

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Listerlin - Lios ar Glinn** Ref: **2248**  
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **226**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **04/07/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	39	40
Streetscape & Public Places	80	23	25
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	26	27
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	13	15
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	14	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	45	46
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	28	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	27	28
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>226</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 Tidy Towns Competition Listerlin. I was very much looking forward to visiting your village when I heard of your tremendous success last year in receiving an Endeavour Award and a COVID-19 Community Award. And I wasn't disappointed; for such a small village you really are achieving great outcomes for only your fourth year entering the National Competition. It is clear you are also taking on board the comments from previous Adjudicators, reducing your submission from 85 to 29 pages, excellent work and much appreciated by this adjudicator! You could reduce this further by removing the introductory text under each section – this is provided as a guide to entrants only and not needed in your final submission. You submitted an application that was succinct, aligned to the SDGs (though some, such as the water pump and SDG15 are a little hard to connect), had before and after photos as well as indicating if these projects were N,M or FP. This is no small feat, longer established committees are still grappling with all of the above and in the space of a year you have taken a monumental leap forward – inspirational. Your map and synopsis 5 Year Plan were also excellent and illustrates you have developed a clear roadmap up to 2025. With a population of 156 you still manage to leverage a volunteer resource of 28 people, impressive. This number will no doubt grow with your continued success. I see that you have accessed specialist supports in terms of labour and machinery or one-off events like the National Spring Clean; this is a great way to foster community involvement for those who cannot commit to more regular meet-ups. Again, despite being relatively new to the competition you appear to have nailed the whole area of networking and communication with the wider community and other organisations; from the GAA to businesses and local authority. Well done on your work with the local school and tying in with larger events like World Bee Day.

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

Your flagship project for this year was the water pump and I must admit it looks wonderful. It is also at a focal point in the village and the way in which you used it as a vigil for Ashling Murphy was touching and very poignant. Well done to the local shop for upgrading their forecourt. During my visit it looked very well with ox-eye daisy in planters and wonderful outdoor seating for customers. Lovely choice of colours for the postbox, reflecting the green in the box itself as well as the planting in front and on the walls either side – a real feature. I also agree with the change in railing colour for the herb garden; which like everything else in Listerlin was maintained to an exceptional standard. Whilst the relocated tap is welcome – could you investigate developing water-butts here instead to conserve this precious resource? Also, not sure how this project aligns to SDG10! As for the extension works to the local school, don't worry – this is never something you would lose points over. Finally, I loved the mural on the boundary wall of the local pub from 2019; looks like it has been well maintained and your regular mowing to expose it no doubt also reduces the need to repaint it.

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

Much of the projects here are classed as 'M', I say this as a positive as you are developing and maintaining them to a very high standard. Some groups feel we require new projects every year, this is not the case and you should only develop such projects that fit in with your needs. Consider using perennials in your planters, you say they are cleaned out and replanted each year – even a combination of annuals and perennials. It will also save you money in the longterm. The herb garden was fantastic, I would love to have one where I live. So often we buy herbs and they go off leading to food waste.

It is great to be able to avail of specialist horticultural/tree planting advice from Dr. Grace and Dr. McCarthy – make sure to capitalize on this opportunity. Your efforts are also not going unnoticed – with the beautiful thank you card from the local students acknowledging your ongoing work for the greater good.

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

Well done on securing permission for additional tree planting – this will help with both the biodiversity and climate crisis; a win-win. Adopting measures like No-Mow May are excellent and it also helps you foster new partnerships in the village. There was an extensive area in the local church grounds which was great to see. You also have a tremendous grasp of the issues affecting biodiversity, evidenced in your 'Wildlife Corridors' initiative. This is wonderful to see as very often people do not realise that wildlife need these corridors to survive. You are actively spreading this message with locals, thereby increasing their awareness. I also really liked your wildflowers publication. Your endeavours in this category are laudable but too many to go through in detail – just to summarise; Listerlin are one of the strongest entrants in this category that this Adjudicator has seen... AMAZING work. However, I was very surprised to see you had not entered the Pollinator Special Award. Definitely reconsider for next year as though not adjudicated on by the Tidy Towns (it is by the sponsors of each award) I think you would be very strong contenders.

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

There is some duplication in this category with regard to bulbs and seeds – always try and pick the category you feel a project aligns with best. Adjudicators are aware that one project can often contribute to 1,2 or even 3 areas so don't worry. You have some great projects here from the upcycled bird bath to a salvaged pump. You are also receiving great support from the local shop from their participation in the WEEE Scheme to helping support local producers - a real team effort. Segregation of litterpicks is very time intensive but so much better in the longterm to keep recyclables in the system, well done. You are exemplars of doing thoughtful yet impactful initiatives. Though a small change; circulating agendas electronically saves trees in the longterm and using social media helps to share learnings with other groups.

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

Listerlin was 100% litter-free during my visit. Well done on upping the frequency of litterpicks – this will no doubt help with the added workload of cleaning and segregating your waste. I am intrigued by your dashcam surveillance. Have you had an incident where someone was caught and the information relayed to the local authority? You are committed to volunteer safety with your hi-vis vests but as you also point out it is a great way to have your presence felt in the locality. Your collaboration with the local school is fostering a sense of active citizenship and the commitment to zero herbicide is also a major bonus to local biodiversity.

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

Well done on supporting local residents with more wildlife friendly gardening aids, like the AIPP leaflets and your wildlife corridors project – a wonderful example of community-led activism that satisfies a range of categories in the Tidy Towns competition. I noted the homeowners (by the water pump) pollinator commitment during my visit and it looked wonderful. Well done on bringing my attention to the boundary wall issue. I had noted this and was going to mention it under Tidiness & Litter Control but by alerting me to the fact ye are engaging with the owner I know this is well in hand.

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

Your approach roads were well maintained and it was wonderful to see the planters underneath the village signs, complimenting but not obscuring them. I really like the 'Ladies Bench', commemorating Ann and Margaret. You are the second village who has adopted the farmgate painting approach to demarcate the village – love it! You once again re focusing on maintaining a wide variety of projects you have started. Well done; as a result your village is beautiful – no matter which road you approach it from.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Listerlin, I have no doubt you will have a meteoric rise in this competition. Definitely one to watch but in the meantime as you develop projects also keep an eye on the Special Awards.