

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Ballinasloe - Béal Átha Na Sluaighe</b>	Ref: <b>190</b>
County: <b>Galway</b>	Mark: <b>322</b>
Category: <b>E</b>	Date(s): <b>04/07/2022</b>

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	47	48
Streetscape & Public Places	80	42	44
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	47	48
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	38	38
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	21	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	51
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	36	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	34	35
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>322</b>

### Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Fáilte Chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu 2022. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn. Go raibh maith agaibh as ucht bhur dtacaíocht le linn na paindéime. Lean leis an dea-obair. Welcome to the 2022 SuperValu TidyTowns competition, and thank you for your application, map and providing so many photographs, which is much appreciated. There is obviously a great amount of support within Ballinasloe with 20 members on the Committee and an additional 30 volunteers. Like many towns and villages, you have had to improvise to continue your great work during pandemic times, and have done that through electronic meetings and calls, and to get stuck in again once restrictions were lifted, and it is great to hear that you have made sure to include all of your community, including new resident groups and communities to help keep your town looking well for everyone. I really like the 'Adopt an Area' campaign, which sounds like a great way to get people really engaged in their chosen area, and perhaps even lead to some friendly competition. It is really interesting to see the varied and wide number of groups that you engage with, including everyone from your local Community Employment Project, Walking groups, sports groups, residents associations, and the Probation Services, as well as government bodies and agencies, a very inclusive mix! Well done also on the work that you have done with local schools on the daffodil planting project at Churchill to help Cancer charities.

### Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:

As with so many towns and villages across rural Ireland, you are dealing with some dereliction, and it is good to see that you have a specific plan in place to tackle this, with 3 buildings being renovated at Churchill. Often this has a very positive knock on effect, the 'rising tide lifts all boats' effect, and it has also been proven that if buildings are left neglected, in usually leads to further dereliction, so we wish you the very best of luck with your work on this. Public buildings of note included the recently refurbished Garda Station, the work done on the Presbyterian Church, with more to do, as well as the project for the Old Bank Chambers on Society Street, which sounds like a very exciting initiative.

A lot being done in this realm within Ballinasloe with development work planned for the Tennis Club, the refurbishment of the service block at the Marina, new footpaths, upgrade works in train for the Leisure Centre playground and a new cycle track, well done!

We will be watching with interest to see if the plans for the purchase of Garbally House work out, and we look forward to hopefully seeing this purchased and open to the public in the future.

### Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The daffodils on Churchill must be a really cheerful sight to behold in Spring, and it is fantastic to see that this planting was achieved by various groups working together, including Youth Groups, Ballinasloe Training for Employment, as well as Ballinasloe Tidy Towns, and the fact that they were then used for Daffodil Day to raise funds for local charities, bravo!. It is also noted that you are encouraging biodiversity and natural flowers by allowing this to be a 'low mow' area, and that you also plan to grow some pollinator friendly plants as well as use native Irish seeds.

### **Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:**

Work you are doing in this category includes low mow and no mow areas in order to help pollinators and encourage our bees. St. Michael's Church car park includes a flower bed, you are also doing great work to clean up and maintain the Poolboy bog area, which is sure to help with biodiversity and encourage flora and fauna to flourish here.

### **Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:**

There seems to be a lot of support within your community to embrace the sustainability message with many organisations doing their bit in order to 'reduce, reuse, and recycle'. The Rugby Club have had several 'Cash or Clobber' collections which not only reduces the amount of clothes going to landfill, but also raises funds, repurposes items, and most likely ensure that people may think a bit more about 'fast fashion' and its implications for our resources. Another campaign is that of segregating plastic, glass, cans etc. as well as encouraging the use of reusable bottles rather than one use bottles.

The project by Ballinasloe Training for Employment Community has also got a very worthwhile goal of ensuring that all office waste is recycled properly rather than go to landfill. It is also really interesting to hear that shredded paper is being used as bedding for chickens and horses, with food waste also being used to feed the chickens, some really good projects that I am sure other towns and villages would be interested in, well done.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Litter is obviously a major issue for the town, but one that you are doing a huge amount of work to address, well done on your regular, year round Saturday morning clean-ups to address litter in blackspot areas, work by resident's associations, as well as other major clean ups great work!.

You mention on your form that Ballinasloe has a significant issues with fly-tipping and illegal dumping, so you are to be applauded for the work you are doing in trying to tackle this head on, not an easy thing to do unfortunately, so well done on getting the walks and approach roads in Poolboy Bog virtually litter free, and best of luck with all you are doing in order to maintain it like this.

It is great to hear that regular clean-ups have been organized by your local Friends of the Environment Group in the unique bog area, and very impressive to read that over three hundred bags of rubbish have been removed, and that Galway County Council are assisting with getting rid of larger items.

The idea that you have to identify all the natural habitat of flora and fauna growing in this area is really good, and maybe that is something that you can also get the local schools interested or involved in?.

### **Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:**

The residential regeneration project between Dooley's Corner and the Mount project will surely give this area an uplift, and the idea of having a community hub or resource sounds like a way to help integrate this even better to the rest of the town. Other work being done at Dun Esker Estate, including power washing, painting and work on flower beds. The landscaping project which is being funded under the Galway County Council Community Supports Scheme sounds like a great initiative and it is impressive to hear that this is being driven by the residents themselves.

### **Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:**

You are doing a good job on the approach roads to Ballinasloe, which are all really well maintained with regard to landscaping and grass verges, as well as footpaths. The Garbally roundabout in particular is a credit to the town.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

It was a pleasure to visit Ballinasloe, and despite some of the challenges that you are facing, you are doing a tremendous amount of work to overcome these, particularly in relation to litter control, well done, and best of luck with your work in the future.