

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Haggardstown - Baile Hagaird</b>	Ref: <b>2274</b>
County: <b>Louth</b>	Mark: <b>205</b>
Category: <b>D</b>	Date(s): <b>29/06/2022</b>

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2022</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	31
Streetscape & Public Places	80	30
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	30
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	20
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	34
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	20
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	20
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>205</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... Haggardstown is very welcome to the Tidy Towns Competition. We are delighted to have you participate in the competition and wish you many years success.

Thank you for your entry form with map. To have a core committee of 6 on your Tidy Towns Committee, plus 60 extra volunteers, is an excellent start and we hope that you continue to receive such impressive community support in the coming years.

You hold meetings monthly and management meetings bi-monthly and have good support from Connect Credit Union. Try to get further support from local agencies, bodies and businesses to spread the ask a little. You communicate via emails, with articles in local newspapers and have an active Facebook page.

It is good news that you work with the local schools and that you have a member of your committee who is also on the parents' council. Collaboration with the local schools is a vital part of Tidy Towns Committee work as they play such a huge part in the life of any local town or village.

The Tidy Towns Handbook has been careful compiled to help Tidy Towns Groups to establish a structure that is manageable and does not overwhelm any one person or indeed group of people. It is a process that does not happen overnight and all groups are urged to be realistic in their expectations and work at a pace that you feel you can manage. Please do work through the Handbook, as a committee to ensure that you have covered the basics and that the groundwork is in place. You may find, as many committees do, that your committee needs to be bigger in order to spread the workload and ensure the burden is not unfairly on any one person's shoulders. A skills audit is an excellent way to identify the right person for the right task. It is all about team work for the good of the community. This is an excellent time in the life of Haggardstown to start a Tidy Towns Committee as it does appear that you are expanding with new businesses and housing estates being built.

The cornerstone of a Tidy Towns programme is the preparation of a plan. This can be a very simple outline of your intended projects and actions for the forthcoming three to five years and should represent an agreed vision of what the Tidy Towns committee aim to achieve for their area.

Do remember that there is considerable support available to you in terms of advice, information and funding. A Louth Tidy Towns Together umbrella group exists and the local County Council are very supportive of the work that Tidy Towns Groups do and are keen to work with you for the betterment of the whole county. Do remember to always consult with the relevant person in the Council before undertaking any works in public areas. There are a considerable number of grants also available to help fund your projects.

It was difficult from the map provided to see exactly where Haggardstown starts and ends and you are urged to start by identifying the boundaries of the area you are working in. Often this is where the 50kms speed limit zone starts or it could be that a roundabout is the natural start or even the turning off a main road on the approach road to a town.

You have not provided too much information in each of the categories and so this adjudicator will comment only on observations and not projects.

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

Haggardstown townland appears to be quite spread out. St Fursey's Church occupies an elevated position with an adjacent graveyard. These are both very nicely presented. St Fursey's National School was also nicely presented with Geraldine's GFC beside it. There is clearly a thriving community here and as mentioned, your work with the school in many of your projects will be mutually beneficial and important.

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

Your Facebook page has lovely photographs showing your volunteers hard at work planting of the roundabout and indeed it looked wonderful on the day of adjudication. This was not mentioned on your application form but could be one of your key projects in your next year's application with before, during and after photographs.

You mention that you have three flower projects planned. Please do give us more information with before and after photographs for these projects. The Tidy Towns Handbook gives excellent guidance and tips on nature and biodiversity in your area.

One of the objectives of the new 2021 – 2025 AIPP is to encourage more land to be managed for biodiversity and to establish a 'Pollinator Trail' as well as monitor pollinators on public land. You are encouraged to use pollinator friendly plants in your planting schemes. There are many examples on the pollinators.ie website. Please ensure also that you use only Irish grown wildflower seeds as certified by the Dept of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and imported wildflower seeds can be contaminated with species which 'pose a threat to agricultural production in Ireland.'

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

It is recommended that you carry out a habitat survey to inform your decision making. Habitat mapping can help inform decision making in a number of areas including planning, climate change mitigation and conservation of nature and as such is an important first step in understanding the habitat around us and what we need to protect them and to identify any gaps in linkages of habitat. The Heritage Council provide excellent information in their Conserving and Enhancing Wildlife in Towns and Villages. This is a project that perhaps could be carried out in conjunction with the local school.

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

Sustainability is about doing more with less. You have already started in this category through your social media outlets. Awareness of mattress amnesty days, the implications and contents of cigarette butts, the amount of waste dumped are all a part of raising awareness in the community.

Tidy Towns Groups can find it helpful to divide this category into the four headings of waste, water, energy and food. This enables a committee to identify the areas and work on each one.

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

This is an area where you have been extremely active as is evidenced by the Facebook posts and it is possibly one of the main reasons why you started your Tidy Towns groups. Your litter picking sessions have resulted in the collection of vast amounts of dumping and this is certainly being noticed by local residents. Well done.

On adjudication day, there was no evidence of litter anywhere in the areas inspected.

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

The general impression in the area was that the houses and gardens were all very well maintained with great bursts of colourful flowers and shrubs. As it appears that there is a large new housing estate being developed, this is a perfect time to work with the developers to ensure that landscaping is in keeping with the area, based on native plants and shrubs and encourages biodiversity.

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

As mentioned, it was not clear where Haggardstown started or finished and it would be great if one of your first projects was some name signs in the appropriate locations. It is best to standardise name signs and where possible have an original theme appropriate to the area and possibly the heritage of Haggardstown in natural materials.

The verges and any pavements were well presented and a nice mix of mature trees, hedging and grass verges was evident.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Haggardstown is on the start of an exciting journey and has huge potential. Well again for entering the Tidy Towns Competition and the best of luck in all your endeavours.