award is aimed at the 16 to 24 age group who are actively involved in projects and initiatives of their local TidyTowns group throughout the year. It is not open to schools to apply. Entries should be submitted using the Young Persons Award entry form. Photographs can be used to support your entry.

Entries under the Young Persons Award should demonstrate how TidyTowns groups actively involve young people in the 16 to 24 age group in contributing on an ongoing basis to their local TidyTowns activities, including through their membership of, or direct engagement with, the Groups. Initiatives undertaken by the group to encourage greater involvement from this age group should also be included.

The award will be presented to the TidyTowns Group whose initiatives have resulted in an increase in involvement from the 16 to 24 age group, resulting in a positive outcome for the TidyTowns group and wider community and demonstrating how young people can have an active leadership role within their community.



**An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail**
Department of Rural and
Community Development

This award is sponsored by the Department of Rural and Community Development and has a prize fund of €1,000. The closing date for this award is **Friday July 23rd 2021.**

The Town Challenge Award

The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) is providing the services of a Registered Architect to work with a local TidyTowns Committee to create a visionary urban design solution to a problem in your town. The award consists of an architectural commission.

The RIAI logo consists of the letters 'RIAI' in a white, serif font, centered within a dark blue square.

If your town or village has difficulties, for example with derelict sites, signage, lack of public space, traffic or parking issues, this RIAI Award will give you the opportunity to work with a Registered Architect to develop an urban design solution that can solve a problem and enhance your town or village. Registered Architects are trained to develop and deliver solutions for our built environment.

In order to apply, the local TidyTowns committee will write a short paragraph which identifies the positive characteristics of the town, as well as its problems (see application form). This should be supported with photographs.

This award is sponsored by the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland and has a prize worth €5,000 consisting of a commissioned Architect design solution that can solve a problem and enhance your town or village. The closing date for this award is **Friday July 23rd 2021.**

Shopfront Award

The RIAI Shopfront Award is a Special Award, designed to raise awareness and promote good shopfronts in Irish towns and villages. The RIAI Shopfront Collaboration Award aims to support a TidyTowns Committee who wish to provide guidelines for the design of shopfronts in an historic context with the help of a Registered Architect. Well-kept historic shopfronts and well-designed modern shopfronts are equally valid.

This award is also sponsored by the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland and has a prize worth €2,000 consisting of an architectural commission which will be made publicly available, and a presentation given to the local TidyTowns Committee. The closing date for this award is **Friday July 23rd 2021.**

Good Windows Award

The third award sponsored by the RIAI is the Good Windows Award is a Special Award to promote appropriate windows in Irish towns and villages. The streets of Irish towns and villages are composed of both historic and modern buildings. Well-kept historic windows and well-designed modern windows are equally valid.

In order to apply, the local TidyTowns committee will complete the entry form and submit photographs of two buildings which are located in a street and have appropriate windows. The photographs should clearly show the building and the windows and include an example of a well-kept historic window in an urban street and an example of a good modern window or fully glazed opening in an urban street.

The RIAI logo consists of the letters 'RIAI' in a white, serif font, centered within a dark blue square.

This award is also sponsored by the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland and has a prize worth €500. The closing date for this award is **Friday July 23rd 2021.**

Pollinator Award

The Local Authority Pollinator Award aims to encourage TidyTowns groups to implement pollinator-friendly actions in



their towns and villages as part of the TidyTowns competition. Wild Irish bees, crucial to the pollination of our plants, trees and vegetables, are in decline - this is because we've drastically reduced the areas where they can nest and the amount of food our countryside provides for them. The aim of the award is to reverse this trend by encouraging TidyTowns groups to take simple pollinator-friendly measures in their local area. The Local Authority Pollinator Award supports the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and is sponsored by the Heritage Offices & Biodiversity Offices of Local Authorities across Ireland.



Údaráis Áitiúla Éireann
Local Authorities Ireland

This award is sponsored by Heritage Offices & Biodiversity Offices of Local Authorities across Ireland, in partnership with the National Biodiversity Data Centre and has a prize worth €10,000. The closing date for this award is **Friday July 23rd 2021.**

Gum Litter Taskforce

The GLT would like to reward communities that are implementing environmental awareness initiatives to eliminate chewing gum litter in their area.



This award is sponsored by the Gum Litter Taskforce and has a prize fund of €5,000. The closing date for this award is **Friday July 23rd 2021.**

Heritage Award

The Heritage Award, sponsored by the Heritage Council, aims to awareness of the importance of our local heritage and how it can contribute to a sense of place and belonging.

Heritage includes buildings, monuments and collections and also our landscapes, native wildlife and woodlands, seascapes, geology, heritage gardens and parks, inland waterways, folklore and crafts. The Heritage Award recognises local communities who manage and enhance an aspect of heritage in their area, and promote its value to a wider audience.

This award is sponsored by Heritage Council of Ireland and has a prize worth €1,000. The closing date for this award is **Friday July 23rd 2021.**

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



Stay Safe this summer – Drink Aware

MAKE MEMORIES AND SOCIALISE SAFELY THIS SUMMER

DRINKAWARE

Tips to help you stay safe this summer:

Mindful Drinking



- Use a unit measure
- Drink plenty of water
- Eat before you drink
- Pace yourself.

Alcohol Alternatives



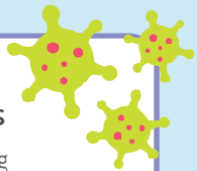
- Try a no-alcohol sparkling wine, or a zero-alcohol beer
- Fill your days with alcohol free, fun activities.

Drink Driving



- It's never okay to drink and drive
- Leave your car at home if going out
- Get a ride home from a friend who hasn't been drinking, take public transport or order a taxi.

Government COVID-19 Guidelines



- Practice social distancing
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Wash your hands regularly
- If you have symptoms of COVID-19, phone your GP and stay at home.

Outdoor Drinking

ALCOHOL PROHIBITED



- Be mindful of the laws on outdoor drinking this summer
- If you are acting in a way that puts others at risk, you can be arrested
- It is against the law to drink alcohol within 100 metres of the pub, off-licence or supermarket where it was sold
- Remember outdoor drinking is not the same as drinking outdoors in a pub or restaurant.

Be Sun Smart

Remember the 5 S's and stay hydrated:



- Slop on the sunscreen
- Slip on protective clothing
- Slap on a wide brimmed hat
- Slide on sunglasses
- Seek shade.

Be COVID Responsible



- Turn down invites to large gatherings
- Avoid crowded areas
- Opt for an elbow bump instead of a hug
- Wear your mask when you bump into familiar faces.

Leave No Trace



- Always clean up your rubbish
- Bring a bin bag with you
- Pick up after others on your way home.

BBQ Safety



- Ensure the barbecue is on a flat surface, away from the house and trees or bushes
- Keep children and pets away
- Never leave the barbecue unattended
- Keep a bucket of water or sand nearby
- Only use a barbecue in areas that permit it
- Ensure the barbecue is cool before attempting to move it.

Visit [Drinkaware.ie](https://www.drinkaware.ie) for more information

Sneem TidyTowns Lockdown Activities

Gardening has been a successful lockdown activity and we in Sneem are very fortunate to have a Community Polytunnel and Allotments located in the Garden of the Senses in the heart of our village.



We have 10 outdoor beds in our allotment and 20 indoor raised beds in the polytunnel and this year we welcomed some new international gardeners who work in the local hotels and found themselves with time on their hands while the hotels were closed. One of them (from Macedonia) has proven very handy around the Garden of the Senses upcycling old items and creating clever solutions to make life easier for our diverse group.

An old table that had been created from pallets was taking up too much space in the polytunnel, so our Macedonian handyman has repurposed it into a new potting bench with storage underneath and several small stacking stools which can be used to sit on for that very important cup of tea. We were initially wondering why he made the stools so low but have since discovered that they are the perfect height for sitting on to weed your bed!



He built a new bench from a leftover plank outside the polytunnel which means that elderly gardeners can sit down while the watering can fills. We used to have to bend down and hold the can in place.

A pine bedframe was being thrown out and was offered to the group. It has been repurposed into a fabulous new throne-like bench for the community allotments. Someone donated a can of preservative so this fabulous bench cost nothing!



The gate into the allotments was falling apart so we used some of our TidyTowns funding to purchase some wood and hardware locally and again, our handyman fashioned a beautiful gate and posts which fit seamlessly with the willow hedging surrounding the allotments.

Placemaking Awards Competition 2021

CALL FOR ENTRIES FOR THE 2021 PLACEMAKING AWARDS **URBAN LAND INSTITUTE & CBRE CALL FOR ENTRIES TO SHOWCASE BEST** **IN CLASS 'PLACEMAKING' EFFORTS THROUGHOUT IRELAND**

The 2021 Excellence in Placemaking Awards competition is open to all public and private organisations as well as community groups in each Province of the country and entry is free. The best community project and best public/private sector project in each Province will each win a trophy and there is a national prize of €5,000 for the best overall project. As mentioned above, this year's competition will also feature a special prize for the best 'Covid-19' inspired project. For further information on the 2021 awards and details on how to submit an entry, please see www.cbre.ie/uli-placemaking-awards or email excellenceinplacemaking@uli.org



The closing date for entries to this year's competition is August 15th and the competition will culminate in a prize giving ceremony in the Autumn. Like in previous years, entries will be judged by a highly accomplished jury including esteemed planners, architects & academics. Jurors will operate independently of CBRE and ULI Ireland, applying the highest standards of evaluation and professional practice as reflected in the code of ethics of the Urban Land Institute.

More information on how to enter the competition can be found by visiting;

<https://www.cbre.ie/en/about-cbre/uli-cbre-excellence-in-placemaking-awards>

The Cualanor development in Dun Laoghaire emerged as the overall winner of the 2020 competition, winning an award of €5,000 towards further enhancement of the facility. Other winners in 2020 included;

- Clanbrassil Street & St. Nicholas Quarter Rejuvenation project, Dundalk, Co. Louth
- The Centenary Garden Project, Mulranny, Co. Mayo
- The Harpers Island Ecological Project, Cork
- The Boulevard, Outlet Shopping & Leisure Scheme, Banbridge, Co. Down

Perhaps you will be among the list of winners for 2021, best of luck to all the entrants.

Net Zero Carbon - What is it?

The effects of climate change are beginning to show around the world: glaciers have shrunk, plant and animal ranges have shifted and trees are flowering sooner, there has been a loss of sea ice and accelerated sea level rise and we are now experiencing more intense climate events. Many governments have declared a climate emergency, realising that the problem is man-made and that only the human population can rectify the situation. To do this, research tells us that global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions will need to drop by half by 2030 and reach net zero carbon by 2050.



13 CLIMATE ACTION



The 'net zero carbon' target seeks to achieve net-zero emissions when any remaining human-caused GHG emissions are balanced out by removing GHGs

from the atmosphere in a process known as carbon removal. Basically, we need to ensure that we take out of the atmosphere the same amount of carbon that we put in so that the balance is zero or 'net zero'.

To understand net carbon zero, we should have a basic understanding of carbon accounting. Consider carbon to be a bit like money. Most of the time we have a rough estimate of how much things cost without looking at the price tag. We may not have the exact cost, but we know a bottle of wine is more expensive than a cup of tea and a lot cheaper than paying the mortgage. However unlike with money, we are not used to thinking about the cost of carbon, therefore it is much harder to tell how much we are spending because we can't see it nor is it documented. Furthermore, we can't personally nor tangibly experience the consequences of our individual carbon impact, as its spread across the world impacting on us all.

Legislation

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021 is currently going through Dáil Éireann, it's at the third stage.



The Bill draws on recommendations from the cross section of Irish people who took part in the Citizens Assembly on Climate, as well as those of a Joint Oireachtas committee on Climate Action. It is also a cornerstone of the Programme for Government and was identified as a priority for legislation.

New 2050 Target

The Bill will put into Irish law a commitment for net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, through a 'National 2050 Climate Objective' – that the State will pursue the transition to a climate resilient and climate neutral economy by the end of the year 2050. A climate neutral economy means a sustainable economy where greenhouse gas emissions are balanced or exceeded by their removal.

What does it mean for us as citizens?

We will change how we heat our homes, generate power, travel, grow our food and run our businesses. Positive actions from the Bill should result in cleaner air, warmer and easier to run homes, shorter commutes, and greater energy security. It also creates opportunities for Ireland to use the resources we have and those we generate in a more circular sustainable way. This will lead to the creation of new jobs and the requirement of different skill sets to respond, for example, repairing and retrofitting. We can expect to pay more tax for our cars that are powered by pollutants such as diesel and petrol, as well as be expected to recycle more and waste less, particularly food. The imposition of punitive measures such as fines and taxes could happen, but there will also be incentives to change behaviours, such as grants.

What can we do?

Given the impact the bill will have on Irish society and the economy over the next 30 years, it is imperative that we get ahead of the game. We can start to educate and create awareness of the changes afoot.

- Firstly, do you understand your carbon footprint or the carbon footprint for your household? Gaining a sense of where your carbon impacts come from is important. There are many simple carbon footprint calculators freely available online, for example, <https://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx> or <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/>
- Given that it is mooted that the government will, at some stage, likely phase out the use of fossil fuel cars, we can lobby ESB to install new and/or additional E-vehicle chargers in our towns and villages.
- We can check to see if our community buildings/houses are on renewable energy tariff.
- We can continue to raise awareness on food waste. <https://stopfoodwaste.ie/>
- Some homeowners may opt to generate their own electricity and sell back to the grid under a scheme for micro-generation while other communities are getting more involved in the SEAI's Sustainable Energy Communities Scheme. <https://www.seai.ie/community-energy/sustainable-energy-communities/>
- Land use offers significant potential to act as a sink for carbon. We could consider additional planting of trees for carbon sequestration. But remember - right trees in the right places.

- We can raise awareness in relation to Building Energy rating (BER) and provide information on building retrofitting.
- We can promote the use of public transport, if available. Lobby for better timetabling or increased routes if public transport is lacking in your area. The setting up of Park n Stride or Park n Ride initiatives and the provision of cycling infrastructure can all have a positive impact on the carbon impact of our journeys and commutes.
- Keep talking! Having conversations about climate change in our daily lives plays a huge role in creating social change. We take our cues about what's important from what we hear our family, friends, colleagues and neighbours talking about. But talking about climate change, is hard. If you are interested, check out the #TalkingClimate Handbook designed to help make those conversations easier and more meaningful. <https://climateoutreach.org/reports/how-to-have-a-climate-change-conversation-talking-climate/>

With thanks to Debbie Nesbitt from the National TidyTowns Adjudicator panel for bringing this piece to us. Some food for thought there for all of us.

SuperValu Gift Card Winners

We are delighted to be awarding **SuperValu** Gift Cards again in this issue with thanks to our main sponsor **SuperValu**. Our colleague John, a manager in the Department has kindly selected a winner and two runner ups from the last couple of issues.

Our runners up who will both received a **SuperValu** gift card worth €50 are Castlebar TidyTowns who in the May Issue brought us their sustainable initiative of recycling an old golf cart into a litter cart to help out with their litter picks.



Our second runner up prize goes to Leixlip TidyTowns who told us in the April Issue about the great work done by them over the winter months and into 2021. Residents were asked to “Adopt and Area” which attracted a brilliant response, other works included litter picks, graffiti removal and the restoration of old street signs.

Our winner who will receive a **SuperValu** gift card valued at €100 is Geashill TidyTowns who in the May Issue brought us a very informative piece on how they are approaching the Sustainable Development Goals. This was a very well written piece and we would encourage you all to look at it if you have not already done so, it really breaks down the SDG's into manageable achievable actions, all of you are achieving these goals without realising.



Geashill Tidy Towns

Congratulations to all our winners, your gift cards will be on the way out to you in the coming days. Keep those stories coming into us, you may be our next winner!

TidyTowns Survey

We recently asked you all to participate in a survey so that we can capture some statistics on the great work that TidyTowns groups and their volunteers do each year the length and breadth of the country.

From the responses received so far, we can say that groups around the country give over 3 million hours of their time to TidyTowns activities, close to 30,000 trees have been planted since January 2019 with close to 15,000 flower beds being maintained on an ongoing basis. Over 96% of groups are linked to other organisation, 88% to a local school, 64% to the local GAA Club, 43% to a local secondary school, 34% to your local church, that is some serious networking and collaboration.

The results to date also show that over 21,000 tonnes of litter are collected each year by TidyTowns volunteers.

All groups who engage with the survey will be in with a chance to win one of ten €100 SuperValu Gift Cards. At the end of the survey, you will be asked to quote your TidyTowns group name, email address and TidyTowns number, so you can be entered in the draw. You can find your number on the top of your most recent Adjudication Report as shown above. You can access reports at <https://www.tidytowns.ie/reports/> If you have any difficulty locating your number, simply contact the TidyTowns unit at tidytowns@drcd.gov.ie and we will be happy to assist you.

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: Ref:
County: Mark:
Category: Date(s):

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60		
Streetscape & Public Places	60		

We would encourage all groups to engage with the survey, make sure the great work you do is included in the statistics compiled and be in with a chance to win one of those €100 SuperValu Gift Cards. The survey can be accessed by visiting this link

https://supervalushoptalk.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_78JSPXEk6BZ9uh8

Good Luck and Thank You for taking part and sharing your efforts with us.



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



<https://twitter.com/TidyTownsIre>



<https://www.tidytowns.ie>



Remember to share the Newsletter with your wider TidyTowns group and volunteers through your own social media or through email. It's good to keep everyone in the Picture!!!

Keep in Touch

We hope you have found this edition of the SuperValu TidyTowns Newsletter interesting and informative. We hope you will give some serious consideration to entering some of the special awards, we think you will agree that there are some fantastic prizes on offer.

Congratulations to the groups who have been awarded **SuperValu** gift cards and as always we thank our main sponsor **SuperValu** for their untiring and dedicated support and commitment to the completion and all the volunteers over the past 30 years. Congratulations to them on such a milestone of community support.



We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy, safe and hopefully sunny summer, we can now begin to feel somewhat optimistic about getting back to normal, for those of you who have been vaccinated, we wish you well and to those who are waiting, hopefully the wait will not be much longer.

We will be in touch with all registered groups in mid-June with details as to how you should submit your entry for the 2021 SuperValu TidyTowns competition and associated special awards. Could we ask newly formed groups or groups who are returning, to contact us at tidytowns@drcd.gov.ie stating your intention to enter the competition this year and we will make access available to you.

Remember, all previous issues of the Newsletter can be found by visiting the TidyTowns website at <https://www.tidytowns.ie/about-us/newsletters/> where you will find useful information on preparing a map, attaching photos to your entry, the UN Sustainable Development Goals and a whole range of other stories and articles. Please continue to share the newsletter with your volunteers and wider community and as always, if you have a story to tell, then we want to hear it,

Let us finish by wishing you all the very best of luck with your entry, and remember to call out to us if you need any support or assistance. We are here to help.

Anne, Helen, John and all the team in The TidyTowns Unit

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