

Fáilte

Welcome



Limerick City and County Council Annual Tidy Towns Seminar 2022

16|02|22

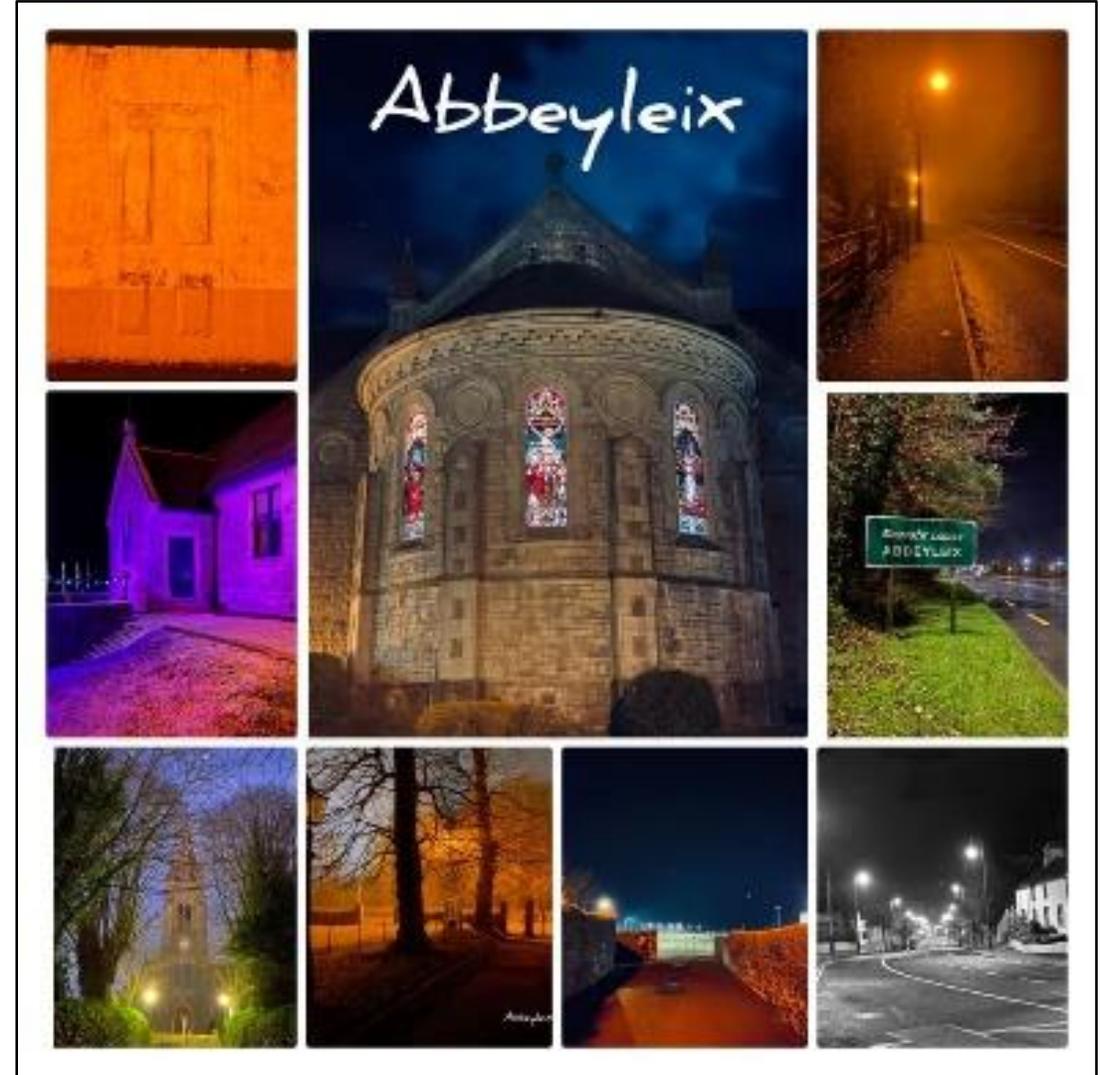
FOLLOW ABBEYLEIX ON



# INTRODUCTION

## Robbie Quinn

Chairperson, Abbeyleix Tidy Towns



Ireland's Tidiest Small Town 2021 | Bonn Oir - Gold Medal Winners: 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2021



# AGENDA

- Introduction to Abbeyleix
- Abbeyleix + Tidy Towns
- Abbeyleix + Projects
- Abbeyleix + Climate Action
- Tips + Advice





# INTRODUCTION TO ABBEYLEIX



# INTRODUCTION TO ABBEYLEIX

## BUSINESS SECTOR:

- Services | 9
- Agri Service + Supplies | 7
- Shops | 7
- Restaurants + Cafes | 8
- Supermarkets | 2
- Butchers | 2
- Hairdressers + Beauticians | 6
- Public Houses | 7
- Banking | 2
- Public Service | 4
- Industrial | 2
- Construction | 3
- Accommodation | 4
- Pharmacy | 2
- Medical | 3
- Fuel | 4



# INTRODUCTION TO ABBEYLEIX

## COMMUNITY SECTOR:

- Recreation | 5
- Sport | 7 (Co-located Multi Use Sporting Facility)\*
- Social | 6
- Employment | 1
- Arts + Culture | 7
- Environment + Heritage | 4
- Spirituality | 3
- Education | 4



\*: **Tennis** (5 courts) | **Soccer** ( 11 Juvenile & 3 Senior teams | **GAA** (15 Hurling 7 Camogie teams at all grades) | **Hockey** (Growing Club) | **Special Olympics** | **All weather pitches** etc



Irelands Tidiest Small Town 2021 | Bonn Oir - Gold Medal Winners: 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2021





# ABBEYLEIX + TIDY TOWNS



Ireland's Tidiest Small Town 2021 | Bonn Oir - Gold Medal Winners: 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2021



# ABBEYLEIX + TIDY TOWNS

## ABBEYLEIX TIDY TOWNS:

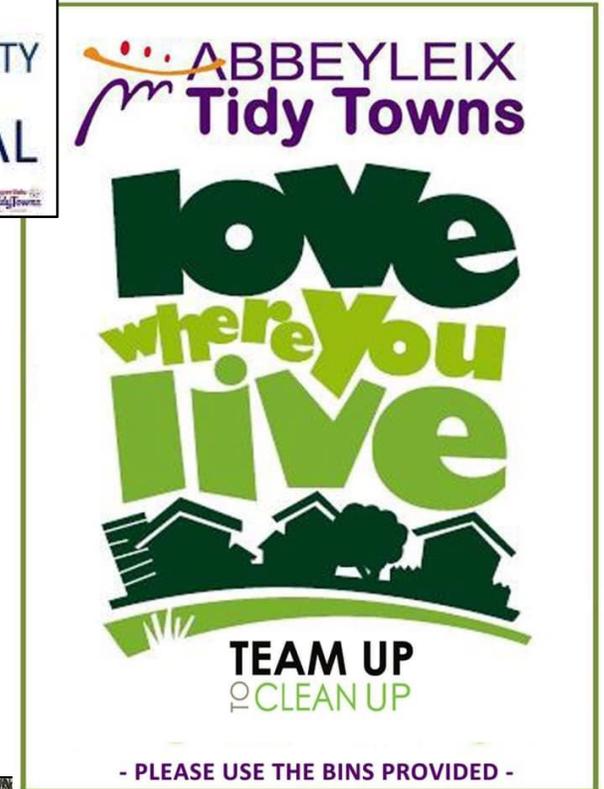
- Abbeyleix Tidy Towns started in 1959 (63yrs) – Cat C
- Effort to galvanise the community. (Forward Thinking People).
- Charged with creating a community that is an attractive place to live, work & visit.
- Amazing volunteers + Support who work all year round .
- Cross cutting community involvement.
- Direct Representation on AHC, ABP APDC, APEC + ABC.
- We work hard to engage the wider community in all our work
- Seen as an all round inclusive community.
- Successful working relationships with all stakeholders.
- National first in a number of climate action & biodiversity projects.
- Promote a support local ethos + are working hard to become a truly sustainable community.



# ABBEYLEIX + TIDY TOWNS

## OUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

- Besides weekly and targeted clean-up
- Town Branding & Marketing Campaigns (eg Shop Local).
- Co-ordinate & Support special occasions and events i.e. Christmas Market, St Patricks Day Parade, Applefest , Food Festival, Christmas Lights, The Power of Words, Free Parking etc
- Written submissions to County Development Plans
- Provide Support & Guidance to funding streams for local business premises (eg Shop Front Grants)
- Publicise and promote accessibility (walkability study - car parking availability and transportation alternatives (Active Travel)
- Promote & Support our local Farmers Market
- A range of Biodiversity, Climate Action + Sustainability projects delivered annually.
- Funding Applications to support our work



# ABBEYLEIX + TIDY TOWNS

## LAST TWO YEARS:

- Tried to remain positive
- Individual COVID-19 compliant clean-ups
- Family friendly COVID compliant Smartphone Photo Competition
- Biodiversity Murals on our utility boxes and bins to celebrate 20 years of Abbeyleix Bog
- Neighbourhood Project
- Small COVID Friendly Projects folder on Facebook.
- Produced our Climate Action + Biodiversity Action + Tidy Towns 5-Year Plans
- Canopy Structures in Market Square – TOWN & Village Renewal Scheme (COVID Accelerated Measure)
- Air & traffic sensors installation
- Help light the town
- Poster Free Status underpinned
- Community Notice Boards
- Plant Swap
- Linkages to Neighbouring community through the Community Cleanup (Durrow TT, Abbeyleix & The Harps GAA)



Community Cleanup (06.03.21)



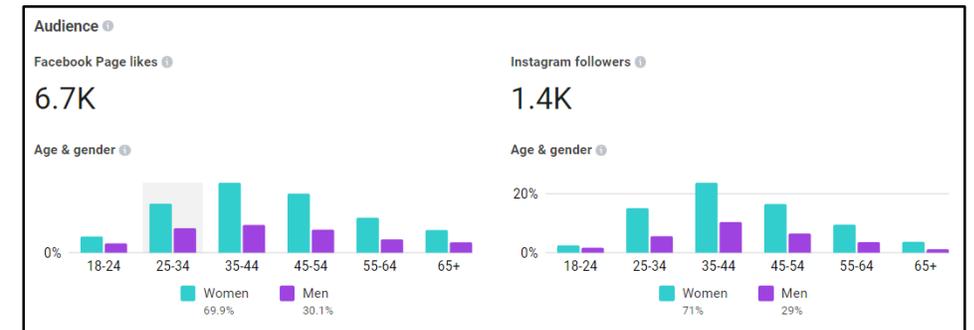
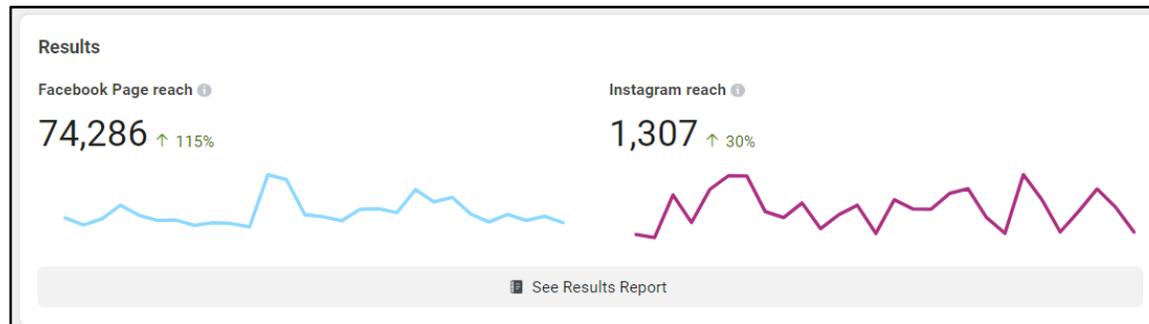
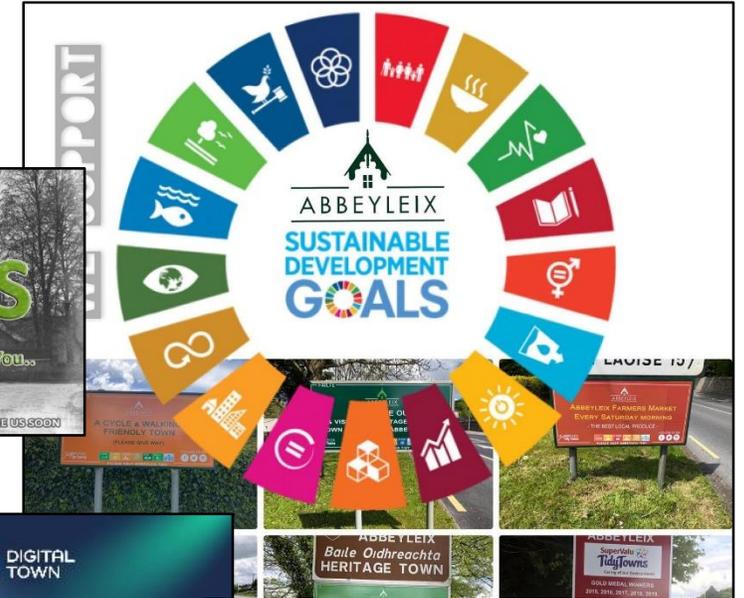
Ireland's Tidiest Small Town 2021 | Bonn Oir - Gold Medal Winners: 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2021



# ABBEYLEIX + TIDY TOWNS

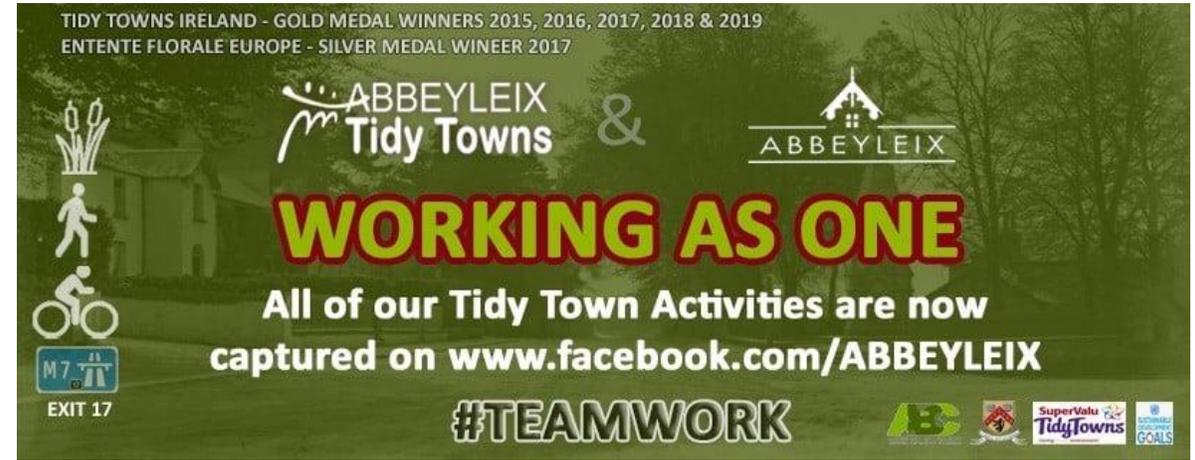
## OUR COMMUNICATION METHODS:

- Critical to our success
- Word of Mouth + Local Press + Social Media
- Award winning Social Media presence
- Community Notice Board Project (Poster Free policy since 2018)
- Ability to launch full campaign (Needs an owner)
- Climate projects and Almanac TV
- Involve the youth through outdoor classrooms (Junior Tidy Towns)
- Asking a friend to become involved to ensure future success
- Two way communications – feedback / Lessons learnt



# ABBEYLEIX + TIDY TOWNS

## OUR RECENT AWARDS:



- | Ireland's Best Kept Towns 2022 (Nominated – Judging May 2022)
- | Pride of Place – Laois Representative 2021 (Results April 2022)
  - | Irish Times – Best Places to Live in 2021 (Long list)
  - | Silver Medallist – Entente Florale 2017
- | Bonn Oir - Gold Medal Winners: 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2021
  - | Irelands Tidiest Small Town 2021



# ABBEYLEIX + PROJECTS



Ireland's Tidiest Small Town 2021 | Bonn Oir - Gold Medal Winners: 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2021

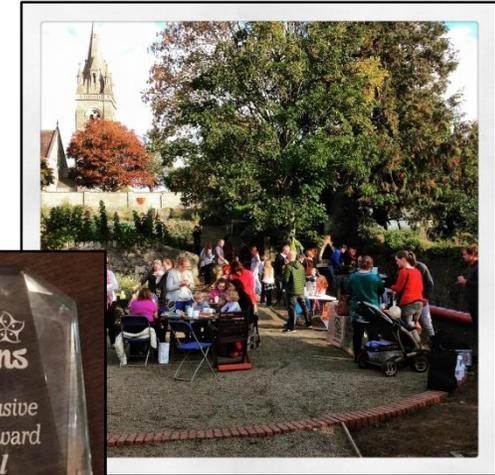
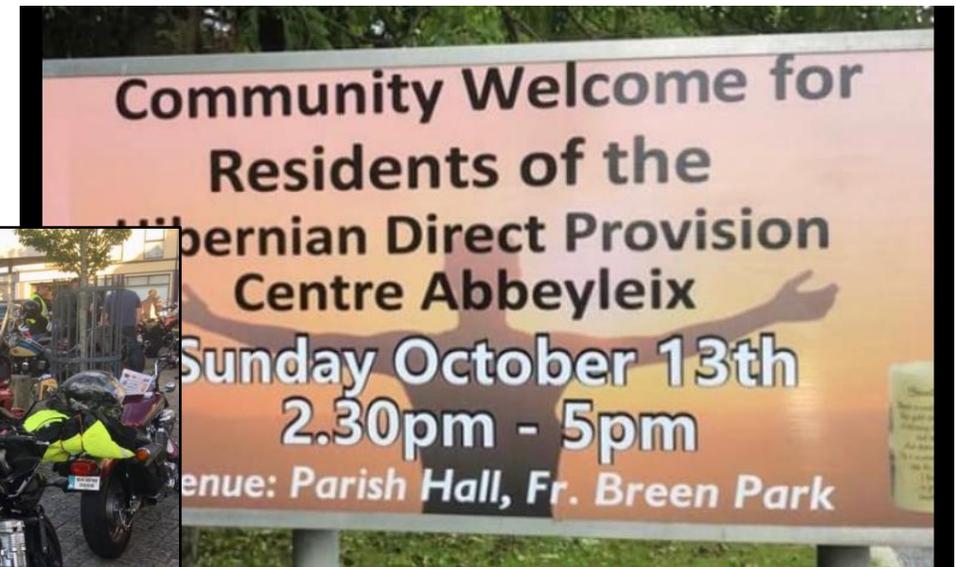


# ABBEYLEIX + PROJECTS



## OUR INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY:

- Team Abbeyleix – embrace all strands of our community
- Community Welcome for the residents of the Direct Provision Centre
- Inclusive Community Award 2019 (As I Am)
- Abbeyleix Bike Meet
- Engagement of migrant communities – Support Group
- Walkability Study
- Torvel Magic Table (Dementia + Learning Difficulties)



# ABBEYLEIX + PROJECTS

## OUR STREET ART PROJECT:

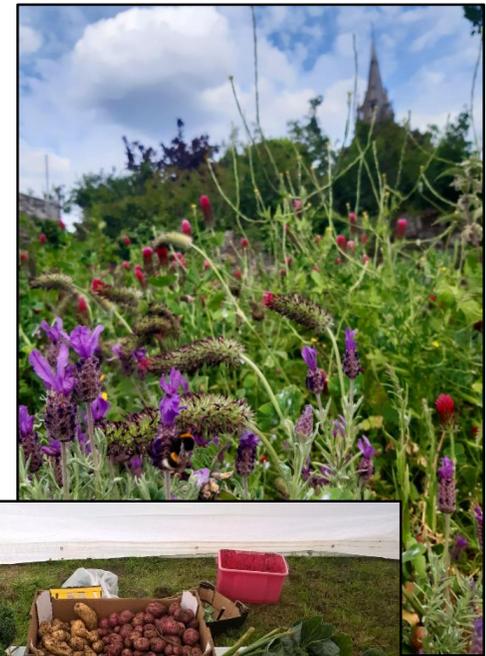
- Celebrate 20 years of Abbeyleix Bog
- Utility Boxes
- Street Bins



# ABBEYLEIX + PROJECTS

## OUR COMMUNITY GARDEN:

- Unique Town Centre Space
- Host to annual events
- Vegetables & Herbs grown
- Run by the community for the community
- 100% Volunteer led
- Outdoor meeting spot during Covid
- Pizza Oven



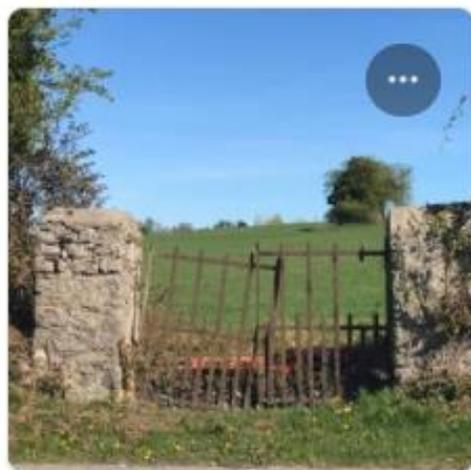
# ABBEYLEIX + PROJECTS

## OUR BUILT HERITAGE:

- Record of our Built Heritage
- Moment in Time for future generations
- Archived on Social Media Folders



Shopfronts of Abbeyleix



Gates of Abbeyleix



Doors of Abbeyleix





# CLIMATE ACTION + ENVIRONMENT



Ireland's Tidiest Small Town 2021 | Bonn Oir - Gold Medal Winners: 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2021



# ABBEYLEIX + CLIMATE ACTION + ENVIRONMENT

## NEIGHBOURWOOD PROJECT:

- Native Woodland established in 2021
- 2.5 Acre site next to LA Housing Estate
- 3,000 trees planted
- Drainage works to allow Play area for residents
- Local walk and outdoor seating area



**Interpretation:** one large interpretation panel covering woodland heritage to be sited at the picnic area. Simple interpretation posts can be installed at selected locations on site. Timber material should be used as much as possible.



**Community Space:** a woodland opening (glade) is to be created just off the existing path. This is to be a hard standing area surrounded woodland edge wildflowers and trees. It is to have an area developed with the community that can act as an outdoor classroom. Entrances to be wide to maintain good views into this space.



**Woodland:** the woodland will be selected using species. It will be graded from low tree species edges to high tree species in the centre. An community managed hazel coppice woodland created under the power lines and must not 3m height (to be approved by the ESB). As woodlands mature, ground flora diversity can be increased using native woodland wildflowers.

**Trails:** Natural trails (mown grass paths) are to be created through the woodland and along the woodland edge (fringes of these can be managed for woodland edge wildflowers. These will link into the existing path network on site.



### BALLADINE NEIGHBOURWOOD

Ár gCoill Áitiúil

Balladine Neighbourwood is a recreation focused native woodland that was established in 2021 by Abbeyleix Tidy Towns and Laois County Council in association with the local residents of Corrán na n-Óir, Gort na n-Óir, Sli na n-Óir, Balladine Heights and Balladine Drive

The species in this wood are typical of native Irish woodlands. The most common species include: Oak, Hazel, Alder, Hawthorn and Silver Birch.



Pendunculate oak  
Cúirtín nórúir  
Dair ghalkat



Hazel  
Corylus avellana  
Cail



Common Alder  
Alnus glutinosa  
Fearnóg



Hawthorn  
Crataegus monogyna  
Sceach gheal



Silver Birch  
Betula pendula  
Beth gaeil

To find out more go to [www.abbeyleixtidytowns.net/neighborwood-project](http://www.abbeyleixtidytowns.net/neighborwood-project) (or scan the QR code below)

\*THIS PROJECT IS SUPPORTED BY THE NEIGHBOURWOOD SCHEME, FUNDED BY THE FOREST SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & THE MARINE, UNDER THE FORESTRY PROGRAMME, 2014- 2020.\* MATCH FUNDING WAS ALSO PROVIDED BY LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL



An Buidéil Tidy Towns, Rís agus Mairt, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine



Laois County Council  
Áras an Chéim, Portlaoise, Co. Laois



ABBEYLEIX Tidy Towns

Streamside trail: mown grass path through woodland edge wildflower meadow (10m setback from the stream edge for new tree planting)

Woodland trail (~1.2m wide mown grass path)

Community space (woodland glade)

Convert a section of the mown grass verge to wildflower meadow

**Balladine Estates Landscape Plan**  
Abbeyleix, Co. Laois (May 2019)

CLIENT	PROJECT	PROJECT NO.	ISSUE	DRAWN BY	REV	DESCRIPTION	CONTACT
Abbeyleix Tidy Towns	Balladine NeighbourWood Scheme	008_19_BG	08/05/19	BG	A	Landscape Masterplan	Portlaoise, Co. Laois   Ballycastle, Co. Antrim +353 (0)87 7828477   +44 (0)7725 741920 greenpineconsultants@gmail.com www.greenpineconsultants.com





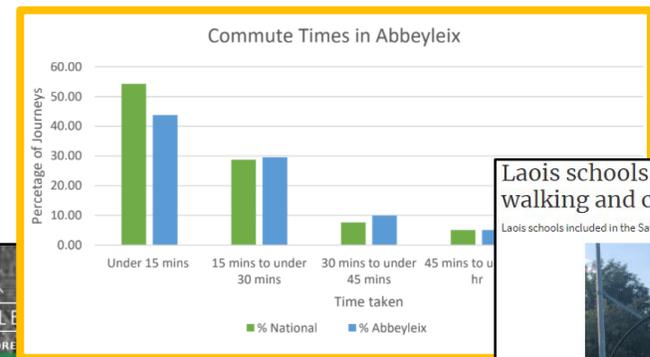
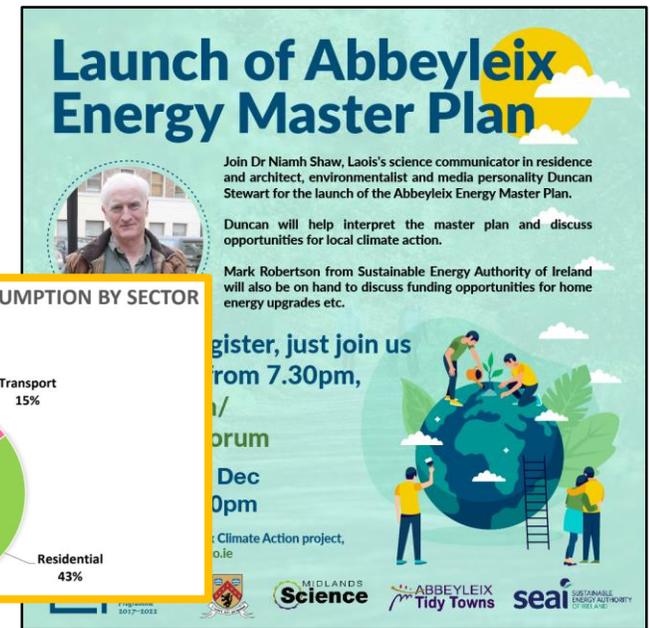
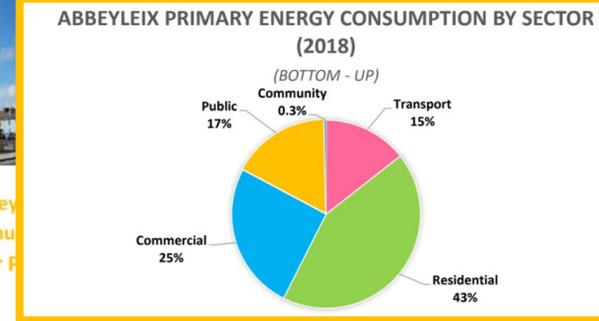
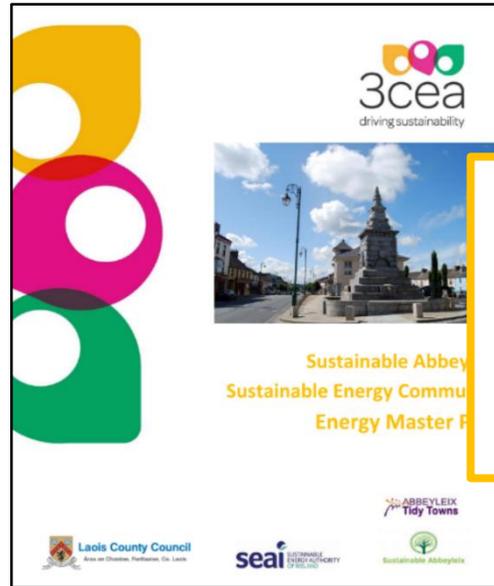




# ABBEYLEIX + CLIMATE ACTION + ENVIRONMENT

## SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY:

- Vision to build a resilient community by reducing our carbon usage + increasing our energy security
- Trying to gain a good understanding of our energy usage
- Educating ourselves to do more with less (Zero Waste events)
- Making smarter transport choices (Active Travel)
- Helping to develop the skills needed locally



# ABBEYLEIX + CLIMATE ACTION + ENVIRONMENT

## CLIMATE ACTION + ENVIRONMENT

- Appointed a resident Science Communicator
- Almanac TV
- Climate Action Talks
- Climate Action Walk
- Smart Village Initiative
- Climate Action Colouring Competition
- Junior TT – Stop the idling Campaign / Survey



### ABBEYLEIX ALMANAC TV

Live from Abbeyleix every Saturday morning at 11am on February 6, 13, 20, 27 and March 6.

NO REGISTRATION NEEDED, GO TO: [Facebook.com/Abbeyleix](https://www.facebook.com/Abbeyleix)

For more details on Abbeyleix Climate Action project, email [climateaction@laoiseco.ie](mailto:climateaction@laoiseco.ie)

Dr Niamh Shaw, our science communicator in residence and Abbeyleix Tidy Towns invite you to join us every Saturday morning for an online event on Facebook live with local community contributions on nature, birdwatching, gardening, sustainable energy, crafts, local heritage, climate action, citizen science, future projects and lots more.

Our very own 'TV show' is brought to you by the Abbeyleix Tidy Towns committee in association with the Abbeyleix Climate Action project.

Join the conversation – put your questions to the panel on Facebook or in advance of the show.

Logos: ABBEYLEIX, ABBEYLEIX Tidy Towns, Clár Éire Iddinách Creative Ireland Programme 2017-2022, MIDLANDS Science

AMANAC TV INSIGHTS	Broadcast Views (Minutes)	Broadcast Reach	Broadcast Engagement Shares / Comments / Reactions
Episode 1: (06.02.21)	8.8k	8.2k	297
Episode 2: (13.02.21)	8.2k	18.7k	203
Episode 3: (20.02.21)	11k	15.8k	281
Episode 4: (27.02.21)	10.6k	4.9k	254
Episode 5: (06.03.21)	8.2k	4.7k	196
<b>Totals</b>	<b>46.8k</b>	<b>52.3k</b>	<b>1,231</b>

[www.facebook.com/ABBEYLEIX](https://www.facebook.com/ABBEYLEIX): Insights

### Abbeyleix Climate Action Walk

#KeepWell

Dr Niamh Shaw has created an interactive walking tour through the town of Abbeyleix.

The walk focuses on:

- how climate change has impacted our lives
- how it affects us emotionally
- the natural cycles of our planet
- what we can do on a local level

Walk Launch on Facebook Live  
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May @ 11am  
No need to book, just go to [facebook.com/laoisheritageoffice](https://www.facebook.com/laoisheritageoffice)

KEEP WELL

Logos: ht, Laois, Midland Science, St. Patrick's, pabal, MIDLANDS SCIENCE



# ABBEYLEIX + CLIMATE ACTION + ENVIRONMENT

## SMART VILLAGE:

- Embracing Smart Technology
- Traffic Sensors (WeCount)
- Air Quality Sensors
- Sensor Workshops

*“Smart Villages” are communities in rural areas that use innovative solutions to improve their resilience, building on local strengths and opportunities. They rely on a participatory approach to develop and implement their strategy to improve their economic, social and/or environmental conditions, in particular by mobilising solutions offered by digital technologies. Smart Villages benefit from cooperation and alliances with other communities”*



You are in: > LEINSTEREXPRESS > LOCAL NEWS

### Advancing Abbeyleix starts to count the traffic in smart village project



Traffic has been a problem for many years in Abbeyleix and was not solved by motorway bypass with trucks using the town to bypass tolls

#### SMART SENSORS : AIR QUALITY

- Internet Of Things(IoT) deployed to operate quality sensors
- Network of 12 sensors built and installed
- STEM learning – engaging young people
- Potential to develop

ABBEYLEIX Tidy Towns  
May 3

\*\*\* SENSOR PROJECT \*\*\*

Thanks to Roisin and Hannah for helping out with running repairs on our our particulate air sensors which are one element of our Internet of Things based smart sensor project.

Thanks also to Jeffrey Rowe of TOG - Dublin Hackerspace Makerspace for helping out with the additional components that we needed. @MidlandScience Laois Heritage Office Niamh Shaw



# ABBEYLEIX + CLIMATE ACTION + ENVIRONMENT

## BIODIVERSITY

- Biodiversity Awareness (Video series with Dr F. MacGowan)
- Pollinator Friendly Hedgerow
- Over 6,000 native trees planted +5000 planned this year
- Pollinator Friendly Late cut Hay Meadows
- Community Orchards (2no)
- Biodiversity Action Plan (2021)
- GIY Allotments
- Don't Mow Let it Grow



### Debunking some myths about Bees

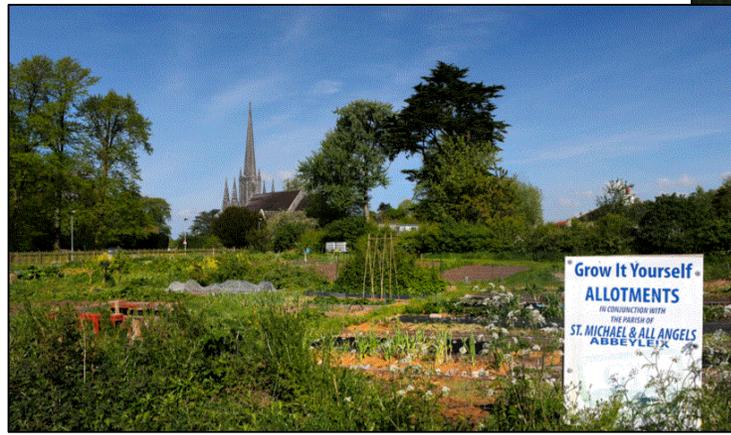
Are you doing the right thing to help?

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan has received a huge amount of support across all sectors. We are incredibly grateful to each and every person who has answered the call to action. Thousands of positive changes have already been made to help address the critical problem of pollinator decline.

It is the beginning of a long journey, but pollinators are undoubtedly better off than before we all began this process. However, sometimes certain ideas can take hold that are not necessarily the most effective evidence-based actions. If you are generous enough to help we want to make sure that what you are doing is the right thing and is having as positive an impact as possible. Some common myths are addressed in this section 'Debunking bee myths'.

We need to manage the landscape in a way that provides these wild bees with the **food, shelter and safety** they need to survive

✓ As pollinators, they are a keystone group so protecting them helps protect biodiversity generally



# ABBEYLEIX + CLIMATE ACTION + ENVIRONMENT

## ABBEYLEIX BOG:

- Community Engagement for common good – 22 years ago
- 200Ha Community led Conservation Project with diverse habitats
- Degraded (but recovering) Raised Bog
- Eco System Restoration
- Art on the Bog
- Reporting amazing results from interventions undertaken
- Peat is regenerating, Carbon is sequestered & Biodiversity is flourishing
- Amazing Work by the ABP
- ABP & ATT continuous collaboration



July 2000 (Credit: Kevin Hutchinson)



Credit: Abbeyleix Bog Project ©2022



# TIPS + ADVICE



Ireland's Tidiest Small Town 2021 | Bonn Oir - Gold Medal Winners: 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2021



# ABBEYLEIX + TIDY TOWNS

## RESULTS OVERVIEW:

- Every new Year – New Start | read the Adjudication Report and Identify judges feedback & areas to work on
- We analyse our results each year (Not scientific – but a worthwhile exercise)
- Online adjudication probably suited us – Large Repository of information and photos online. Supplemented by Action Plan, BAP, Website & Social Media Feeds (Facebook, Twitter & Instagram)

RESULT COMPARISON											
CATEGORY	MAX MARK	AWARDED 2017	AWARDED 2018	AWARDED 2019	GLASLOUGH 2019	AWARDED 2021	Plus / Minus	%	ENNIS 2021	COBH 2021	GEASHILL 2021
1. Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	50	51	51	50 (-1)	52	0	86.67%	52	52	54
2. Streetscape & Public Places	60	48	47	47	47 (-)	49	3	81.67%	46	49	44
3. Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	47	48	49	48 (-1)	51	1	85.00%	50	48	49
4. Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	38	40	41	33 (-8)	43	3	86.00%	40	44	45
5. Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	25	25	28	22 (-6)	31	5	62.00%	26	24	26
6. Tidiness and Litter Control	90	49	50	52	69 (+17)	53	-9	58.89%	62	59	58
7. Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	34	35	38 (+3)	35	-4	70.00%	39	35	37
8. Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	39	39	39	39 (-)	40		80.00%	40	42	40
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>342 (+6)</b>	<b>346 (+4)</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>75.32%</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>353</b>

Irelands Tidiest Town 2021 | Irelands Tidiest Large Town | Irelands Tidiest Small Village



Irelands Tidiest Small Town 2021 | Bonn Oir - Gold Medal Winners: 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2021



# TIPS + ADVICE

## FOR WHAT ITS WORTH

- Review your scores annually - where you are improving | dropping points
- Read the adjudicators report and address their concerns as a priority. Next years judge will read these before their next visit.
- Plan your year ahead + your projects
- Build a good working relationship with your local authority.
- Adopt the SDG's
- Work with your funding partners to train and upskill your volunteers (eg 5 year action plan)
- Allow enough time and effort to complete your annual submission
- Use all forms of media to get your message out there
- Update your website + embrace Social Media (eg Twitter - whole TT community have accounts incl. Adjudicators)
- Use your social media channels as a diary of your achievements.
- Take time out to recognise your volunteers (Learn from them – feedback | lessons learnt)
- Highlight + Target a few projects each year (eg - Hay Meadows or wildflower verges along road )



# TIPS + ADVICE

## REMEMBER:

- Take a twin track approach - Litter picking + Flowers | Administration + Projects in the background (eg Jnr TT)
- Rome wasn't built in a day – Build your Brand
- Even the smallest gain is going in the right direction
- You first have to be baptised before you can be confirmed
- Blow your own trumpet – No one else will
- Take all the help you can get & don't be Afraid to ask for help. Appoint the right people to the right job
- Build relationships with your LA & External funding partners. Be seen as 'Safe Hands' when it comes to funding – ie deliver on your promises.
- Take lots of photos (Before & After)
- Highlight Problem Areas – Don't try and hide them
- Enter Special Award Categories (Helps to Highlight the good work you are doing)





# REACH OUT

REACH OUT



info@abbeyleixtidytowns.net | www.abbeyleixtidytowns.net

find us on:



FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/ABBEYLEIX](http://www.facebook.com/ABBEYLEIX)



INSTAGRAM: [www.instagram.com/Abbeyleix\\_ireland](http://www.instagram.com/Abbeyleix_ireland)



TWITTER: @abbeyleixtidytowns



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# REACH OUT

COME + VISIT:

FÁILTE WELCOME

ABBEYLEIX

**ABBEYLEIX FARMERS MARKET  
EVERY SATURDAY MORNING**

2 Clean Water, 3 Good Health, 12 Economic Quality Jobs, 11 Sustainable Communities, 13 Climate Action, 15 Life on Land, 17 Partnerships

ABBEYLEIX Tidy Towns

FOLLOW US ON

PLEASE KEEP ABBEYLEIX TIDY

INFO@ABBEYLEIXTIDYTOWNS.NET

FÁILTE

ABBEYLEIX

**BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE  
ENERGY COMMUNITY**

- DRIVING SUSTAINABILITY -

7 Affordable and Clean Energy, 8 Decarbonisation, 13 Climate Action, 12 Responsible Consumption and Production, 10 Climate Action

ABBEYLEIX Tidy Towns

FOLLOW US ON

PLEASE KEEP ABBEYLEIX TIDY

FÁILTE

ABBEYLEIX

**DON'T BE A TOSSER  
BIN YOUR LITTER**

9 Waste, 11 Economic Quality Jobs, 12 Economic Quality Jobs, 14 Life Below Water, 15 Life on Land

ABBEYLEIX Tidy Towns

FOLLOW US ON

PLEASE KEEP ABBEYLEIX TIDY

FÁILTE

ABBEYLEIX

**A CYCLE & WALKING  
FRIENDLY TOWN**

(PLEASE GIVE WAY)

3 Good Health, 7 Clean Energy, 11 Sustainable Communities, 12 Economic Quality Jobs, 13 Climate Action, 15 Life on Land

ABBEYLEIX Tidy Towns

FOLLOW US ON

PLEASE KEEP ABBEYLEIX TIDY

ABBEYLEIX

**GROW YOUR COMMUNITY  
BUY LOCAL**

SuperValu Tidy Towns

- PLEASE KEEP ABBEYLEIX TIDY -

FÁILTE

ABBEYLEIX

**TAKE TIME OUT  
& VISIT OUR HERITAGE CENTRE  
TOWN CENTRE OR ABBEYLEIX BOG**

1 People, 8 Decarbonisation, 9 Decarbonisation, 11 Economic Quality Jobs, 12 Economic Quality Jobs, 17 Partnerships

ABBEYLEIX Tidy Towns

FOLLOW US ON

PLEASE KEEP ABBEYLEIX TIDY



Ireland's Tidiest Small Town 2021 | Bonn Air - Gold Medal Winners: 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2021



THANK YOU

Thank You for Listening



*The Sustainable Development Goals or Global Goals are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all". The SDGs were set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030*

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