

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Ashbourne - Cill Dhéagláin</b>	Ref: <b>570</b>
County: <b>Meath</b>	Mark: <b>309</b>
Category: <b>F</b>	Date(s): <b>06/07/2022</b>

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2021</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2022</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	48	50
Streetscape & Public Places	80	42	44
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	39	41
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	32	33
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	15	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	49	51
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	38	39
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	32	33
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>309</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. Ashbourne is welcome to the Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition 2022. Thank you for your application, map and information on your biodiversity plan. Ashbourne has a core committee of ten members and a large number of volunteers. It is positive to note the number of volunteers continue to grow for your regular work meetings on Wednesday and Saturday. The Ukrainian community who have recently come to Ashbourne also come out to help. Engagement with all businesses, agencies and bodies is ongoing with support and funding to help develop various projects. Social media is your main means of communication to the wider community. You intend holding a public meeting during heritage week to discuss a recent study done on biodiversity. There is good interaction with the schools, helping with planting and other projects. Junior Tidy Towns will be launched in September. Your flagship project for this year is the old Killegland cemetery which will certainly now attract more visitors to this site. The Tidy Towns competition has helped the towns enhancement through various projects. Tidy Towns groups and volunteers are doing superb work across villages and towns nationwide. Sadly, one of your founder members John Fanning passed away this year. John left a legacy behind for you to build on and an inspirational saying to remember him by.

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

The village of Ashbourne has developed and increased its population over the last number of years, but has still successfully retained its original village charm. The modern business premises have blended well with the heritage buildings of the streetscape. The town centre area looked bright and welcoming. The pergola enhanced this part of the streetscape. The Church, Pastoral Centre and graveyard were visited and admired on their presentation. It is good to see old heritage buildings such as the old school, being preserved and used for the community. The Hotel was bright and welcoming and the adjacent hoarding on this site looked bright and colourful. The Community Centre which is such an important amenity for the community was busy on day of adjudication with different activities taking place. Ashbourne is fortunate to have the Broadmeadow river flowing through. There are plenty of sports facilities for the community to partake in with walks and recreational parks to accommodate more leisurely activities. More cycle lanes have been installed to facilitate and encourage more cycling. Footpaths have also been enhanced in a number of areas making them more user friendly and accessible.

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

Landscaping of a high standard was noted in Ashbourne. Good areas of ground landscaping were noted at various locations. Planting of 900 native trees in the community is commended. It is good to note that the schools were

included in this planting. The planting of bulbs and pollinator friendly plants ensures all year round interest and colour while also ensuring our pollinator friends are cared for. The Men's shed continue to give good support in the provision of planters. These planters are placed at various locations to keep the cycle lanes free of traffic. The Arkle monument looked bright from its new landscaping. Thomas Ashe roundabout and the large array of planters along the bridges are superb. There is a lot of work in the planting and care of such a large number of planters. The hanging baskets, bringing good colour to various sites were admired. Well done to all the volunteers for their work in this category.

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

In this category groups are asked to show how they appreciate and manage nature and biodiversity in their area. It is good to note that this year you are organising the first ever biodiversity week for Ashbourne. The week will mainly focus on information evenings, walks and talks which will include a public consultation. This informative week should help the community to realise and appreciate the nature and biodiversity that already exists in the area and that any future projects undertaken should continue to enhance development. A submission for an area of natural growth to be retained has been submitted. There is also hope that a boardwalk will be installed to reduce impact on the wetland area. There are already fine walks in these natural surroundings. It is important that any future developments should not impact on its natural state but help enhance it further.

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

In this category groups are asked to show by their activities they are helping to reduce waste generation with more efficient use of their resources. Water, energy and transport are three of the most common areas where big savings can be made. The communal allotment area is where the wider community can grow fruit and vegetables thus creating big savings in transport and packaging alone, not to mention the economical savings. Trying to encourage more people to cycle and use public transport is also encouraged. This you are doing by installing more cycle lanes and working with the NTA for park and ride in Ashbourne. Harvesting of rainwater is another area where the community could get involved and create more savings. Men's shed gives great support by reusing materials to make bird/bat boxes and bug hotels. No idling zone is encouraged to make savings and keep the air quality pure.

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

Litter can make a town or village look very untidy but thankfully litter control continues to improve across the country. This improvement is due to the hardworking Tidy Towns groups and many volunteers creating awareness by holding annual spring cleans and daily litter picks. Ashbourne is certainly doing good work in this area. Bright signage is also displayed in particular along the river, encouraging people to use the bins provided for litter and avoid throwing litter on the ground and in the river. Dog fouling is also taken care of with the reinstallation of bins and stocked dispensers. Hoarding has been enhanced with a colourful mural. Graffiti continues to be a problem to deal with. You are encouraging utility companies to paint their box units. Grass along kerbs is manually being scuffed ready for the mechanical sweeper. It is good to note the use of weed killer is on the decline. It is also important for the community to get involved in all areas of litter control. This should in time reduce the workload with less litter being dropped.

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

The village of Ashbourne has a mix of different build houses along the approach roads and streetscapes. The village has grown with a number of very well presented housing estates. All areas of housing are blending well together, each bringing its own charm to the streetscape. The estates have good entrance signs, green areas and landscaping. The Tidy Towns group and the resident's association work closely together to ensure that native hedging, trees and pollinator friendly landscaping is included in all estates. The houses along the approach roads and along the streetscape are also well presented with neat gardens and floral displays brightening up their facades. The play area, a most important amenity for the village is well presented in an excellent location. It was bustling with activity on day of adjudication. All residents are commended on the work they do in presenting their homes to such a high standard and also the help they give to the Tidy Towns group with other projects in the village. This all leads to good community spirit making the area a better place to live in, work and visit

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

The approach roads to the village gives a very good first impression as one enters. The entrance signs and landscaping are welcoming. Native hedging and trees were also admired. Walls and railings form part of the boundary fences. Verges are neat while retaining a corridor for wildlife. Traffic flowed well and parking was generally good. The new area of cycle lanes was noted. It is also good that future projects include the developing of more cycling and walking areas. Upgrading of lighting is also included. Do ensure that all foliage is cut back from all signage on approach roads and throughout the streetscape. All field gates on approach roads should be painted a uniform colour where possible.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Ashbourne was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. You are doing good work with various projects to improve and enhance the area. Keep up the good work and you are wished well in the future.

