

Community Magazine

Le Chêrle



December 2021

No. 399

EDITORIAL

We dedicate the December issue of Le Chéile to dealing with two topics:- the National Tidy Towns report on Clane for 2021 and the results of the Nomination process for members of Clane Community Council for the next two years, 2022 and 2023.

Congratulations to the team involved in the erection of the Christmas lights in the village. Despite the pandemic they have once again achieved a very high standard with a great uplifting effect, which is very welcome with the times that are in it.

We wish all our readers and contributors a very happy Christmas and New Year.



The last year the National Tidy Towns Competition was run was 2019. Due to the pandemic it did not take place in 2020. The results for 2021 have just been published along with the adjudications. As you will see on page 3, Clane increased its marks from 320 to 331, a rise of 11 points. Clane is in Category E, towns with a population of 5,001-10,000. We retained our Bronze Medal (for the 6th year) with €400. Nationally we are now 3rd in this category:-

Raheny Co Dublin – 333

Lucan Co Dublin – 332

Clane Co Kildare – 331

Nenagh Tipperary North – 328

Roscrea Tipperary North – 327

Bandon Cork South – 325

Newcastle West Co Limerick – 325

On page 3 you will also see the breakdown of how these 331 points were distributed over eight sub-categories and how these points compared with those allotted in 2019.

Clane (331 points) continues to be leader of Category E (5,001-10,000) in Co. Kildare, ahead of Athy (290 points), Kilcock (284 points) and Kildare (284 points).

Across Categories the leaders are Kill 347 and €1,000, Straffan 345 and Highly Commended with €800, Clane 331 and €400.

The TIDY TOWNS ADJUDICATION for Clane in 2021 is given on pages 3 to 7, concluding on page 8, where the Nominations to Clane Community Council for 2022 - 2023 are given.

EDITOR'S DEADLINE

The deadline for receipt of material for the January issue of Le Chéile is

Monday 27th December

To 142 Loughbollard please.

E-mail: mcevoyclane@gmail.com

Get Le Chéile on www.clanecommunity.ie

Tidy Towns Competition 2021 Adjudication Report

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	56 (55)
Streetscape & Public Places	60	40 (39)
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	47 (45)
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	39 (37)
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	18 (17)
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57 (56)
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	38 (37)
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	36 (34)
TOTAL MARK	450	331 (320)

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Fáilte Chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachrmhara Super Valu 2021. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn. Go raibh maith agaibh as ucht bhur dtacaíocht le linn na paindéime. Lean leis an dea-obair.

Welcome to the 2021 SuperValu TidyTowns competition. Thank you for your entry and for your commitment to your place in these difficult times. Keep up the great work.

The Covid restrictions do not appear to have lessened the amount of work that you have undertaken, although obviously adjustments were made. Well done on sharing family activities that could be done safely at home on social media. You seemed to “strike while the iron was hot”, in converting the increased interest some residents expressed in their community during lockdown into gaining new volunteers. This does not appear to have led to you neglecting your already established network of various community groups and businesses. It is great to see the array of supports you have managed to accumulate from so many areas of your community. The fact that the Clane Tidy Towns Flag is flown on the Abbey tower at certain times during the year highlights what an important part you play in your area.

Your map allows at just a glance to see the width and breathe of projects that you are involved in. However, for future submissions we would recommend that you

mark these projects as; New (N), Maintaining(M) and Future Projects (FP).

It is great when the interest and expertise within the community are used to support community-enhancing projects. Well done to those involved with the Clane trout and salmon anglers group. Collaborating with a group that has an interest and ability in a particular area helps to ensure the projects' greatest chance of success.

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

In a time of much-reduced commercial activities in general in our main streets, it is heartening to see the number of new projects and maintaining projects that you are concentrating on in order to ensure a vibrant look and feel in your area. Your videos highlighting how important it is to shop local, to ensure the continued renewal and redecoration of businesses on your main street, must have helped with this. It is certainly heartening to see that you report an increase in the take up of units, with new businesses along your Main Street.

The issue of derelict buildings in so many of our towns and villages throughout the country has certainly not gone away. We do realise the obstacles that sometimes present themselves in trying to deal with this issue. It was great to see the improvement in the derelict buildings on the site opposite the playground.

[The reference here is to the old stables which were across the Stream from the playground. Also there were 2 two - storey derelict buildings which in olden times had been set out on a nightly basis to men who travelled the roads to avail of left over food at Clongowes. They were demolished and are now the sites of Campbell Tyres and the Country Market Store. The old Church of St. Michael, which was roofless and derelict from 1883 to 1984 is now converted into

the Community Centre.]

Well done to your volunteers in the maintenance of the grounds of your 13th century friary.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Your attention to detail in your biodiversity plan is evident all around. Included in this is the removal of redundant tree stakes and cable ties as the trees mature. This is often an area that is overlooked and its importance cannot be over-emphasized. While new projects provide a much better sense of excitement in general, ensuring the success of previous projects is just as important.

Your photos on a Facebook post about the project for installing new pollinator friendly flower beds on the triangular area between the Sallins and Millicent Roads was a great way of showing people the amount of work that was involved in this project. Sometimes when people view a finished article, it is hard to see the number of steps that were involved in this, but you highlighted all of the steps that were needed, including the planning beforehand, by putting up the pages. Well done to all involved in this project. It should provide a wonderful visual boost for years to come, and more importantly provide food and shelter for pollinators.

Your biodiversity plan highlighted that a former waste treatment facility was converted into the Liffeside Nature Park in the early 2000's. It is great when we can use our past to support our present and future. The new wildflower labyrinth area off Main Street was a stunning project.

Nature and Biodiversity in your Lo-

cality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:

Your multi-year biodiversity action plan seems to form a central part of a lot of your activities extending into other areas. Biodiversity has thankfully moved more towards centre stage in the consciousness of our country. However, action on biodiversity can only be achieved by people working at a local level. Tidy Towns' new initiative is to move more towards showing how work at local levels feeds into more strategic goals being achieved. We have taken on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to try and deliver the message more into the community:" Work done at this level feeds into greater results for our planet. Tidy Towns also aims to put the message across that the three pillars of sustainability (environmental, social and economic) are all interlinked, and often when aiming for one the others are influenced. Well done on taking steps into this area.

Projects such as growing new Yew and Black poppy tree specimens from Clane at the Abbey Community Centre and KARE Community Centre is an example of and a biodiversity/ environmental goal and an economic benefit achieved with one project. The 930 native trees that you planted in spring 2021 is such an impressive number. Investment in the correct trees is an investment in your community, with social and environmental benefits. It was lovely to read of a local parish priest providing a native tree at every baptism. We agree with your assessment that this is a wonderful investment in our shared future. This would be a very interesting project to try and replicate in other areas. As

people begin life within a community, putting down physical roots to symbolise this is heart-warming and something to be encouraged.

The Irish Wheelchair Association's biodiversity garden trail has been admired on many previous adjudications. It is wonderful to hear that they are enhancing it further with heritage fruit trees. You mention that bees took up residency in one of the insect hotels provided in this garden. We would love to see any results of the monitoring in a future submission.

Your swift and dipper boxes seems to have brought more success for Clane Tidy Towns, with the support of Wild Kildare and Birdwatch Ireland. It was great to see your success in having juvenile dippers in spring 2020. In order to ensure maximum credit is given for these projects, please ensure as much data as possible is provided from these other groups. This only needs to be a few bullet points for each project. The same would go for your continued contribution to other surveys, such as the bird, swift and bat surveys. Your success in the removal of the invasive Himalayan Balsam has now reached completion, with just small maintenance needed. Many groups face the problem of this invasive species and it is great to see when other groups can point to these positive results. We would encourage you to share these achievements with other groups. The mechanical edger that you invested in should reduce the need for unsightly (and dangerous to pollinators) weed killer.

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

Your projects under sustainability are very varied. The message of rethink/reduce/rescue/ recycle (in that order) is covered through many of your projects.

Rethink: Is this product needed in the first place? Young people today seem a lot more aware of the need to replace our disposable society with something more sustainable. The clothing industry is one area we need to ensure more effort goes into during a more sustainable future. It was a very worthy project of your Leaving Certificate student to highlight the environmental and social impact of some modern fashion trends.

Reduce: Highlighting that the green flash systems in the school consume 2L of water rather than nine per flush shows the potential savings in this area. If we multiply this by the number of people in the school, it would highlight the amount of water saving that is done in school on a daily basis. Please include (in bullet form) any results from the work involved in conserving heat and promoting waste. Maybe the Clane Sustainable Energy Community has some data? Eg., have the electricity bills gone down in the school?

Reuse: Your efforts in the reuse category, by having destinations for unwanted DIY equipment, timber paper bags is much more effective than recycling.

Reuse also includes returning plastic planting pots to local nurseries.

While creating bug hotels is a great way of getting children more interested in re-using old materials and providing a haven for our pollinators, your use of the fallen tree trunks can be a much more environmentally friendly and more effective home.

You are fortunate to have a new bus route. We hope that your promotion via your website encourages the use of this.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Some very good advertisement was spot-

ted on your Facebook page, which encourages people to see how some Tidy Towns activities can be “blended occasionally with leisure walks”, whilst also helping to “keep the amenities enjoyable for the other days”. Your WhatsApp group of 26 people hopefully ensures that many hands do make light work.

Unfortunately, throughout numerous Tidy Towns submissions this year, a common thread was that due to the increase in people staying in their locality and walking, there were a lot more people using our great outdoors. This did not always lead to an appreciation for these green spaces and extra litter pick-ups were needed. Sometimes small actions can have the greatest results. It was a wonderful idea by your local wildlife expert to show the children who participated in a clean-up some white cloud freshwater crayfish rescued from the rubbish in the stream. Demonstrating the consequences of littering should hopefully lessen the amount of litter in the future. The planting of wildlife hedging along walls that are vulnerable to graffiti is a fantastic way of reducing this problem while simultaneously helping biodiversity.

Tidiness can have just as good an effect as reducing litter. Well done on the reduction of telegraph poles on many of your roads. As well as improving the overall appearance of the area due to having a less cluttered feel, it also helps with access for pedestrians, buggies and wheelchair users.

It can be frustrating to groups that they have to highlight that throwing waste into deep ditches does not hide it fully from the walkers, cyclists, and other people passing by. In fact, it renders the clean-up a harder task for those prepared to tackle the issue!

To see the amount of litter generated from

one litter clean up should hopefully show how small (and other) items add up.

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

The echo of your biodiversity plan into other areas of improvement for your community is also seen here. Well done on getting several residents' associations to incorporate reduced mowing into their landscaping maintenance plans to better support pollinators.

It was highlighted that Clane had developed, like many Irish towns, by sometimes turning its back on the river. However, a recent housing development along the river "incorporates a lovely riverside walk". This is a worthy development.

We find in Tidy Towns, that having a competition for estates and business premises really improves the area. We realise the work that also has to go in to judging these. We wish you continued results in this year.

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

Every cloud has a silver lining. Well done on using the reduced traffic of lockdown to organise massive deep clean of all approach roads and the surrounding countryside lanes supported by residents on these roads. Hopefully this will continue in the future.

Connectivity is often an issue in Irish towns. While there might be areas of lovely footpaths, having to traverse an area that might be a bit more daunting due to being so near the traffic often reduces the ability of more vulnerable people who are willing to use the foot-

paths. The job done on widening the footpaths on Millicent and reducing the traffic to one lane will hopefully get some positive results from the community.

We would certainly encourage your investigations into the possibility of providing improved pedestrian access to the village and schools.

Concluding Remarks:

The planning and thought that has gone into your multi-year plan looks impressive. You are fortunate to have a combination of people who are imaginative, creative, knowledgeable and obviously very hard-working to provide a vision on ensuring the sustainable future of your area. Well done to your Tidy Towns group and all others who are helping to put that plan into action.



NOMINATIONS TO C.C.C.

The following have been nominated as members of Clane Community Council for the term 2022 – 2023.

Austin, Maurice

Brennan, Owen

Carroll, Paul

Dempsey, Will

Dillon, Nellie

Doolan, Marion

Drumm, Des

Fitzgerald, Nick

Groarke, Aileen

Grogan, Martine

Healy, Martina

Kennedy, John

Lowry, Henry

Mahon, Rita

Mahon, Rob

McCreery, Tom

McDonagh, John

McDonald, Harry

McEvoy, Padraig

McEvoy, Tony

McKenna, Tony

Noonan, Anne,

Power, John

Quirke, Michael Patrick

As the number nominated (24) “does not significantly exceed 30 an election is not deemed necessary”.

The members, as nominated, will be notified of the date and arrangements for the A.G.M.

The coming term will be one of special interest as it will mark the 50th year of the Community Council, which was founded in 1973.