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2040



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Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals
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of Rural & Community Development

SuperValu Tidy Towns Newsletter Issue 2021-5

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A Chairde,

Welcome to our May issue of the SuperValu Tidy Towns Newsletter. This is our 20th edition made possible by all the work you have been doing and sharing with us. What a wonderful way to celebrate our 20th issue with the announcement made last week by Minister Humphreys in launching the 2021 competition.

As the vaccination rollout continues, there is light at the end of the tunnel and society is returning to a sense of normal although we must still be careful and continue to be alert, hand washing and face coverings and social distancing will still be part of our daily lives but these actions will serve us well and ensure that we continue to move away from restrictions and all that they bring.

The competition entry forms are all available on the Tidy Towns website at www.tidytowns.ie. Entry to the competition is by electronic means, the unit will be in touch with all groups in mid-June with details on how to submit your entry. We are hoping to use a facility that will allow in excess of 20MB so no need to worry if your entry is larger than that. Focus on the forms for now and we will be in touch with all the details you need very soon.

Thank you all for your determination and your patience, we hope to see many many entries coming in from friends old and new, groups that have been with us since the start, groups new for 2021 and groups returning after a break, you are all so welcome and we look forward to registering your entry for the 2021 SuperValu Tidy Towns competition. It's great to be back, back in business.

SuperValu TidyTowns Competition 2021

Last Friday, May 21st, Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys T.D. together with Ian Allen Managing Director of SuperValu officially launched the 2021 SuperValu TidyTowns competition. Speaking at the launch, Minister Humphreys said;

“Missing out on the competition last year was very disappointing for everyone associated with TidyTowns. That’s why I am delighted to announce that this iconic competition is back. “I am sure the thousands of volunteers around the country are relieved that we have finally reached the point where we can launch the 2021 SuperValu Tidy Towns competition and are excited for the months ahead.

“While the last year has been so challenging for everyone, I know that so many Tidy Towns volunteers the length and breadth of the country have continued to look after their communities. Many groups have been unable to deliver on the projects they had planned due to Covid-19. That will not impact in any shape or form on this year’s competition and I am encouraging each and every one of the 987 registered groups across the country to enter once again.”

Ian Allen, Managing Director of SuperValu who this year celebrate their 30th anniversary of sponsoring the iconic competition said;

“As one of the longest-running community initiatives in Ireland, TidyTowns is an incredibly important programme that all of us at SuperValu are immensely proud to be a part of. At its heart, TidyTowns is the public expression of the work countless individuals undertake to build community spirit and make their local area a better place in which to work and live. Following a year like no other, this year’s competition is about recognising work of volunteers who have continued in every way possible and collectively help to lift the mood of the nation.”

This year’s competition includes a number of new exciting special awards. Details of all the special awards can be found in the entry form booklet. In a bid to help groups and to encourage more groups to enter these awards, we are extending the closing date for many of them, the closing date for receipt of the main competition entry form is Friday July 2nd, information on the special award closing dates will issue to all groups in mid-June and will be placed on the TidyTowns website.

Information to assist you with maps including some sample maps and graph paper to help you if submitting a hand drawn map can also be found on the website in addition to the terms and conditions for the 2021 SuperValu TidyTowns competition. We would encourage all groups to read these and the information contained in the booklet before they attempt to complete the WORD version of the form for submission.

A full list of registered entries will appear on the website and this will be updated regularly, if your entry is not listed by July 14th, please contact the unit.

Good luck to everyone.

Poets Corner

Among the many talents of TidyTowns volunteers around the country, poetry seems to be one of the hidden talents that is beginning to shine.

In this month's issue we are delighted to bring you two such fine pieces of poetry.

Thank you to Ken Duffy from Swords TidyTowns in Dublin who shared this poem with us titled "The Litter Slob". Let's hope that all those who think littering is acceptable will rethink their actions. Well done Ken, it really captures the issue that faces so many volunteers on a daily basis.

The Litter Slob

Have you seen the litter, left by litter slob
No respect for others, environmental jobs
Baskets hanging, with a multitude of colour
Planters on Streets, they couldn't be fuller
Countrywide, Tidy Towns do what they can
Out in all weather, are this volunteer clan
In Hi-Vis, they sweep, crop and clean
In towns and villages, efforts can be seen
Asking for nothing, they toil each day
Picking up rubbish, keeping weeds at bay
Graffiti nationwide, has gotten out of hand
Adds to the workload, of this working band
Never losing heart, continuing with a smile
No matter how high, our rubbish does pile
If you see them out, say doing a great job
Good luck in the battle, against the litter slob

We also bring you a poem titled "The Dandelion", we all know the importance of the Dandelion as a rich source of food for our pollinator friends and here an anonymous friend from Emly TidyTowns in Tipperary penned this lovely piece.

We are delighted to share it with you all, such a welcome sign of brighter days and hopefully better weather.

Keep up the great work all you bussing poets and artists out there, if there are any pieces you would like to share with us, please send them on to us at tidytowns@drccd.gov.ie so that we can share the joy

The Dandelion

*The sun danced along the blades of grass,
creating shadows on the mountainside.*

*We walked the path and laughed
then spotted a glimpse of yellow
like hope bursting through the gloom.*

*A single, solitary figure pushing forward
whilst the cobwebs dripped their dew
onto the morning's breath.
Standing alone but happy;
proud to be noticed.*

Geashill TidyTowns Co Offaly – Sustainable Development Goals

If you are involved in TidyTowns then you will be becoming increasingly familiar with the 17 sustainable development goals, set in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly, here Geashill TidyTowns tells us what the goals mean to them.

Across our own group in Geashill we had some knowledge but certainly needed more, particularly as these goals are now becoming more and more embedded into our work (and into the application form for this year!). We quickly realised that as a group we really hadn't fully connected these goals with our existing actions to understand what we were already doing and how we could use them to guide our planning for this and future years.

But to take a step back, which is what we had to do! The 17 sustainable development goals were adopted by all United Nations member states in 2015 as a universal set of actions to help combat poverty, protect the planet and improve our world for future generations.



It's a big statement, and sometimes it can be hard to translate statements like that into something that we can understand. So, we started to do some digging. These Sustainable Development Goals or SDG's were in fact were an evolution from an earlier set of goals called Millennium Development Goals implemented in the year 2000. What we know is that these earlier MDG's did result in lots of positive actions and change, particularly in areas like free primary education in developing countries and in combatting HIV/AIDs and other preventable diseases.

Knowing that was encouraging as it felt like these goals were building on existing work done and that there was a clear link between the creation of goals and actual actions on the ground. That motivated us as a group to start looking at lists of things that we as a group and as a community could do next.

As a group we took some time to sit (over Zoom) and look back over our project and planning lists and started looking at where our current or future projects aligned with SDG's and discovered we were doing more than we realised.

For example, our last 3-year plan included a goal to stop using shop bought compost and move to using only soil from our compost bins. (not an easy task, as anyone who has picked tomato plants out of their hanging baskets will know!) That one action can be seen to impact Goal 12, Responsible Consumption, as the production of peat is not viable long-term, produces greenhouse gases and results in loss of biodiversity. It also impacts Goal 12 – Climate action and could be seen to impact Goal 2 – Zero hunger, particularly if the compost is used in community gardens.

Biodiversity has been a huge part of our work in Geashill and again so many of those projects can be seen to impact Goals 1, 2, 12, 13 & 15. By eliminating the use of pesticides we are impacting our land and our atmosphere, by growing more plants for pollinating insects we are providing them with a habitat to survive and thrive and they can in turn pollinate crops to feed our animals and provide food for humans, and the list can go on and on!.

For us it quickly became obvious that the problem was not about finding projects to align to goals, we feel we are on the right track and if anything, we are getting more and more ideas for projects aligned to these SDG's. The challenge was to change our mind-set. It is easy to look at an individual project and think "how can one compost heap help with Zero hunger globally". Once we started making our lists and looking back at all we had done and all we have planned we could start to see that lots of small actions when you add them all together do have an impact. And we are just one community. If you add all those communities together then Ireland is doing more than it thinks, and that gives us motivation to take on bigger projects, to ensure our voice is heard and to look at some of the goals that we are maybe not currently tackling and take on projects that will impact them.

Don't be afraid to look around and outside of your own group the wider community also. Are other groups or individuals doing work that you can support? For example, is someone looking to build a co-working hub in your community which could impact Goal 8 - Good jobs and Economic Growth, and can you lend your support to this project? Are you talking to your local representatives and local authorities about roads that need repairing or the need for broadband in your community which impacts Goal 9 Innovation and Infrastructure?

Former president and UN High Commissioner Mary Robinson when speaking about the Sustainable Development Goals said that "Feeling 'This is too big for me' is no use to anybody". We agree. Goal 17, Partnership for the Goals is something that we feel is incredibly important. Over the last 12 months we have seen groups in our community working more closely than ever before. We hope that this can continue long past Covid-19 and help us create and carry out even more ambitious projects to meet sustainable development goals into the future. Well done, Geashill, great insight here.

Our Rural Future –

Government's blueprint to transform rural Ireland

The Government recently published Our Rural Future, the most ambitious and transformational policy for rural development in decades. The policy reflects the unprecedented change in living and working patterns during COVID-19 and the significant opportunities this presents for rural communities – from remote working and revitalising our town centres to job creation, developing a green economy and enhancing our outdoor amenities.

The five year strategy was launched in Croke Park by An Taoiseach Micheál Martin, An Tánaiste Leo Varadkar, Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, and Minister for Transport and the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan.

It is supported by 150 commitments across Government, which will address the challenges facing communities and deliver new opportunities for people living in rural areas.

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, speaking at the launch said;

“Our Rural Future represents a new milestone in the approach to rural development for Ireland. As we recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have a unique opportunity to reimagine rural Ireland and harness the talent, skills and creativity running through our rural communities. For decades we have seen global trends where young people leave their local communities to live and work in larger cities. As we emerge from COVID-19 we will never have a better opportunity to reverse that long-standing trend. The move to remote working, underpinned by the rollout of the National Broadband Plan, has the potential to transform Rural Ireland like never before. It will allow people to work from their own local communities, revitalise our town centres, reduce commuting times, lower transport emissions and most importantly - improve the quality of life of our people.”

The policy will help rural Ireland to recover from the impacts of COVID-19, enable long-term development of rural areas, and create more resilient rural economies and communities for the future.

Our Rural Future, Ireland's Rural Development Policy 2021-2025 is available

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/4c236-our-rural-future-vision-and-policy-context/>



Our Rural Future Rural Development Policy 2021-2025



Castlemagner TidyTowns Co Cork

Operation Spring Clean Castlemagner 21

The committee of Castlemagner TidyTowns organised a highly successful Spring Clean of Castlemagner village, Cecilstown Village, and parish on the weekend of 20th March. An army of volunteers in High viz vests took to the highways and byways of the community armed with gloves, litter pickers and good humour to clean, tidy and pick up rubbish.

The committee was delighted with the huge numbers of volunteers who worked tirelessly from dawn to dusk over the two days while maintaining Covid-19 safety guidelines. It was an amazing display of community spirit and goodwill. Volunteers came out in force. It was especially wonderful to have so many children and young people assisting to maintain our environment. A large amount of rubbish was collected and where possible it was segregated into recyclable and landfill. Cork Local Authority kindly removed the rubbish. Well done to all involved.



Arklow TidyTowns

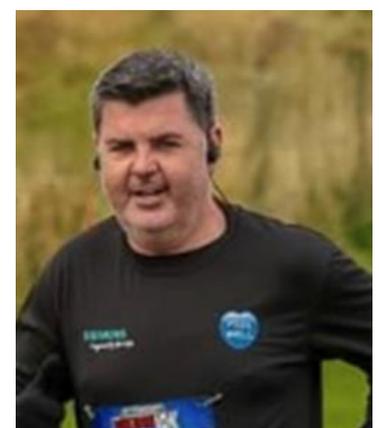
Sandra Duffy from Arklow TidyTowns in County Wicklow got in touch to tell us about their volunteers who have been busy doing the usual shuffling, cleaning, litter picking etc. Every now and then they have a glorious sunny day filled with good fun and challenges. Sandra told us they had explored an old boatyard as one does whilst looking for interesting features. These are the results of their finds, it has to be said, they have all done a wonderful job.



Stabannon Tidy Towns - Co Louth

Bernie Lynch in Stabannon TidyTowns made contact with us to share a story about one of the locals, Declan Mc Devitt who went out every day and picked up litter. He is amazing and has collected over 120 bags of litter. Declan is from a very small rural area and did the country road verges covering over 15KM's of road all within 2KM's from his home, not an easy job, so well done Declan for your Trojan efforts.

The great work done by Declan was posted on the Stabannon TidyTowns Facebook page and was also picked up by the National Spring cleaning week Facebook page. Thanks for sharing this with us Bernie.



Castlebar Tidy Towns - Co Mayo

Over a year ago, Ann Cresham from Castlebar had an idea that it might be possible to have some sort of trolley that would make it easier to carry the rubbish bags of the members while out on their weekly litter-pick, especially those that found it difficult to bend down or carry bags as they got heavy.

Ann thought of many ways that this might be possible before coming up with her own idea, the 'litter buggy', which involved converting an old golf cart into the implement she wanted. She spoke with her TidyTowns colleague, Kevin Rowley, and he set about designing the prototype.

Kevin attached a circular ring to the handle of the cart and it is made in such a way that it can hold a rubbish bag. The plate used for holding the bottom of the golf bag will take the weight of the bag so there is no pull on the ring. He also added a personalised Castlebar Tidy Towns number plate.

This brilliant repurposing makes it much easier for those on the litter-picks as well as allowing bigger amounts of litter to be collected in one bag as there is no weight for the user. It also achieves some of the Sustainable Development Goals in TidyTowns, one of which is sustainability.



The group then liaised with Castlebar Golf Club who arranged to get old carts from members and this was a huge boost for the project.

Pictured are Tidy Towns volunteer Ann Cresham, Kevin Rowley, Joe Butler, Cllr Ger Deere and Marita Murtagh with Castlebar Golf Club Captain Michael Kilcourse and Shane

Quigley who organised getting the golf carts and also Community Garda Mick Toland.
Photo: Alison Laredo

You can see a short video from Ann here:

www.facebook.com/ConnaughtTelegraph/videos/444078923331255

This is a fantastic project and delivers in a number of areas, whilst making life that bit easier for the volunteers, it is giving these old golf carts a new purpose. Recycling at its finest. Well done to all involved and thanks to Michael Baynes for sharing this story with us.

TidyTowns Survey

Dear TidyTowns Group,

We know TidyTowns groups and their volunteers do so much throughout the year to keep their places looking their best and we commend you all for your efforts, efforts you have been putting in for over sixty years.



We would like to get some details on the work you and your volunteers do during the year, work we are all so proud of. SuperValu who have been sponsoring the competition for thirty years in association with the Department of Rural and Community Development who administer the competition would like to invite you to complete a short survey to help us capture the fantastic work done around the county under the SuperValu TidyTowns competition.

All groups who engage with the survey will be in with a chance to win one of ten €100 SuperValu Gift Cards. At the end of the survey, you will be asked to quote your TidyTowns group name, email address and TidyTowns number, so you can be entered in the draw. You can find your number on the top of your most recent Adjudication Report as shown below. You can access reports at <https://www.tidytowns.ie/reports/> If you have any difficulty locating your number, simply contact the TidyTowns unit at tidytowns@drccd.gov.ie and we will be happy to assist you.

We would encourage all groups to engage with the survey, make sure the great work you do is included in the statistics compiled and be in with a chance to win one of those €100 SuperValu Gift Cards.

The survey can be accessed by visiting this link

https://supervalushoptalk.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_78JSPXEk6BZ9uh8

Good Luck and Thank You for taking part and sharing your efforts with us.

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre:	Ref:		
County:	Mark:		
Category:	Date(s):		
	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60		
Streetscape & Public Places	60		

Ballyduff Tidy Towns - Sustainability, What Can I Do?

Sustainability and taking care of the environment are a hot topic, and Ballyduff Tidy Towns in County Kerry have been thinking about engaging the community on how we each can do our part to help.

Sometimes it can be overwhelming to know where to start. We worry that we are not 'doing it right,' but taking imperfect action instead of doing nothing can be a way in. Susan Browne from Ballyduff Tidy Towns tells us more.

Ballyduff is a small village in North Kerry close to Listowel and Ballybunion. They've been looking at ways of making small steps to live more sustainably.

They've shared their ideas by making short videos that they post on their Facebook page to inspire others. So far, they've launched videos about recycling plastic, sustainable energy, food waste, greener cleaning, biodiversity and trees. The series is called "Sustainability; what can I do?"

Some of the tips from the videos include:

- Mowing less or leaving corners or wild areas for wildlife. Neatly manicured lawns might look tidy, but they are effectively dead zones for nature.
- Switching to greener energy suppliers.
- Consider coming together as a community and forming a Sustainable Energy Community.
- Planting native Irish trees in appropriate 'for life' places - and minding the ones we have.
- Choosing pollinators and wildflowers as opposed to traditional blooms that don't benefit nature.
- Clean your home with bicarbonate of soda and white vinegar instead of traditional store-bought cleaners that have harmful chemicals in them and create more plastic waste.
- Switch from plastic milk cartons to cardboard.
- Make a small pond in your garden out of a biscuit tin.
- Grow some of your own veg, even lettuce, in a window box if you don't have much space or a garden.



The team advise; just to start with making one small change, and when that feels easy and normal, move onto the next. They said they'll keep going once the ideas keep flowing. They welcome ideas if any Tidy Towns groups wish to collaborate on something that isn't already covered, and they have guest speakers on some of the videos. If there's something on eco-friendly living you'd like to share, email them at ballydufftidytodwns@gmail.com or through Facebook.

Department of Rural and Community Development – Funding

2021 Community Enhancement Programme

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys T.D. has recently announced funding of €4.5Million under the 2021 Community Enhancement Programme (CEP). This will provide small capital grants designed to assist in the re-opening of facilities such as community centres, men's and women's sheds, parish halls and youth centres.

Sports clubs will also be given financial support to purchase equipment and sports gear, as well as to carry out minor upgrades that will benefit its members. The grants will range from a few hundred euro up to €10,000, however, exceptions will be made depending on the application. The funding may be used to carry out necessary renovations and repairs or to purchase equipment such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and so on.

The Community Enhancement Programme, which to date has supported over 8,000 projects, places a focus on supporting groups in disadvantaged areas. The funding is administered locally through the Local Community Development Committee.



**An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail**
Department of Rural and
Community Development

2021 Town and Village Renewal Scheme

Minister Heather Humphreys TD, has also announced €15 million in funding to help revitalise rural towns and villages post Covid-19. The Town and Village Renewal Scheme is designed to breathe new life into rural communities - making them more attractive places to live, work, socialise and raise a family.

The initiative is a key part of Our Rural Future – the Government's five year strategy to revitalise rural Ireland. The measures that will be supported by the 2021 Town and Village Renewal Scheme include; Tackling dereliction in town centres, Turning vacant properties into remote working and community spaces, Supporting Local Authorities to run innovative marketing campaigns targeted at attracting remote workers to their county. Investing in green spaces, parks and recreational amenities and Upgrading and improving shop fronts & streetscapes on Main Streets are also featured as possible projects. Projects that support and enhance the night time economy and add vibrancy to town centres can also be considered.

Further information on these funding measures can be found by visiting www.gov.ie or by contacting your Local Authority offices.

Inchigeela TidyTowns - Co. Cork

During the past few weeks Inchigeela TidyTowns members have collected roadside litter on all the approach roads to the village. Many individuals and family groups got involved- including the Cronin and O'Leary families. Macroom County Council assisted by collecting close to 100 bags of waste. Well done to all involved.



Coolrain TidyTowns Co Laois

Kevin in Coolrain TidyTowns got in touch to tell us about Coolrain village, Camross village and Camross GAA all coming together in great community spirit recently to work on a joint litter pick. Well done to all involved, just goes to show what can be achieved when everyone puts their shoulder to the wheel.



Dunshaughlin TidyTowns Co Meath

Fiona Mc Auley from Dunshaughlin TidyTowns got in touch to tell us all about their Community Orchard which they planted in the park in Dunshaughlin to commemorate National Tree Week 2021. Neatly organised in the park, getting the benefit of the heat from a south facing wall the orchard consists of several espalier and fan apple, pear, plum, and cherry trees. Being fan and espalier trees, they are trained to grow along wires and bamboo. They are relatively easy to look after as the pruning in autumn keeps the main stems growing along the wall with other growth removed.



The trees vary in size with one large well established apple tree in the centre showing us the promise of what is to come. The smaller ones will take a few years to come on but in time this treasure is there for all to enjoy. The work on the orchard came together very easily with the help of Patrick Sheridan, a local landscape gardener, who sourced the trees, and he did the groundwork for planting. As always, we are very grateful to Patrick for his help and our great team of volunteers who planted the trees.



The community orchard is part of the Dunshaughlin TidyTowns Biodiversity Action Plan, although it was a recommendation for the 3–5-year plan it happened in the first year. Naturally, pollinator friendly, fruit trees support biodiversity and it is a lovely reminder of what we can grow at home and how easy it is to reduce our carbon footprint.

The orchard is the perfect complement to the Dunshaughlin Community Harvest run annually with the TidyTowns where excess apples are collected in the area and made available for use by the community or juiced at the Harvest Festival.

In the village our volunteers are very keen and are out at least twice a week with one volunteer who is out every morning Monday to Saturday picking up litter. Our volunteers are asked to keep themselves socially distanced.



To brighten everyone's day we have several lovely positive signs from The Feel Good Project up around the village, which our TidyTowns volunteers placed around the village. We were given the signs by Gillian Toole, a local independent councillor.

Circular Economy



Bronwyn Slater from Cork contacted us recently with regard to the Circular Economy. We hear so much about the circular economy these days and Bronwyn has kindly shared a link with us to her new website on the Circular Economy and Zero Waste living in Ireland.



It will hopefully help people who are trying to transition to zero waste and give them a few tips on where to start, we thought it might be of interest to many of the TidyTowns groups out there and ties in nicely with one of our new special awards for 2021. Bronwyn's website can be accessed by visiting <http://circularliving.ie>

Biodiversity Promotion in Keadue

On the advice of Mr. Sean Meehan Ecologist, and a follow up to the Biodiversity workshops which were held in Keadue Hall and funded by Roscommon Leader Partnership. The following changes needed to be made in the established small wildflower hay meadow locally known as "Paddy Duignan's Orchard. Removal of overgrown shrubbery, removal of ivy from existing 100 year old Apple trees. Levelling of ground to make way for planting new apple and other fruit trees, also advice on type of wildflowers which are more suitable to plant in this area. Also in this area are nesting hedges, an earthbank, old wood with holes and Bee hotels and native wildflowers.



Road Safety

In 2020, 148 people lost their lives on Irish roads and, tragically, we have already lost too many people this year. The tragedy of road traffic deaths is something that has affected every community in Ireland so the necessity of raising awareness of road safety issues is an important one.



Colin Mangan, Road Safety Promotion Officer (RSPO) with the Road Safety Authority's (RSA) wants to alert us to the dangers. As part of the National Road Safety Education Service (NRSES) we have a team of dedicated RSPOs covering the whole country, who are available to deliver free road safety seminars to local communities, from childcare services and schools, to community groups and businesses. Our aim is to see a reduction in the number of collisions and deaths in 2021 and a key factor in achieving this aim will be to increase awareness of the "Killer Behaviours", among all road users, and the measures that can be taken to avoid them.

Colin would like to spread awareness of the free road safety education service and any community groups who would like to learn more about their or perhaps arrange an information piece for sections of their community can contact the Road Safety Authority at www.rsa.ie or can contact Colin at cmangan@rsa.ie.

Heritage Council – Webinar

A ground-breaking webinar on Compulsory Sale Orders (CSOs), which is delivered by the Heritage Council and Partners' CTCHC Programme, aims to shine a light on what other countries in Europe are

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



doing to deal proactively with vacancy in historic town centres. Many of Ireland's historic town centres are suffering from blight, dereliction and some have the highest vacancy levels in the EU – we must embrace innovative approaches to Place-making and the strategic management of traditional building stock in our town and city centres.

This webinar aims to start a national conversation on how we should deal with this pressing issue, particularly as we emerge from the global Covid-19 pandemic and we all aim to live in a more sustainable way. This webinar will take place Tuesday May 25th at 2:00pm.

Registration can be made by visiting <https://eventcomms.ie/cso.html>.

Keadue TidyTowns – Co. Roscommon

Margaret from Keadue TidyTowns who are previous national winners recently informed us of a project they have completed in the village on Knockranny Wood.

The upgraded Knockranny Wood Loop Walk is located on the shore of Lough Meelagh close to the village of Keadue. It was funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and Irish Heritage Trust under the Outdoor Recreation Scheme. In 2020 Knockranny Wood Walk featured in the Sunday Independent as one of Ireland's 25 Best Summer Walks.



Enjoy the Biodiversity of this peaceful place, it is the home to many of Ireland's native plant and animal species. Explore the Knockranny Wood Loop by following the nature trail and learn more about the flora and fauna that inhabit this special place. Views from the path include Kilronan Mountain where coal was mined up to 1990, Kilronan Wind farm constructed in 1997, Orchard Island can also be seen, Kilronan Castle, Kilronan Abbey, St. Lasair's Holy Well, Kilronan Cemetery and a Crannog also on the walk is Court Tomb dated back to 3000BC. Keadue, home of the O'Carolan Harp Festival each year is a must see on your next visit to County Roscommon. Thank you Margaret for sharing this and well done on the great work in Knockranny Wood.



<http://www.ocarolanharpfestival.ie/>

Keep in Touch

Well that brings us to the end of the May 2021 Newsletter, it really is wonderful to be in a position to have the competition out there for 2021 after all the months of waiting to get back to normal. Thank you to all our groups who have submitted material to us for this month's issue, the newsletter would not be possible without you sharing your stories, poems and projects with us, so once again, thank you all.

With ongoing support from our main sponsor **SuperValu**, who this year celebrate their 30th year of sponsorship of the competition, we will be awarding some **SuperValu** gift cards in the June Newsletter, so good luck to everyone who has submitted an article to us, who knows, you might be named in the June issue as a winner of one of the **SuperValu** gift cards.



Just to remind you all to visit the TidyTowns website at www.tidytowns.ie where you will find all the material you require to enter the 2021 SuperValu TidyTowns competition. The format of the form is just like before with the Sustainable Development Goals incorporated to the categories, the area devoted to how communities stayed together during the pandemic is included in the main form also and we encourage all groups to complete this section, by doing so, you may gain additional marks in the main competition and be entered into a special award with a prize fund of €5,000 sponsored by **SuperValu**.

Entry to the competition is by electronic means and the unit will make direct contact with you in mid-June to advise how this should be done, please do not submit your entry until we contact you. New groups or returning groups should email tidytowns@drccd.gov.ie to advise us that you intend to enter this year. The adjudication this year will be carried out remotely for all entrants, however in some cases, for clarity and transparency, if a second round adjudication is required, it may be necessary to conduct a short site visit, it should be noted that this will only occur if deemed necessary.

Let us finish by wishing you all the very best of luck with your entry, we are here to support and assist you in any way we can, so if you encounter any difficulties or have any questions, please do get in touch.

Anne, Helen, John and all the team in The TidyTowns Unit

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