

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Brosna - Brosnach</b>	Ref: <b>276</b>
County: <b>Kerry</b>	Mark: <b>299</b>
Category: <b>B</b>	Date(s): <b>12/07/2022</b>

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	37	37
Streetscape & Public Places	80	38	39
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	37	38
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	32	32
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	17	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	36	37
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	35	35
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>299</b>

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu don bhliain 2022. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo.  
Adh Mór...

Welcome to the 2022 SuperValu TidyTowns competition and thank you for your application form, map and photos. It's wonderful to be able to visit the communities this year and see the results of the hard-working volunteers. Your committee of ten has an additional thirty who assist when a job needs to be done or untidiness need attention. Your list the agencies and individual who support you including the local businesses. We see that you have a Facebook page in addition to communicating in the newspapers etc. Being in contact with the local National School is admirable – continue with this. You have participated in the Tidy Towns competition since 2000 and see that the appearance of the village has improved through the painting projects, and planting trees and shrubs throughout the village. Your map (while taken from Google) needs to have information added in a clear manner. It took us a while to decipher which way was north and also where we were in the village when we arrived. Please mark the location of importance structure such as the church, school, perhaps a shop or public house so as to help the adjudicators from now on. We also ask that you list the activities and projects AFTER the introductory information of each category and not in the middle, as it took us a while to find that you had in fact written something. Use a different typeface which will also help separate your writing from that of the form. And lastly insert the photos into the relevant category rather than sending them as separate documents.

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

You are a rural village with a mix of vernacular single and two-storey buildings and these with the topography of the village, its climbing roads and wide-open area in the centre, gives your village its character. The dominate buildings in the village are the RC St Carthage church, Scoil Mhuire national school, the Garda Station and the GAA building. The wide open area in the centre is very barren. This is badly in need of landscaping to improve the aspect – add trees, a seating area with planting etc. Hopefully you have this as one of your future projects. The restoration of the Handball Alley, was noted and the murals which show life in Brosna down the years were admired. The derelict creamery does not appear to have been painted this year – perhaps you had that note in from 2021? Like many rural towns in Ireland, you have some unoccupied/derelict properties which detracts from the streetscape and we see that you are trying to resolve this problem. We commend you on the work you have done with some of the derelict /unoccupied buildings and contacting the derelict site officer in KCC is the correct approach if you cannot resolve the issue with the owners. You have a number of flat iron gates which are quite beautiful but in need of painting. We also noted the C.S. & W.R sign warning us of a forty shilling fine.

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

The main structural elements in the landscape are trees and there are many places in Brosna where trees would enhance the buildings and streetscape. We have already mentioned the large open area in the centre of the village. In addition, trees along the main street are also badly needed. These can be planted in buildouts along the streetscape – we have seen this very successfully undertaken in other areas and Dublin City Council are now adopting this approach along many of their city centre residential roads. Trees are known to have a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing. By planting and caring for trees, you help reduce pollution, improve your surroundings, improve the appearance of your community and increase the value of your property. In addition, they provide shade for humans, food for insects and food roosting sites and nesting sites for birds. We admire the sleeper surrounded planting bed opposite the old creamery – add some colourful pollinator-friendly flowers to add extra interest. We visited the picnic area beside the river – this area can be improved and should be on your project list. We noted the trees in the creamery site and see that they are growing quite well. Hopefully the new owners of the site will retain them when undertaking the development. The landscape area around St. Molling's Well and on the pathway to the well was quite overgrown and was unpleasant.

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

Being located in a rural area you are surrounded by tall trees, fields, hedgerows, the river, stone walls and all of which are habitats for our flora and fauna. But with this rich natural area surrounding your community it is important that you promote an awareness of its many traits and to map these habitats. Appreciating your local wildlife resources is vital in order to achieve under this category. In this regard researching and raising awareness is more important than 'doing' at the early stages. Have you undertaken any study of the area? We note that your national school is very involved in many Nature and Biodiversity programmes, 'which in turn will educate the wider population of the parish for the years to come'. But more than this is needed in order to retain what you have, so that it's not lost to these future generations. We also advise that you visit the National Biodiversity website and examine the booklet 'Local Communities: Actions to help Pollinators' and put a list of the plants which are good for our pollinators on your Facebook page and perhaps on the notice board in the church. Having a No Mow in May helps the pollinators but we also have clover flowering in July so maybe introduce No Mow in July next year.

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

This is a category where many communities struggle but truthfully it is just about being aware of how we use the resources of the planet so that we cut down on our waste. This category is about tackling the growing waste mountain that is creating problems of pollution, unwanted land use, and the use of dwindling resources. It is a global and a local problem. To save the Earth we need to move quickly to a zero-waste society. Educating both young and old in Sustainability – doing more with less is crucial so that we advance our knowledge in how we use the resources of the planet in order to cut down on our waste. Tidy towns committees are encouraged to try and prevent the generation of waste when carrying out their day-to-day activities. It is recommended that you get the basics right and focus on simple but effective measures. For example, you could make your own compost for use in your landscaping schemes as this avoids all of the associated packaging and other waste that comes with shop bought fertilisers. Using waste or surplus products (like timber) to make planters are other items like bird boxes and seating benches is also encouraged. Avoiding chemically based pesticides in favour of weeding by hand or naturally based alternatives should also be considered. Undertaking all of these actions will enable you to avoid generating waste in the first place and allow you to lead by example in your community. We see that you collect rainwater and use it for watering flowers and shrubs, which is admirable. You also use organic sprays to protect roses and in addition do not use glyphosate weed killer around the village. The vegetable patch, herb bed, willows, glass house etc in the school were all noted. But advise them not to use glyphosate weed killer along their grass edges.

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

Like many communities in Kerry, you took part in the Kerry Clean-Up Week in April and also the Spring Clean-Up – we commend the community on this as it focuses the attention of a community on the need to be vigilant on litter, fly-tipping and weed growth. It is very disappointing to read that you collected over 200 bags of rubbish which had accumulated just over the winter. When we visited the centre of the village was virtually litter free but unfortunately weed growth was also noticed at kerbs, base of walls and in open gravel areas in most areas which gave an unkempt feel. We suggest that the litter pick up volunteers also become weed removal volunteers and ask them to bring a hoe or wire brush and to also remove weed growth. The large gravel areas and base of walls in gravel areas can be sprayed with organic weed killer or a mix of vinegar, salt and washing up liquid. The walkway to St Molling Well was unpleasant with briar growth blocking our way. If you have a facility such as this it must be maintained. You also mentioned that you had added gravel along the path but unfortunately the grass and weeds had grown up through the gravel. We wonder if a row of paving slabs would be a better solution where you can mow the grass and just leave the slabs as stepping stone in between to provide a more pleasant walkway. The area around the well was also unkempt. The top corners of the walls of the ball alley need to be repaired – it's a pity that wasn't undertaken when you painted the murals as that would have been more beneficial to the structure.

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

The houses on the approach roads are a mix of bungalows and farmhouses with yards and outbuildings. All were well maintained and those with garden had trees, shrubs and colourful floral displays with great varieties of pollinator-friendly planting. The village houses are primarily terraced and many had been freshly painted in a great variety of strong, bold, colours which added to the streetscape. Many had window boxes or hanging baskets which added to the beauty of the streetscape. One house had a great display of climbing roses – beautiful. Cois Aobhinn residents had also well-maintained houses and here boundary walls were painted in addition to the facades, and

gardens had shrubs, flowers and an odd house had a specimen tree which gave added drama. Please compliment the residents for the presentation of their houses and of the open spaces.

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

The roads were in a fair condition but road markings are quite worn and non-existent in some areas. We admired the Welcome to Brosna signs and the landscaped beds are very pleasant with a variety of shrubs. Most, however, had a lot of weed growth which detracted a little from them. We suggest you use bark mulch around the plants which will help reduce weed growth. Mulching reduces the need for watering, protects the bare soil, creates new soil over time and creates a habitat for many important creatures. We were delighted to see that a footpath (and public lighting) extends from the village to the GAA facilities so as to encourage all to walk rather than drive.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

We were happy visit your village, our first visit, and thoroughly enjoyed our stay as we meandered around taking in the sights. We suggest you consult the Tidy Towns Handbook (online) for more project ideas to consider under the various criteria. You need to make reference to the Sustainable Development Goals. Tidy Towns in conjunction with Limerick City and County Council ran a webinar on the SDGs in 2021 and the presentation is worth reading as it will be helpful for your application next year.

The link is : [https://www.limerick.](https://www.limerick.ie/sites/default/files/media/documents/2021-03/sustainable-development-goals-helpful-hints.pdf)

[ie/sites/default/files/media/documents/2021-03/sustainable-development-goals-helpful-hints.pdf](https://www.limerick.ie/sites/default/files/media/documents/2021-03/sustainable-development-goals-helpful-hints.pdf)

Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2022 competition.