



# SUPERVALU TIDY TOWNS

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# TURNING GOOD WORK INTO GOOD MARKS

The Tidy Towns Application: Do's, Don'ts and Key Categories



Limerick County Council  
Thursday 05<sup>th</sup> February 2026

# CHECKLIST

Application Form

Map

Plan

SDG's

If necessary, appendix of photos or other relevant documents

# The Application Form

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Keep it simple and easy to follow

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In some instances, bullet points are fine

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A photo tells a thousand words

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If possible, ask one or two people to proof read the form before submitting

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# The Map



- ▶ Ensure your map is clear, easy to read showing location of projects and clear legend. A sketch and hand drawn map is fine.
- ▶ Remember your adjudicator may have never visited your village/town before.
- ▶ Co-ordinates are always helpful – it is surprising the number of counties that have more than one village with the same name!
- ▶ Please ensure all priority projects are uniquely referenced on your map and legend.
- ▶ Define the area to be judged if it differs from speed limits signs

# The Plan

The plan should be built on a survey of the centre, (built environment, ACA's (Architectural Conservation Areas), natural environment SPA's (Special Protection Areas).

It does not need to be prepared by a professional

It should identify objectives to an appropriate timescale

Indicate strategies to be employed i.e. availability and use of resources

Indicate what has been achieved to date

Include SDG's met for each objective





# Common pitfalls and Recommendations

Feedback on  
addressing  
problems/challenges

Irrelevant material

Duplication

Lengthy submissions  
with numerous links

Cut and paste year on  
year

Don't list a project as  
new if it was new last  
year and the year  
before

If it is an ongoing  
project with new  
developments, clearly  
note this

# Community - Your Planning and Involvement



Desk adjudication - a first impression for the adjudicator



Shows inclusiveness, collaborations, awareness and breadth of community involvement



Remember to list all of your supporters



Structure, planning, resources and special considerations



Features, characteristics, history, facilities

# Streetscape and Public Places

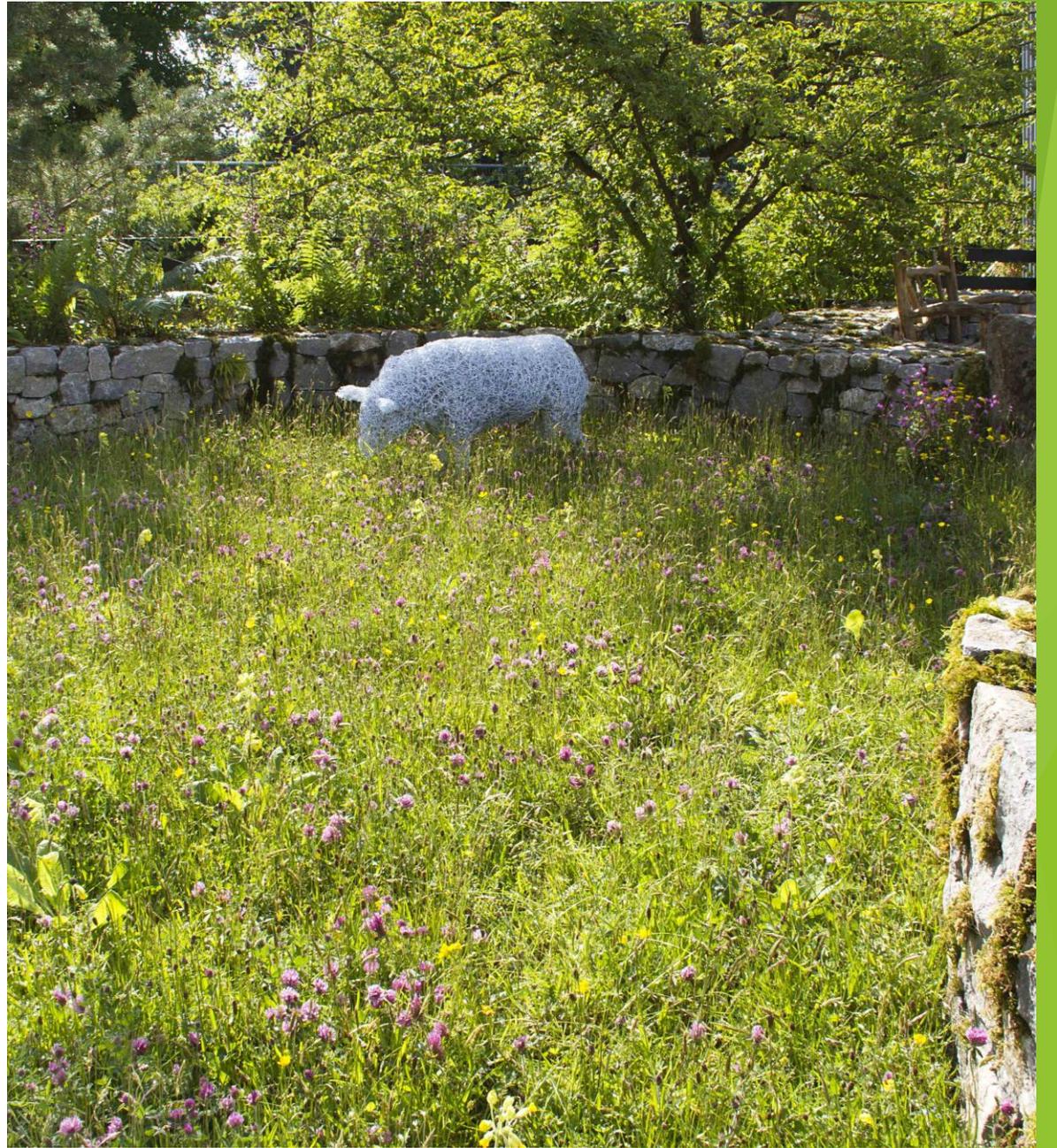
- ▶ Public and private buildings - including derelict sites and buildings
- ▶ Shopfronts and upper storeys
- ▶ Graveyards
- ▶ Public Places - streets, street furniture, paving, monuments, sculptures
- ▶ Overhead cables
- ▶ Signage
- ▶ Boundary Treatments



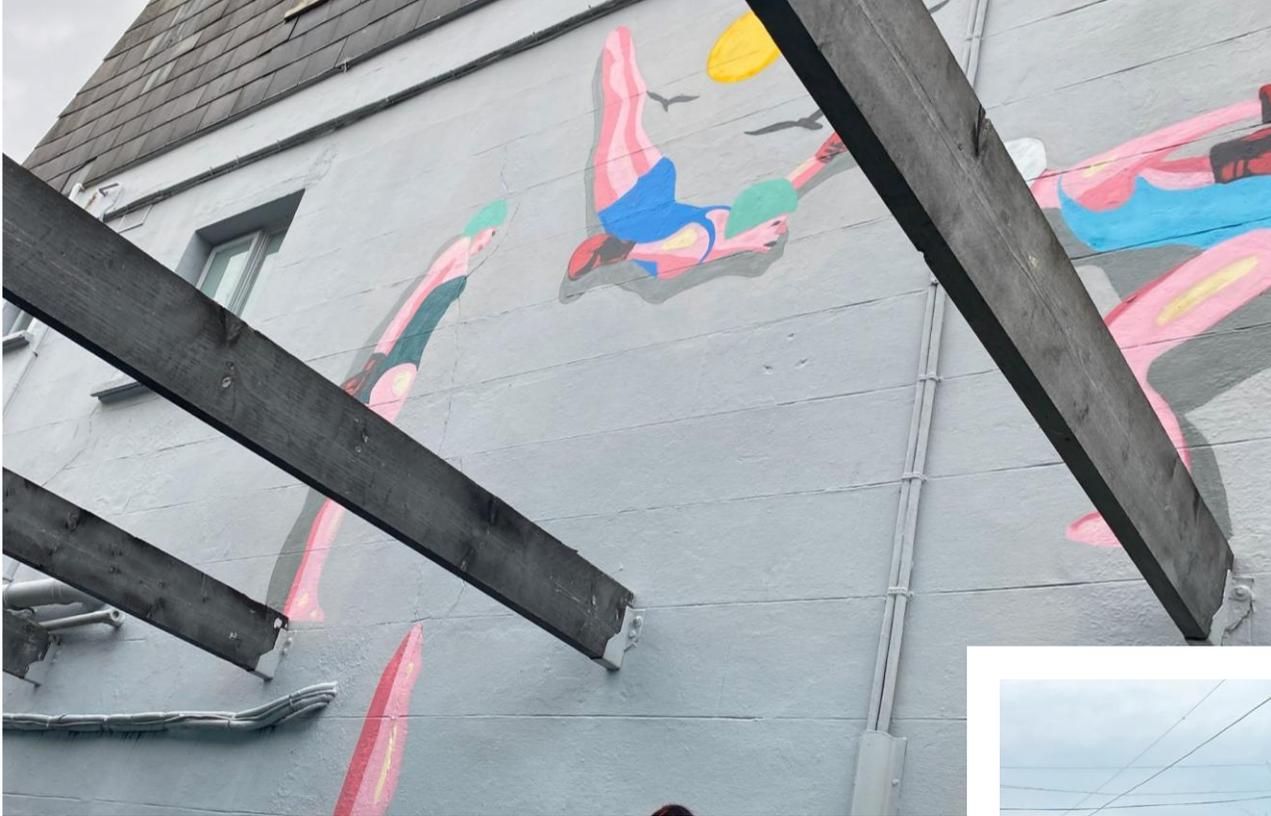


























IVE SCHOOL

No parking  
in this area

Centra

Centra

ALON TYRES

ALON TYRES

FURNITURE CARPETS &  
CONTRACT FLOORING Wh

TEL: 029 7011

# Derelict Sites

## Central Locations

- Contact owner
- Contact CC
- Screening
- Signage
- Guerrilla gardening (with permission)



Sustainable Planting  
Planned For This Area

Planted and  
Maintained by  
Tidy Towns



# Green Spaces & Landscaping

- ▶ Appropriate selection and siting of trees, hedges, shrubs and flowers for year round effect
- ▶ Maintenance of trees
- ▶ Incorporation of native and pollinator friendly plants
- ▶ Location, design and maintenance of planted areas
- ▶ Planning, design and management of green spaces
- ▶ Presentation of landscaping at entrances to village/town

# Note...

- ▶ Acceptance of less formal landscaping & integration of pollinator-friendly plants into schemes
- ▶ Plant Torture - do not butcher or shape plants into cubes or rectangles unless they are suited to topiary e.g. Box and Yew
- ▶ Try to use the correct plant that does not require severe pruning
- ▶ Think of flower and natural shape/habit











ROS-EO  
COMMUNITY  
CENTRE  
AND  
PRESCHOOL



CLONLARA  
G.A.A. PITCH

02/07/2025



Tourist Office  
Tús na hAchtá  
Tús na hAchtá

TOURIST OFFICE

Small sign on wall: Small sign on wall  
CHURCH STREET

RESIDENTS  
PARKING ONLY  
UNAUTHORIZED  
VEHICLES WILL  
BE CLAMPED

Small sign on wall: Small sign on wall  
T.C.A.





















Osclaíodh  
Faiche Mhullach Íde  
ag Méara Fhine Gall,  
An Comh. Daithí Ó hÉalaithe  
2 Meitheamh 2021

The Green Malahide  
Opened by  
The Mayor of Fingal,  
Councillor David Healy  
2 June 2021



# Nature & Biodiversity

- ▶ Knowing and Understanding Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality
- ▶ Habitats and Species in your Locality
- ▶ Actions for Nature and Biodiversity
- ▶ Awareness

# Remember...



- ▶ Use of acetic acid and salt as an 'alternative' weedkiller is a no-no
- ▶ Use of tyres as planters- leaching of toxic substances from the tyres can contaminate soil and leach into water courses
- ▶ Lack of care of trees once planted, especially ties and stakes and formative pruning
- ▶ Overuse of aggregate without sufficient stabiliser
- ▶ Lack of understanding of the creation of wildflower meadows





















**BUG HOTEL**  
GUESTS IN RESIDENCE  
PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB  
Ballyvaughan Cub Scouts

STOP

BUNRATTY  
Bug Hotel

02/07/2025





Pollinator  
Friendly Zone

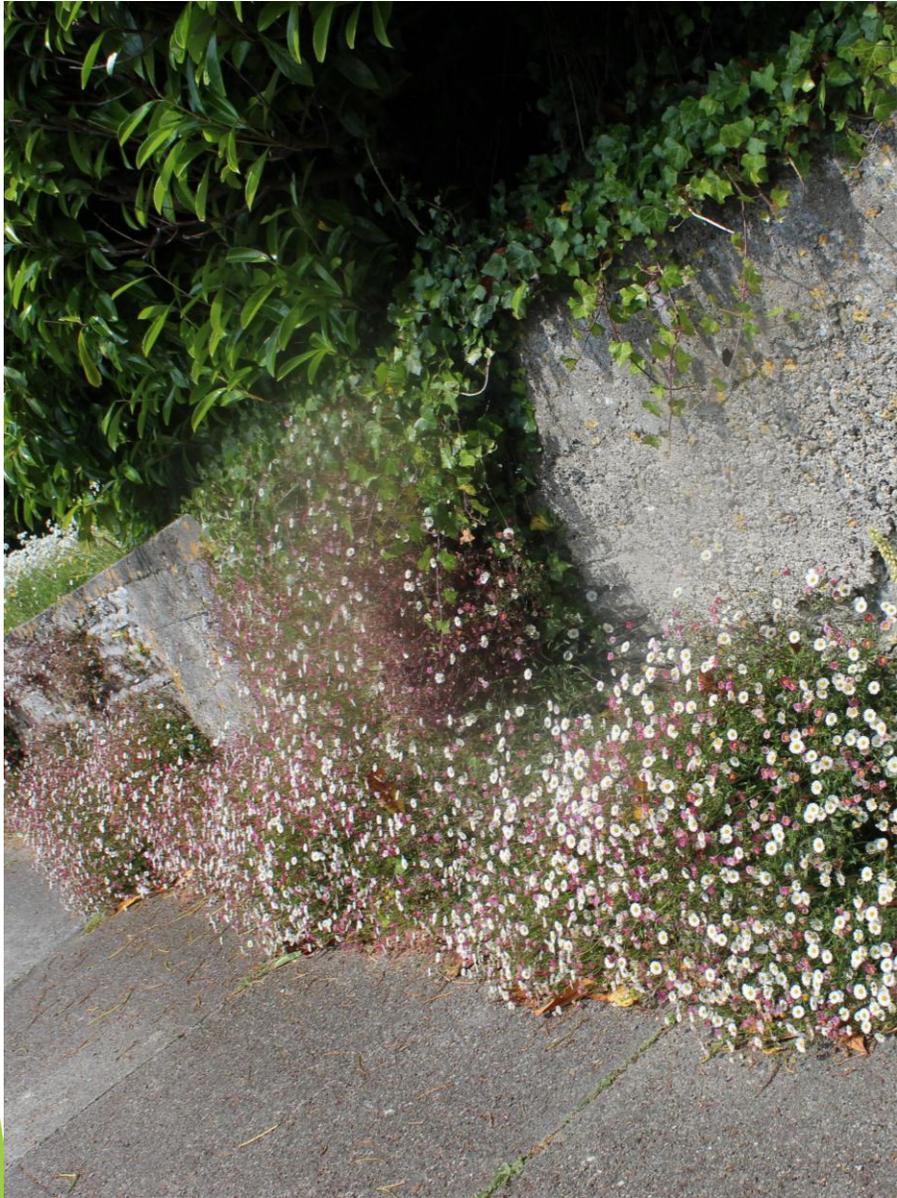
All Ireland Pollinator Plan

www.pollinators.ie

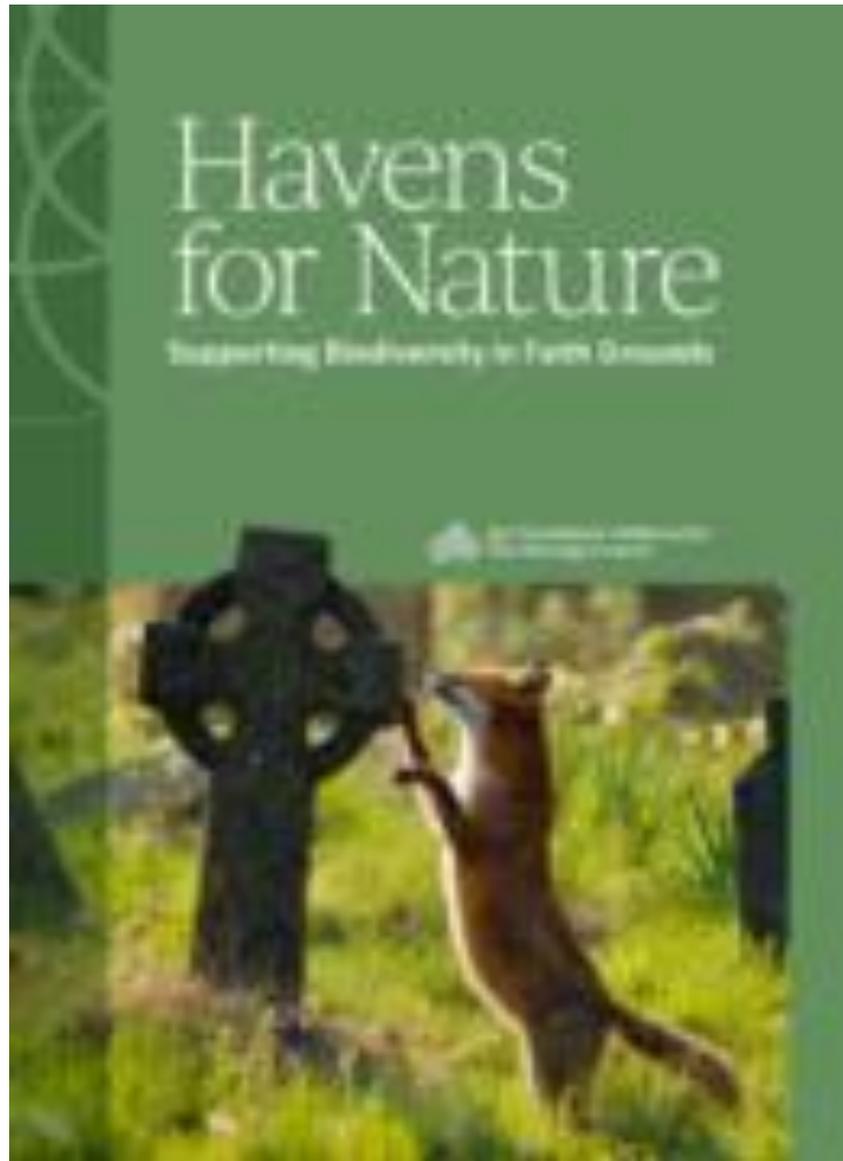












**An Chomhairle Oidhreachta**  
**The Heritage Council**



## Some suggested projects and supports

- ▶ Water monitoring with children & sampling sites regularly.
- ▶ Water testing in river catchments - Availing of Local Authority Water Programme <https://lawaters.ie/citizen-science/>
- ▶ Getting involved with River Trusts.
- ▶ NPWS Grants for Small Recording Projects for Communities.
- ▶ Monitoring success rate of Bird Boxes
- ▶ Making use of the various organisations providing trees either for free or at a reduced cost to groups
- ▶ Use collaborative approaches.
- ▶ Trees on the Land. [www.treesontheland.com](http://www.treesontheland.com) weeds Easy Treesie. [www.easytreesie.com](http://www.easytreesie.com)
- ▶ Pocket Forests. [www.pocketforests.ie](http://www.pocketforests.ie)
- ▶ ReForest Nation. Food Tree. [www.foodtree.ie](http://www.foodtree.ie) DC for Bees.
- ▶ Edible perennial food crops. <https://www.hostinireland.com/orchardsinthecommunity> back orchards

# Tidiness and Litter Control

- ❑ Lack of physical and visual clutter
- ❑ Presentation of signage
- ❑ Absence of inappropriate advertisement hoardings
- ❑ Redundant and useless poles, prevalence of graffiti and flyposting
- ❑ Presence of unsightly overhead wires
- ❑ Traffic management and parking arrangements
- ❑ General weed and plant management
- ❑ Treatment of vacant buildings; derelict / undeveloped sites; management of graveyards.
- ❑ Presentation of street furniture





www.bringbanks.ie

**Bring Banks**

**Gléanna dathanna éagsúla i ngabháin ar leith**  
**Separate your glass by colour**

 Casac ar Chiorraimh & Ceiribhíochtaí  
Dishes or Ceramics
 Casac ar Shuithí Gléanna & Pheallgléanna  
No Drinking Glass or Plate Glass
 Casac ar Earráil Píreice  
No "Pyrex" Cookware

**Coinnigh do cheantar slachtmhar.**  
**Help keep your area Tidy.**

Tobhair do mhálaí agus do charmchár abhaile leat  
Please bring your bags & carboard home with you

To sé i gceann an di drámhail a fhógáil sa cheantar seo.  
It is illegal to leave waste in this area.

Fíorfoidh CCTV a bheith i bhfeidhm anseo.  
Covert CCTV may be in operation.

**Beolne Bruscair: 1800 20 10 93**  
**Litter Hotline: 1800 20 10 93**

**Gloine Dhomh Brown Glass**

**Gloine Dhomh Brown Glass**

**Gloine Ghlas Green Glass**

**Cannai Cans**







POST



**GO ON**  
**slushies**  
Great Flavours  
only **€1**

**Amber**  
ENGINE OIL  
UNLEADED / DIESEL.

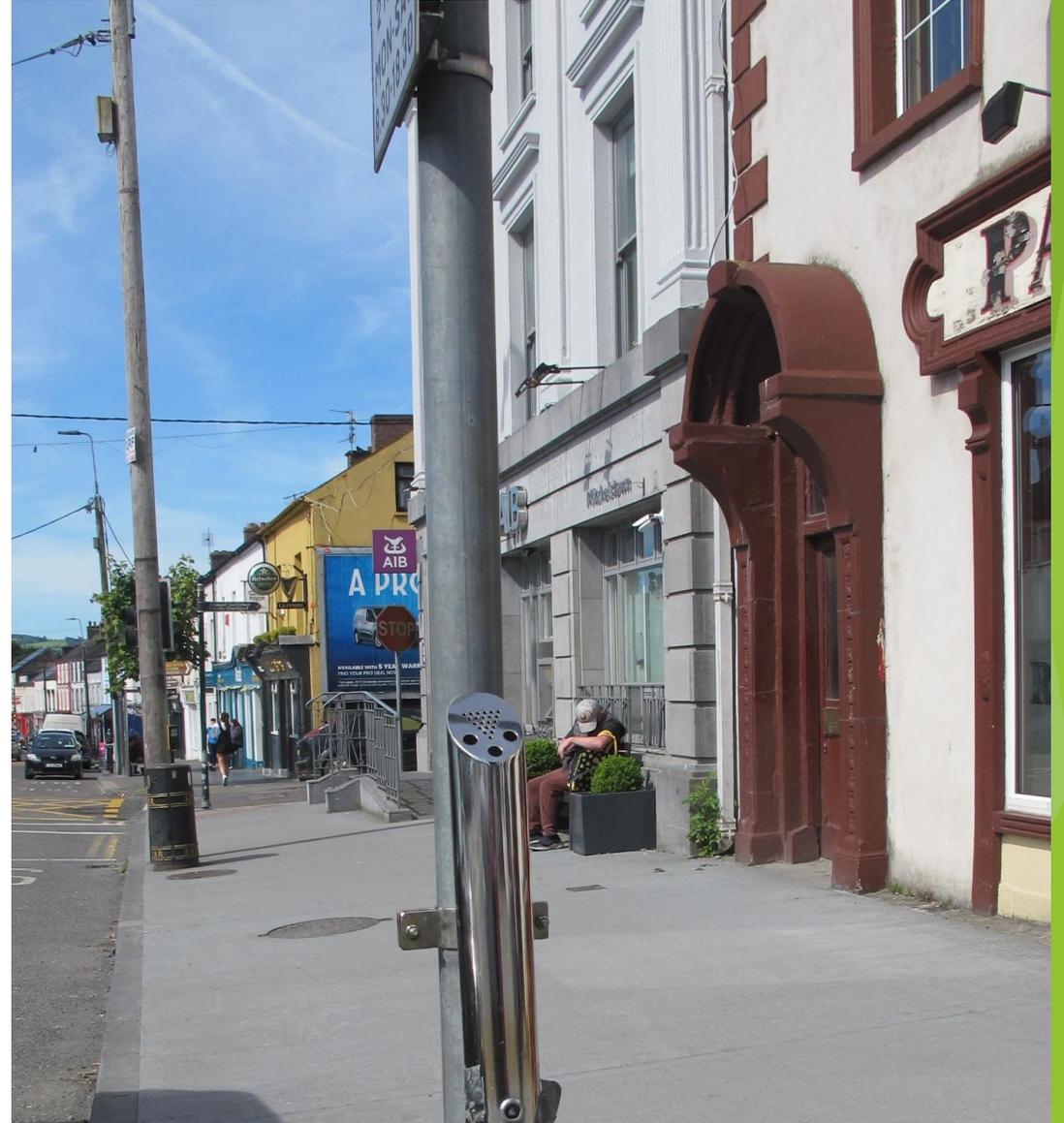


**Amber**  
HOME HEATING OIL.  
AGRICULTURAL GREEN DIESEL.  
HYDRAULIC OIL.



**Cool**  
**slushies**





# Residential Streets & Housing Areas

- ▶ The presentation and appearance of:
- ▶ Private dwellings including their roadside boundary walls, fences and private open spaces
- ▶ Communal open spaces - their maintenance, presentation, function and universal accessibility
- ▶ Landscaping
- ▶ Estate signage and entrances
- ▶ Links to town centre and facilities



Residents  
parking  
only

Residents  
parking  
only

RESIDENTS  
ONLY











Baile Uisce  
BALLISK





30 km/h  
Crios Mall SLOW ZONE

t Bhaile An Ridire  
BROTHERY COURT

SV

172-D-4360

TRUCKS & VEHICLES



02/07/2025

# 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

# Observations

- Nice where TT work with landowners and farmers on management of hedges etc on approach roads



- Metal sculptures/ art projects on approach roads



- Grass strips between road and pavement allow to have flowers eg ox-eye daisies



Often planting can be damaged by road salt



WESTMANSTOWN  
SPORTS CENTRE  
CORRIGAN  
CASTLENOCK HOTEL  
AND GOLF CLUB  
Order Condo at Black, Old Golf  
Leabharlann  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
Cluain Gaotha  
CLONEE

  
  
Timpeallan Chluain Saileach  
CLONSILLA ROUNDABOUT







Bóthar An Chuain  
HARBOUR ROAD



City of Toronto  
AFFAIRS & COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
CUSTOMS & EXCISE



02/07/2025



↑ R108 Sord  
SWORDS ✈

← Ros Eó  
R129 RUSH

An Seanbhaile →  
OLDTOWN R129

Baile Gháire  
GARRISTOWN (R130)



# Beyond the Litter Pick:

Sustainability & Waste Reduction  
in Tidy Towns



# Sustainability is a key component in all Tidy Towns categories

Community Involvement

Green Spaces

Streetscapes

Biodiversity

Litter Control

Approach Roads & Streets

Residential

# The Sustainable Development Goals



# Sustainable Development Goals







# SDG Example

(Ref: Shannon Tidy Towns)

- ▶ Our National Spring Clean has become a real community occasion. By removing litter from the local environment, we are supporting marine life in the Estuary (SDG 14) and wildlife (SDG 15).
- ▶ We communicate the event using Facebook and a poster in the town centre to engage with the wider community (SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities & Communities).
- ▶ We approached local businesses to support us with post-litter-pick refreshments and asked the Council biodiversity officer to share the information (SDG 17 - Partnership for the Goals).
- ▶ This year we've involved with the National & Secondary Schools where they've accepted our invitation to participate in the National Spring Clean during school hours.
- ▶ We hope that participating in this activity builds the students skills as active citizens (SDG 4.7).



# The Circular Economy

# Where to start - Waste



Liaise with waste collectors and gather some facts and figures



Aim to reduce waste over a period of time



Raise awareness, encourage the community, set a goal, incentivify



Monitor the figures



Inform the community of improvements (or otherwise)



Praise the wins and the winners

# PLASTIC REDUCTION

1. **Ban Single-Use Plastics:** Advocate for a ban on single-use plastics like straws, cutlery, and plates. Encourage local businesses to switch to eco-friendly alternatives.
2. **Set Up Water Stations:** Install water refill stations to reduce the need for bottled water. Encourage people to carry reusable water bottles.
3. **Organize Plastic-Free Challenges:** Host monthly challenges where community members try to go plastic-free for a week or a month. Share tips and support each other.
4. **Educate and Raise Awareness:** Conduct workshops and campaigns to educate people about the environmental impact of plastic and how to reduce its use.
5. **Support Local Zero-Waste Stores:** Promote and support stores that offer products with minimal or no plastic packaging.
6. **Encourage Bulk Buying:** Encourage buying in bulk to reduce packaging waste. Set up a community bulk-buying group to make it easier and more affordable.
7. **Raise Awareness:** Micro plastics are everywhere. Start a campaign to reduce them. Swop plastic chopping boards for wooden ones. Encourage use of tea leaves instead of tea bags or at least use tea bags without plastics .....

# Practical Tips for everyone

Adjust your thermostat with a smart thermostat

Use energy-efficient appliances

Turn off lights when not in use

Unplug devices when they're not being used

Seal windows and doors

Use LED light bulbs

Wash clothes in cold water

Limit the use of hot water

Use public transportation

Practice mindful cooking

Install solar panels for renewable energy

Use power strips

Maintain your heating and cooling systems

Insulate your home

Educate others on energy conservation

# Where are the points?

## Innovation

Evidence of awareness raising - surveys, workshops, demonstrations

Set targets, measure, inform

Engagement with businesses and industry

Involvement with local schools and colleges

Quantify, quantify, quantify

# Circular Cups for Community Events in the Southern Region









# Networking for support



Use all local contacts



Talk to your Environmental Awareness Officer



Research campaigns



Piggyback on existing campaigns



Brainstorm

# Some campaigns...

 **Cig Butt** 

Cigarette butts continue to be Ireland's biggest litter scourge accounting for almost half of discarded waste according to recent research by the National Litter Pollution Monitoring system

**In Dromiskin...**



330 butts were collected within the core village area on one daily litter pick recently



with in excess of 200 collected most days



offences are subject to an on the spot fine of €150.

**From the chairman...**

 "some people may see the initiative as somewhat gimmicky but if it is a gimmick that creates awareness and encourages smokers to dispose of their butts in a proper manner then it is an initiative certainly worth supporting"

 "Our volunteers find litter control one of the most frustrating and repetitive elements of our work programme"

 "really shouldn't take up so much time if people disposed of litter properly as required by the law"

**Butt Box**

Ginney's Pond	Heritage Park

The Butt Box will ask smokers to dispose of their butts while voting for their preferred public space - Dromiskin Heritage Park or Ginney's Pond. It will be interesting to see if the initiative will lead to a reduction in cigarette butt litter as it has been proven to do elsewhere in the country

*Did you know that the distance your food travels has serious consequences for your health and the climate?*

**FOOD 'MILES'.....**

**More local food bought - more local farmers!**  
Ingredients which are fresh, locally produced and in season means better tasting food on your table!

**Long distances travelled by planes, trains and automobiles leads to less taste and more global warming!**

**Energy consumption means food from afar has a greater carbon footprint - not good for the environment!**

**So buy fresh, buy local, buy smart!**

*What YOU can do to help keep our air clean and healthy....*

By choosing local produce you can:

- reduce fuel consumption
- alleviate global warming
- strengthen the local economy and
- protect the environment...

**So remember!**

- Look at labels to see how far your food has travelled
- Ask your local grocery stores, restaurants and cafes to carry more local foods!
- Choose local produce when it's in season
- Whenever possible, grow your own!

Check out "Grow it Yourself Ireland" at [www.gyiinternational.org](http://www.gyiinternational.org) for further information!

**Buy Fresh  
Buy Local  
Buy Smart**



 **DARK SKY IRELAND**

Dark Sky Ireland is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to ensuring Ireland's nightscapes are celebrated, restored and protected for present and future generations of all living things.

Imitation is the greatest form of flattery



A white kayak is positioned in the center of a calm lake, viewed from a front-facing perspective. The water is still, reflecting the sky and the surrounding greenery. The background shows a distant shoreline with trees and buildings. The entire image is overlaid with a green geometric design consisting of various shades of green triangles and polygons, creating a modern, abstract look.

Thank You