



10 Clonwood Heights
Clane
Co. Kildare
May 2017

Re: Award-Winning Estates

Dear Residents' Association,

We are delighted to announce details of our recently revamped Award-Winning Estates initiative - thanks as always to the continued generous sponsorship by Clane Project Centre.

All residential housing estates are encouraged to enter. Please drop your entry – form enclosed - to the above address as soon as possible, or fill out the entry form online on <http://ClaneCommunity.ie>.

This year we have started to see how Clane can contribute to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan initiative and enclose some details. If you see an opportunity for your estate to contribute please let us know.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Freda Fogarty at 045 861073 or anyone else on the Tidy Towns team, or email ClaneTidyTowns@gmail.com.

Your efforts in previous years have helped Clane make great progress in the National Tidy Towns competition – we were awarded our third medal, a Bronze, again in 2016. With your help we hope Clane will have a rewarding year again in 2017. We also look forward to seeing you at our awards night later in the year to help celebrate everyone's contributions. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Clane Tidy Towns

PS Did you know?

- Some resources online that you may find of use to your estate:
 - Potholes, illegal dumping, footpath issues etc. can be reported to Kildare County Council via <http://www.fixyourstreet.ie/>
 - Street Light problems (for estates in charge) can be reported at <http://www.airtricitysolutions.com/Content.aspx?key=report-fault>
 - Local recycling amenities are listed on <http://clanecommunity.ie/amenities/recycling-facilities/>
- The Clane Tidy Towns group meet outside the Abbey every Tuesday at 7:30pm for general village tidy-ups. Also Saturday's at 10AM during peak periods. See <http://ClaneCommunity.ie/Calendar> for more information. If you'd like to join us some evening we'd be delighted to see you!



Award-Winning Estates Judging Guidelines

The National Tidy Towns initiative has evolved significantly over the last number of years and is no longer concerned about just tidiness. Community Involvement, Wildlife, Sustainable Waste and Resource Management are now very significant categories that are also considered.

Based on the National Tidy Towns judging criteria, the judges of the Clane Best-Kept Estates competitions will be invited to consider the following. They may also wish to comment on anything else that they believe is relevant.

- Active Involvement of the community
- Boundary area of the estate
 - Is it well maintained?
- Entrance area
 - Is it well maintained?
 - Is there a sign? Is it visible?
- Litter
 - Is there evidence of litter?
 - Is there evidence of dumping?
 - Is there unsightly dumping of grass cuttings?
 - Are there any tie-wraps etc on lamp-posts?
- Tidiness
 - Are roads, verges, paths, public areas tidy?
 - Is there graffiti?
- Houses and Gardens
 - Are they generally well presented?
- Open Areas
 - Are there any tree-ties that need to be loosened?
 - Any tree-stakes no longer needed?
 - Are open areas well maintained?
 - Is there appropriate planting? Long lasting perennials are recommended over short-term summer bedding.
 - Are there any wildlife friendly areas? Nestboxes, butterfly patches, dandelion patches for bees in the Spring, planting of native or wildlife-friendly species?
 - Are there any sustainability initiatives? E.g. minimised or no use of weed-killers, mini-meadow areas.

Pollinator-Friendly Clane

Clane Tidy Towns has started to look at how to make Clane more pollinator friendly, and document our efforts. Whilst the Tidy Towns team will focus on public areas, residential areas and gardens also have a very important role to play. We encourage you to explore the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Guide for Gardens which contains lots of free or low-cost ideas. It also includes a summary sheet – below – with key suggestions for estate maintenance. All details and the guide for gardens is available at <http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/pollinator-plan>.

For any steps you do take in your garden or housing estate, we encourage you to record them on <https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/>, or give Clane Tidy Towns the details and they can record them there.

Thank you for your support!

Pollinator friendly guide for estates management

Pollinators are important for our health, wealth and environment. If you have been given this sheet, the people living in the properties you manage are concerned about their local pollinators. Show them you care by taking these five no-cost measures to help pollinators:

- 1 Let the Dandelions bloom:** wait until late April to do the first grass cut. This allows some Dandelions to flower, providing bees with much needed food in the spring
- 2 Do not spray edging or bases of trees:** avoid using pesticides to tidy up these areas; strim instead, or let the grass here grow to provide pollinators with food
- 3 Protect hedgerows, dry stone walls and earth banks:** especially when south facing, these areas are important nesting sites for harmless solitary bees. Avoid using pesticides on these areas
- 4 Create a '6-week meadow':** cut small areas or strips of grass on a 6-week rotation to provide more wildflowers for pollinators
- 5** If you take any pollinator friendly measures, log them on the publically available mapping system, **'Actions for Pollinators.'** Let everyone know that your company is doing its part for pollinators www.pollinators.ie



Signage templates to inform the community that areas are being protected for pollinators can be downloaded from our website: www.biodiversityireland.ie/pollinator-plan



Award Winning Estates Entry Form

Estate Name

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Contact Information

Name	
Address	
Telephone Number	
Email Address	

Please list any recent initiatives or any plans that you would like to bring to the attention of the judges

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Signature

Date

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