

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

|                                       |                            |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Centre: <b>Shinrone - Suí an Róin</b> | Ref: <b>293</b>            |
| County: <b>Offaly</b>                 | Mark: <b>302</b>           |
| Category: <b>B</b>                    | Date(s): <b>10/07/2022</b> |

|   | <b>Maximum<br/>Mark</b> | <b>Mark<br/>Awarded 2022</b> |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Community – Your Planning and Involvement | 80                      | 44                           |
| Streetscape & Public Places               | 80                      | 41                           |
| Green Spaces and Landscaping              | 80                      | 42                           |
| Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality  | 55                      | 31                           |
| Sustainability – Doing more with less     | 55                      | 19                           |
| Tidiness and Litter Control               | 90                      | 47                           |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas       | 55                      | 38                           |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes           | 55                      | 40                           |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>                         | <b>550</b>              | <b>302</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. Thank you for your entry and for your endeavours and commitment to your improving your community. Best wishes for the future.

Shinrone TidyTowns with a committee of fifteen people along with eight regular volunteers are doing a fine job for your village, working to improve and enhance the town for all local people and visitors. You have developed strong links with the local authority and other organisations to benefit your community through improvement works in and around the village. You have a junior TidyTowns group in the local national school who work with you to keep the village tidy, and you even work with Sunflowers Preschool who planted sunflowers down at the river area – this bodes well for your community if you can keep some of these young people interested over the years! You engage with the community in Shinrone through traditional ways such as meetings and newspapers and more modern methods such as social media channels – a good spread of ways to try to reach as many people as possible. You also work very closely with the local CE scheme to improve the appearance of the town.

The latest version of the TidyTowns Handbook is available on the website - it includes plenty of suggestions for suitable projects to consider for future years and may tie in very well with your future plans as outlined in your updated three years' plan for the village.

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

Shinrone has grown to become quite a long village with a variety of older and more modern buildings. There are some attractive stone buildings and some traditional stone walls in the village in good condition and have been well-maintained over the years. Many of the businesses in the village have maintained their premises to a high standard. The church and school and their grounds are in very good condition and some hay had been baled at the cemetery. Some of the footpaths at different locations have been repaired/replaced to a high standard and more repairs are planned in a three years' plan to replace all damaged footpaths. There are a few issues with derelict properties in the village and it is noted that your group has been actively engaging with the owners to have the problems rectified; in some cases, the properties have recently or are in the process of being sold so hopefully the new owners will address the issues involved. There are plans to remove weeds from the gutters of some of the taller buildings; these actions will enhance the village greatly.

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

There are some green spaces around the village, particularly near some of the housing developments, which are tidy and well-maintained; recently a Sensory Garden area has been completed and this will be of great value in the

community. Some trees were planted along the Main Street some years ago and unfortunately, some of the protective barriers/bollards have been damaged and one tree is broken; the others may need some care as in loosening or removing the supporting stakes and some appropriate pruning to maintain a desirable shape. Recent planting is maturing on the Roscrea Road and there is some pleasant landscaping here, with a good mixture of plants; it is noted that some damaged wooden fencing is earmarked for replacement or repair as appropriate. You are now taking the recommendations of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan on board when maintaining existing areas or planning new areas and appropriate signage is planned to inform the community of these developments; there are a few shrub/flower beds around the town in need of some weed control which would improve them greatly. The area at the river has been improved and plans are in place for further improvements.

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

Shinrone is fortunate to be situated in a lovely rural area with mature trees and fine farmland surrounding the village, creating a range of habitats and ecosystems to support pollinators and shelter wildlife. At various places around the village, the grass-cutting regime has been altered to leave unmown areas of longer grass and wildflowers to provide food and shelter for wildlife, insects, and pollinators; over time, native species of wildflowers should dominate these areas, creating valuable and attractive habitats. Your group is now registered with BirdWatch Ireland so you will benefit from participating in their recording campaigns and receive information on improving habitats for different species, such as the Swift boxes recently erected. You have erected bat boxes to protect this valuable species and are recording more information on them. You are busy planning for future years in this category and we look forward to seeing your progress in coming years.

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

Sustainability can appear to be a big challenge for small communities, but your group has been busy carrying out a survey on waste in the village and advising local businesses on ways to reduce waste, which has been well-received; you are now raising awareness of the correct usage of the brown bins which could increase sustainability greatly. Your school is leading the way on sustainability working towards a Green Flag for travel at present and you have successfully engaged with Irish Rural Link to have a local bus service for the village. The school provides a drop-off point for the community to recycle expended batteries so well done! It is noted that you are actively working on plans to improve recycling facilities in the village. The reduction in mowing (savings in labour and fuel costs) and the planting of wildflowers at various points around the village further improves the sustainability of the community; some recently planted beds of shrubs and herbaceous plants are welcome as these planting schemes tend to need less water and minimal care and attention when they become established; this frees up your valuable labour resources to work on other projects.

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

Shinrone was found to be tidy during the adjudicator's visit with little evidence of litter in any area around the village. The overall appearance of the village was good, and it is obvious that many in the local community take great pride in their village and help by maintaining their residences and premises. There was very little evidence of dog fouling around the village. You are working with the relevant authorities to get overhead cables moved underground; this has been a great success in other villages so we look forward to seeing this in future years. In your submission, you noted that weed control is carried out on a four-week rota; this is working very well in some areas but there are some places in the village where weeds were growing strongly and if they get to set seed, the problem will get worse in future years; perhaps you could consider emphasising a 'weed removal week' in early June, the problem would be much reduced and much easier to control for the remainder of the summer.

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

As already mentioned, Shinrone village was found to be tidy and that includes the residential streets and the housing areas around the village. The green areas near the houses are well-maintained with grassed areas, mixed shrubberies, rose beds and areas of unmown grass and wildflowers. Some of the footpaths are in good condition, others have recently been upgraded and more replacement is planned for others currently in poor condition. The entrances to the housing areas with tidy and many of the individual gardens were very well-maintained which is a great help to your efforts.

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

The approach roads are attractive and in good condition with margins and hedges appropriately maintained, taking the recommendations of the pollinator plan into account – well done. The footpath upgrades at different points have been very successful and more are planned so that will improve both safety for pedestrians and the visual impact in the village. You have been visiting other groups and plan to upgrade the approaches to the village to proudly announce that visitors have arrived in Shinrone – we look forward to seeing this in future years.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

The combined efforts of the Shinrone TidyTowns group and the residents and businesses present the village very well. You are very aware of the projects that will enhance the village in the future and are actively planning to complete these; you are wished well in your endeavours, and we look forward to receiving your entry in 2023!

