

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Taghmon - Teach Munna</b>	Ref: <b>765</b>
County: <b>Wexford</b>	Mark: <b>264</b>
Category: <b>C</b>	Date(s): <b>13/06/2022</b>

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2022</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	43
Streetscape & Public Places	80	41
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	35
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	23
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	40
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	38
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>264</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...

We welcome Taghmon Tigh Muuna to the 2022 SuperValu TidyTowns competition – only your 2nd year back in the competition. You made huge efforts to launch your Tidy Towns group in 2019 and then the pandemic put a halt to activities and momentum – it's good to have you back! It has been challenging for community groups but the only way is up now and we hope this year's in-person will give your committee a boost leading onto wider community engagement. You have been forging links with various organisations, businesses and the local school. You have recently secured a Tus worker for the village, thanks to support from Wexford Local Development. This will greatly assist you in the ongoing maintenance tasks around the place. Listening to the community's needs is indeed worthwhile as it informs your future plans. Does this happen in a structured process or informally? The Family Resource Centre has potential to work with you on sustainable community projects. The community is kept informed through your active Facebook page (newly established since you last entered in 2019) as well as more traditional local channels. Thank you for including your 3-year TT Action Plan which is helping you to focus and prioritise your projects. The Tidy Towns website is a useful resource with updated information such as the recently revised handbook at <https://www.tidytowns.ie/competition/handbook/>. Lean leis an dea-obair. Keep up the good work.

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

Tackling the issue of derelict buildings is challenging in any town or village. We are impressed for such a new committee, that you have taken this on board and engaged with Wexford County Council with the result that to date two derelict properties have been dealt with (what do you mean by this exactly?) with four more work in progress. No doubt the community will really appreciate any progress that can be made in this regard. Well done and do update us on further progress next time, however small. Ongoing engagement with Wexford Co Co and local representatives has resulted in new and upgraded footpaths for the village – another significant achievement. We admired the charming Church of Ireland building with its blue door. Please also refer back to your 2019 Adjudication report for some good guidance in relation to this and other categories.

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

Landscaping around the monument has been the main focus in the last 12 months, following a recommendation by your previous adjudicator. A significant amount of work has been done so we can tell that this will create a wonderful impression as one approaches the Main St. Maintenance of these new plants is key; you say you have the Tus supervisor on board in this regard. The begonias at the name signs give a welcoming impression. The school has some lovely grounds including tree planting. Tree-lined approach roads enhance the overall impression.

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

You already have identified areas where grass can be left uncut to encourage pollinators and other wildlife. You have a job to do in raising awareness of what it means to protect and enhance your local biodiversity. There are lots of free resources available to do this and over time hopefully you will have the entire community on board. Wexford County Council organised some interesting biodiversity training courses for community groups so do ensure that you are engaging with them and on their mailing list! There are signs available to download on <https://pollinators.ie>. You can approach your local printer with these templates, possibly using your Pobal Tidy Towns funding? The local school is another good link here. If they are involved in Green Schools, one of the themes they work on is 'Biodiversity' so there may be a project you could do jointly. The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan sets out a framework for all communities to follow so it would be beneficial to become familiar with it and get some ideas as to what would work in Taghmon, also at <https://pollinators.ie>. It is worth asking around to see if there is somebody in the community with knowledge/interest in this area. Another idea is to apply for funding for an expert to compile a Biodiversity Plan for your area (usually funded by County Council or Local Development Company). Best of luck, every little helps.

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

It is worth checking in with your Community Water Officer to see if there are any suitable grants available for the projects you have in mind. Contact Ann Phelan, email [aphelan@lawaters.ie](mailto:aphelan@lawaters.ie). Reducing water consumption in the community is one important strand of this category. Is there any rainwater harvesting currently? Other resources to look at include waste, energy and transport. You mentioned the sports centre carried out an energy audit. What were the main findings? Again, check out the new handbook on [www.tidytowns.ie](http://www.tidytowns.ie) for more ideas on how to progress in this category. You could also link in with the school and their Green Schools activities.

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

We agree with you that litter is an important issue to be tackled in Taghmon. The village centre was relatively clean but some areas beyond that were quite heavily littered in places. It is good to hear that you have the support of the Tus scheme. Awareness-raising is key so as well as litter picking after school, so continue your engagement with the school and any other youth groups. Get them involved and give them ownership of particular patches. Wexford Co Co organised a workshop for community groups on litter management and it was a good opportunity for groups to share ideas and tips. It would be worth getting in contact with your Environmental Awareness Officer who can advise you.

Some weedy kerbs and walls were observed on our walkabout, for instance at Monastery Ave. Some signs could do with cleaning. Perhaps it is time to remove the 2010 Pride of Place sign now and make space for a new award?! Some grass management is needed at the playground and litter was an issue here also.

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

Offering encouragement and support to various residents' committees is worthwhile. As you say you are trying to foster a sense of pride and responsibility so that each area looks after its own 'patch'. It is worth inviting a representative from each residential area onto your main TT committee. Even if they don't want to attend meetings, they can be on your contact list for updates and feedback. It is also worthwhile in the longer run for TT groups to assist areas in setting up residents' associations or committees if they don't have an active one. The County Council community department usually offers support in this regard also. Reducing litter in residential areas would be something tangible to aim for. Some Tidy Towns groups operate 'best kept estates' type competitions. Your community might be a little small for this but there are lots of ideas around motivating and encouraging different areas to play their part. The area around the name stone at Ard Munna was quite untidy. The entrance to the Castle Court development has some impressive planting.

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

Your efforts to have the playground wall repaired, are commended. Good street name signage was observed, though some streets were lacking any sign. New landscaping at the monument will create a welcoming impression once completed.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

You have made a good start in galvanising the community and tackling priority areas such as litter and dereliction. Hopefully some small wins will foster increase pride and encourage more residents to come on board to support the wider effort. Well done Taghmon Tidy Towns and keep up the good work.