

LIMERICK TIDY TOWNS 2022

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On Behalf of Limerick City & County Council
February 16th 2022

Evolution of the Tidy Towns Competition

- Initially set up to as a tourism initiative to ‘clean up’ our towns & villages and to highlight our built heritage and architectural features
- The main emphasis was on the prevention of litter and dumping and ‘soft’ landscaping with flower displays, shrubberies and trees.
- The scope of the competition expanded to incorporate community recreational amenity facilities and community development together with nature and biodiversity initiatives
- In recent years there has been a new focus on sustainability and sustainable communities through the careful management of resources such as energy, water and climate action







Mainistir Thigh Molaige

Bunaíodh an mhainistir seo ag deireadh an 13ú haois nó tús an 14ú haois. Saol bocht dealbh simplí a bhí ag na manaigh anseo, de réir rialacha dochta Naomh Phroinsias, rud a d'fhág nach bhfuil cuma an rachmais ar an bhfoirgneamh inniu. Bhí an chéad séipéal a tógadh anseo níos lú ná mar atá ceann an lae inniu, ach cuireadh leis nuair a tógadh an túr c. 1500 le hEaspag Rois, an Proinsiascánach Éainonn de Courcy. Ar an taobh thiar den chlabhstra bhí cistin tráth, agus sa chúinne thiar-thuaidh bhí bialann agus cóig fhuinneog inti ag féachaint amach ar an bhfarraige. D'fhíll cuid de na manaigh ar Thigh Molaga tar éis an leasaithe chreidimh agus mháireadar go sealadach inti as sin go dtí 1642, nuair a chuir saighdiúirí de chuid an Tiarna Forbes tine leis an mainistir agus leis an mbaile.

Fígea - Tá an mhainistir seo bunaithe ar an tséipéal a bunaíodh sa 13ú haois nó tús an 14ú haois. Saol bocht dealbh simplí a bhí ag na manaigh anseo, de réir rialacha dochta Naomh Phroinsias, rud a d'fhág nach bhfuil cuma an rachmais ar an bhfoirgneamh inniu. Bhí an chéad séipéal a tógadh anseo níos lú ná mar atá ceann an lae inniu, ach cuireadh leis nuair a tógadh an túr c. 1500 le hEaspag Rois, an Proinsiascánach Éainonn de Courcy. Ar an taobh thiar den chlabhstra bhí cistin tráth, agus sa chúinne thiar-thuaidh bhí bialann agus cóig fhuinneog inti ag féachaint amach ar an bhfarraige. D'fhíll cuid de na manaigh ar Thigh Molaga tar éis an leasaithe chreidimh agus mháireadar go sealadach inti as sin go dtí 1642, nuair a chuir saighdiúirí de chuid an Tiarna Forbes tine leis an mainistir agus leis an mbaile.

Timoleague Friary

This friary was founded in the late 13th or early 14th century. The Franciscan friars who lived here devoted themselves to the strict rules of poverty and simplicity as laid down by St Francis, so the architectural details of the building are quite plain. The earliest church was smaller than the present one but was extended when the tower was built in about 1500 by the Franciscan Bishop of Ross, Edmond de Courcy. On the west side of the cloister was the kitchen, and at the north-east corner a dining room with 5 windows overlooking the sea.

After the reformation, some of the friars returned to Timoleague and lived there on and off until 1642, when the friary and town were burnt by English soldiers under Lord Forbes.

Notice - This national monument is in the care of the Commissioners of Public Works for the State under the provisions of the National Monuments Act. The public are requested to aid the Commissioners in preserving it. Injury or defacement is severely punishable by law.

Timoleague—from *Tigh Molaige* (Molaige's House)



OPW

Óifig na nGibreacha Poiblí
The Office of Public Works













COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHIARRAÍ
KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

FÓGRA - NOTICE

Lineach Bhiorach
ghhearr le do thoil

Japanese Knotweed
Please do not cut



Recent Developments

- Submissions are to be in digital format
- There may be a 'cap' on the size of the submission
- The Tidy Towns Handbook has been updated
- Tidy Towns projects that align with Sustainable Development Goals are now considered in adjudications



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with **169 targets**. The 17 SDGs reflect economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.



Your Submission

- Essential:
 - (1) A fully completed entry form; be concise & succinct
 - (2) Map(s) showing location of projects;
 - (3) A three or five year action plan or a plan summary;

All of the above can be accompanied by *relevant* supporting material of your choice i.e. photographs, letters, awards etc., *included as appendices*

The Map

- A sketch map is acceptable; *it must show clearly projects to be adjudicated upon* as well as landmarks of your town;
- If an ordnance survey map is used ensure it is of an appropriate scale (*1:2500 is suggested*), use two maps if necessary;
- Link your map to your entry form by numbering projects, a colour code is helpful.

Your Plan

- Your plan must be built on a good **survey** of your town, it does not need to be prepared by a professional but should facilitate a *Community Assessment of Needs*.
- Your plan must feature **objectives** placed to a three or five year timescale; *these should be agreed upon by the community*
- Your plan should indicate **strategies** to be employed i.e. 'who is responsible for what' and availability and use of resources;
- What has been achieved to date should be clearly indicated.

Community- Your Planning & Involvement (SDG's 1-17)

- Map Showing Work for the Current Year;
- Relevance / Conciseness of Material Submitted;
- A Current Tidy Towns Plan or summary;
- Evidence of Liaison with Community Groups, the Local Authority & other Statutory Agencies (*web site, newsletter & other media*).

1 NO POVERTY



2 ZERO HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



15 LIFE ON LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

What your Adjudicator Considers

- What is it that makes your area special / unique?
- What features are characteristic of the area?
- Are there any special considerations which affect development pressures such as tourism or commuter housing?
- Existing facilities i.e. (play areas, shop, access etc,)
- How do visitors to the area perceive it and what facilities are available to enable visitors enjoy the area

Streetscape & Public Places (SDG's 3,11,14,15,17)

- Presentation of Buildings;
- Protection of Architectural Heritage;
- Conservation & Awareness;
- Shopfronts & use of Irish Language in general;
- Streetscape & Modern Architectural Design;
- Derelict Buildings/Sites;
- Street Furniture;
- Civic Amenities.

What The Adjudicator Considers

- Public & Private Buildings Including Derelict Sites/Buildings
- Building Materials & Colour
- Shopfronts & Upper Storeys to buildings
- Graveyards & Other Public Spaces
- The Public Realm; Street Furniture, Monuments,
- Art Work, Wirescape











Jack n Jill





Green Spaces & Landscaping

(SDG's 11,12,13,14,15,17)

- Landscaping for a purpose (*seasonal interest, visual amenity, softening hard areas, edible landscaping and more*);
- A balance should be achieved between container plants & permanent planting;
- Emphasis on native trees & shrubs; (*See Handbook*)
- Problems (*wrong tree in the wrong place, planting at the base of trees, painting of tree trunks and improper tree ties that damage trees;*)
- Good maintenance, (*verges, grass strips*).

vibrant planting colours

Warm colours will excite and energize. Red, yellow and orange will garner the most attention from traffic passing by. Yellow is the first colour the human eye reacts to and so is most visible. Orange is known to stimulate appetite so is well suited for a restaurant quarter of a town.

town centres
commercial areas
junctions
signage / wayfinding
community buildings
festivals





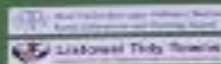




Fáilte Go Dti Listowel Community Fruit & Nut Orchard

This project was initiated by Listowel Tidy Towns Group, Spring 2016

Planting a fruit and nut orchard is one of the many practical actions we can take in our own home gardens, schools, communities, public spaces and places of work, to help develop food security in Kerry which builds a resilient and sustainable food supply for future generations.



What Are We Planting?

Apples come in Heritage varieties from Irish Seed Savers, Quince, Plum, Damson, Pear, Hazelnut and Walnut.

What Can You Do?

- Plant a community fruit & nut orchard in any green space.
- Create wildflower meadows by mowing paths through long grass.
- Start a school garden, community garden or allotment area.
- Grow food at home, in a garden, in pots & containers or on your window sill.

Pollination

Ireland has 98 species of bees, 31 species of butterflies and countless other insects that play a role in pollination. Let the wildflowers grow in the orchard area to attract these important pollinating insects. Stop using chemicals that kill insects and wildflowers (weeds).



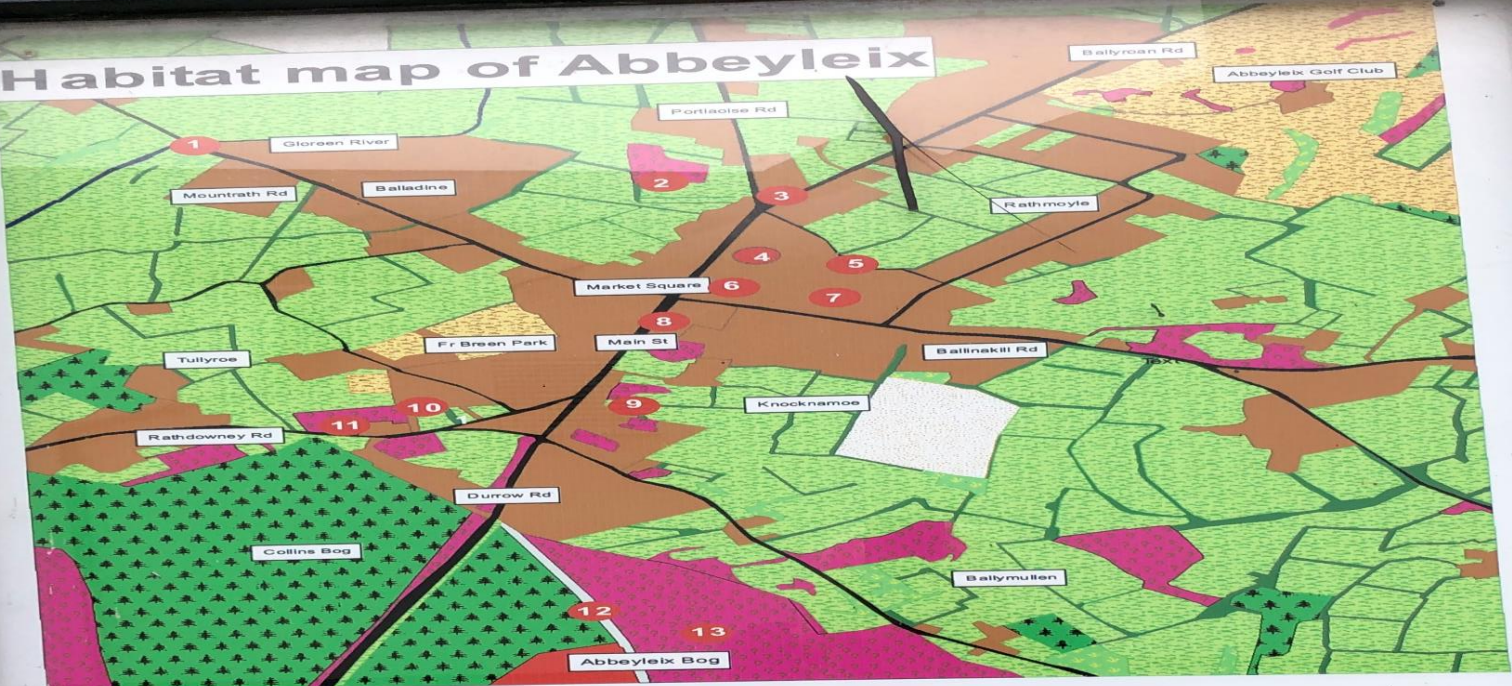
What the Adjudicator Considers

- The Landscape Plan (will include design & management)
- The planning, design and management of green spaces
- Presentation of landscaping of all entrances to the town/village/locality
- Incorporation of native and pollinator friendly plants into planting schemes where appropriate
- The planting of the incorrect species of trees, such as the use of nonnative trees where a native tree would be much more appropriate e.g. at the edges of towns and villages where they meet the countryside

Nature & Biodiversity In Your Locality (SDG's 6,13,14,15,17)

- Evidence of key issues of *education, conservation and celebration*;
- Evidence of baseline information on local species & habitats prior to project work; (*Identify local habitats*)
- Biodiversity Management Plans;
- A 'Buffer Zone' for Natural Amenities;
- Designated/Protected Areas identified.

Habitat map of Abbeyleix



Legend

-  Amenity grassland
-  Broad-leaved woodland
-  Built, Buildings, Houses and Gardens
-  Conifer plantation
-  Cultivated land
-  Cutover bog
-  Grassland
-  Hedges and treelines
-  Railway track
-  River
-  Roads
-  Scrub

Biodiversity highlights of Abbeyleix

- (1) Ballydine Bridge (look for Dippers)
- (2) The Grove (Large Beech & Ash trees featuring a Rookery)
- (3) Heritage House (nesting Swifts)
- (4) Dove House Gardens (a feast for all the senses!)
- (5) Sandy Lane (old limestone wall with many plants)
- (6) Community Garden (rest a while and listen to the garden songbirds)
- (7) Church of the Most Holy Rosary (mature, old Lime trees)
- (8) Main St (listen and look for Swifts & Housemartins in summer)
- (9) Wildlife Garden (summer flowers)
- (10) St Michael and All Angels graveyard (spring wildflowers)
- (11) The Lords Walk (deciduous woodland - catch the sight & smell of wild garlic in spring)
- (12) Abbeyleix Bog track (watch for butterflies on sunny days and bats on summer evenings)
- (13) Abbeyleix Bog (loads of wildlife!)

Abbeyleix Bog

Welcome to Abbeyleix Bog – a wonderful natural heritage treasure on the doorstep of the beautiful Heritage Town of Abbeyleix. This bog was handed over by Bord na Móna to the care of the local community in 2009, and we invite you to take a walk and enjoy its natural wonders. Look out for these information boards which point out the highlights of Abbeyleix Bog. Enjoy your visit and more information can be obtained from our website: www.abbeyleixbog.ie and on Facebook www.facebook.com/pages/abbeyleixbog/



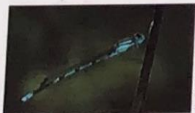
Abbeyleix bog

Background & history

Abbeyleix Bog is a 'Raised Bog' typical of lowland areas of the midlands of Ireland. The bog has developed over thousands of years since Ireland's last Ice Age. Following the retreat of the glaciers about 10,000 years ago, a lake would have been found in this area.

The climate became warmer and wetter and this lake in-filled with vegetation and gradually the alkaline conditions became more acidic as the vegetation built up and the Bog mosses (*Sphagnum* species) colonised and began to dominate the site.

The acidic conditions helped the formation of peat as the plant decay process is slowed-down. This peat formation continued up until the last century (with overall peat depths of up to 6m recorded). The old Portlaoise-Kilkenny railway line was built through the bog in the 19th century. Local people cut turf for fuel from around the bog. The bog was then taken over from the de Vesce Estate by Bord na Móna. This partially drained bog led to the drying out process which resulted in the decline of the peat-forming bog mosses.



Common Bluet Damselfly

Following a local community initiative, the bog was handed over into their care in 2009. This was after Bord na Móna and the National Parks & Wildlife Service of the Department of Environment, Arts & Heritage set about reversing the effects of drainage and restoring Abbeyleix Bog by blocking field drains in an intensive pattern to re-wet the bog. The drain-blocking has proved very successful and an expert study in 2009 found that the all-important Bog mosses are returning and establishing themselves very well.

Map:

The map shows the wide diversity of habitats on site: raised bog; cutover bog, (bog edges which were cut for turf in the past), scrub, bog woodland and conifer woodland. Abbeyleix bog is uniquely accessible because the old Portlaoise-Kilkenny railway line bisected the bog and we are now left with a wide path that cuts straight through the site.



Silver-washed Fritillary on Knapweed flower

Map Legend

	Conifer woodland
	Cutover bog, scrub & bog woodland
	Old railway embankment
	Other
	Raised bog
	Roads
	Site boundary
	Track
	Rough track
	Information-boards

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 Km

N



Information boards:

There are three further information boards along the path which highlight the wildlife and habitats to look out for.

Walking routes:

There is a wide path (red route) which goes straight through the bog along the old railway embankment. This is rough in places but relatively easy to walk on. It is not suitable as of yet for wheelchairs, although the more robust models of prams and buggies will manage it.

There is a rough path around the edge of the western half of the bog (blue route) and this makes a circular route when joined with the red route. This circular route takes about 2 hours to walk. It is only suitable for walkers. There are several unbridged drains to cross and some sections get quite wet.

Safety notice:

For your own safety and the preservation of the bog, please keep to designated trails. Shortcutting the designated trails destroys plant life and the sensitive ecology of the bog. There are deep pools and open drains on the bog which can be concealed by heather/plants. Children should be kept under close supervision. You enter this site at your own risk.





What the Adjudicator Considers

- Knowing and Understanding Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality
- Habitats and Species in your Locality
- Wildflower areas
- Actions for Nature and Biodiversity
- Promoting Public Awareness
- Controlling Invasive Species

Common Invasive Species

- **JAPANESE KNOTWEED** (BY FAR THE MOST FAMILIAR INVADER)
PERNICIOUS, RESILIENT, WIDESPREAD, SPREAD PHYSICALLY BY US
- **GIANT KNOTWEED**
- **HIMALAYAN KNOTWEED**
- **HIMALAYAN BALSAM**
- **THREE-CORNERED LEEK**
- **MONTBRETIA**
- **GIANT HOGWEED**

Sustainability: Doing More with Less (SDG's 6,7,9,11,12,13,14,15,17)

- Greater emphasis on waste *prevention*; (eliminate, reduce, reuse).
- Greater emphasis on *resource efficiencies*; (water, energy, transport).
- Ongoing best practice in *waste treatment* (recycling, energy recovery, disposal).
- New approach; *Rethink*, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle





Sustainable Waste & Resource Management (cntd)

- The Waste Survey (*households & business*) ;
- Awareness Events, (*website/newsletter*) ;
- Involvement of schools & businesses ;
- Liaison with Waste Minimisation Officer;
- Mindful shopping & food waste;
- Second-hand / Swap events.

What the Adjudicator Considers

- Do activities help to make the community more environmentally sustainable.
- Evidence of an understanding and awareness of the need to move towards a Circular Economy
- Evidence of how the Tidy Towns group works to reduce the community's environmental impact (*measurement & feedback*)

What the Adjudicator Considers (cntd)

- Eliminating the use of pesticides, water conservation and energy initiatives
- Awareness raising activities carried out across your community; (*workshops, markets, social media etc.*)
- Links with other groups sharing ideas and information or doing joint initiatives

Recommendations

- Know your Starting Point; (evidence of simple / comprehensive *waste awareness surveys* with schools/ households & other).
- Evidence of *Environmental Awareness Campaigns*; (leaflets, social media, press release).
- Ongoing promotion to '*Reduce, Reuse, Recycle*'.
- Links with *Green Schools & Business*.

Energy Conservation

- Keep an eye on the bill.
- Identify the high energy users.
- Check out the appliance calculator app.
- Take actions, low cost or no cost first.

Energy Conservation (cntd)

- Switch the thermostat down by just 1°C –to reduce the heating bill by 10%
- Switch appliances off, never leave on stand-by – saves up to 20% of appliances energy use.
- Replace light bulbs with energy efficient CFLs

Energy Conservation (cntd)

- Turn off appliances rather than leave them on stand-by
€30pa
- Turn your heating down 1°C **€153**
- Switch to A-rate appliances **€14**
- Use CFL light bulbs rather than conventional ones
€37
- Insulate your attic **€270**

Energy Conservation (cntd)

- Don't drive for short journeys **€30**
- Only boil enough water for your cuppa **€30**
- Buy a lagging jacket for your hot water tank **€69**
- Skip one round-trip, long-haul flight every year **€1000**

Energy Conservation (cntd)

- Skip one round-trip, short-haul flight every year
€100
- TOTAL SAVINGS PA **€1783**
- Check out new SEAI grants for householders

Sustainable Transport Initiatives

- Promotions around public transport
- Linkages across community with cycle lanes.
- Walking Bus
- WOW
- Park n Stride
- Car Pooling



Tidiness & Litter Control (SDG's 12,17)

- The Litter Control survey & plan;
- Monitoring of progress re Litter Control;
- Litter Patrols in place;
- Participation in County Litter Leagues;
- Presence or absence of litter;
- Promotion of Anti Litter Awareness material;
- Segregation of litter for recycling.

Tidiness & Litter Control (cntd)

- Boundary walls / fencing and their maintenance;
- Advertisement hoardings & their scale / condition;
- Presentation of / or absence of signage;
- Open undeveloped sites / dumped vehicles;
- Street clutter & sign pole clutter;
- Weed growth along kerbs and walls;
- Unsightly wire-scape;
- Graffiti & fly posting;
- Traffic management & parking arrangements.













What The Adjudicator Considers

- Lack of visual & physical clutter
- Presentation of signage & street furniture
- Inappropriate advertisement hoardings
- Overhead service cables & redundant poles
- Prevalence of graffiti and flyposting
- General weed control and plant management

What The Adjudicator Considers (cntd)

- Treatment of vacant buildings / derelict / undeveloped sites
- management of graveyards
- Presentation of curtilage areas viewed from the public realm
- Prevalence of graffiti and flyposting

What the Adjudicator Considers Under Litter Control

- Litter management plans / litter control strategies
- Evidence of regular litter patrols
- Participation in initiatives such as National Spring Clean, County Litter Leagues, Clean Coasts and more
- Absence of litter and dumping during adjudication including 'fly-tipping' & illegal dumping
- Prevalence of dog-fouling and awareness initiatives

What the Adjudicator Considers Under Litter Control (cntd)

- Partnership and community involvement with litter control
- Engagement in community awareness raising in relation to litter control
- Presentation of bottle banks and litter bins
- Segregation of litter for recycling

Residential Streets & Housing Areas (SDG's 11 & 17)

- Presentation and Maintenance of private property;
- Roadside boundary walls & fencing & gables;
- Estate entrance, identification & directional signs;
- Green and hard open spaces;
- Play areas & equipment for children & families;
- Side & back areas visible from the public realm;
- Litter Control.

What The Adjudicator Considers Under Residential Streets & Housing Areas

- The presentation and appearance of private dwellings including their roadside boundary treatment and private open spaces viewed from the public realm
- Communal open spaces - their maintenance, presentation, function (*recreation / play*) and universal accessibility
- Estate signage and entrances
- Links (*footpaths, cycle lanes*) to town centre and facilities
- Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals







Approach Roads, Streets and Lanes (SDG's 11,15,17)

- Approach Roads, entrances & name signs;
- Road and footpath surfaces & signage;
- Grass verges & cut grass;
- Walls, fencing, hedges, field gates & kerbing;
- Back areas & lanes.
- Bridges, cycle lanes, connectivity, parking arrangements and universal accessibility.








MILLSTREET
TOURIST INFORMATION


MILLSTREET



The board contains a central map of the Millstreet area, surrounded by several columns of text and small inset photographs. The text likely provides details about local history, landmarks, and services. The map shows roads, fields, and possibly the mill itself.

ARDWARE STORE
HICKIE



What The Adjudicator Considers Under Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes

- The presentation and appearance of approach roads, including roadside verges and boundary treatments
- Town / Village streets and connecting roads
- Roundabouts within the 60 kmph zone
- Laneways, back areas and bridges, cycle lanes
- Pedestrian connections and inclusive access
- Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals