



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals
Act Local – Think Global

Administered by the Department
of Rural & Community Development



Happy St. Patrick's Day 2022

**SuperValu Tidy Towns
Newsletter
Issue 2022-3**



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A Chairde,

Welcome to our March issue of the SuperValu Tidy Towns Newsletter for 2022. Sadly just as things were returning to some sense of normal following the easing of restrictions, our world is put into turmoil of a different kind. We think of all our fellow citizens in Ukraine whose lives are being torn apart, we pray for them and must try to do whatever we can to support them. The national appeal both in the public eye and in small towns and villages across the country is humbling to say the least, with prices soaring, the Irish still give to those in need and communities come together to stand for what is right and just. Well done to all involved in these missions of support.

Time is flying by and very soon the 2022 competition will be open. We would encourage you to start putting text and images together as the format of the competition categories are as they were in 2021.

We hope to launch the competition in the coming weeks, back in line with the traditional timelines from before the pandemic. Therefore the closing date will be in or around the third week in May. We usually give groups six weeks in which to prepare and compile their material.

Entry to the competition this year will only be through email, so material should be kept to a minimum, remember sometimes, less is more!! Photographs can be copied into WORD documents and a single A4 page can hold up to 12 images, six on either side.

We have had discussions with a number of sponsors and will be bringing some new special awards to the competition this year in addition to some amended awards together with the favourites, many of which have been with us for years. Thank you to all our special award sponsors and can we encourage all groups to give these

awards some consideration, there are some fantastic prizes on offer. Closing date for these awards will be a number of weeks after the main competition, this will give you some time to work on them. The School Award will have the same closing date as the main competition as it is adjudicated in line with the main competition.

Please keep an eye on the website at www.tidytowns.ie for further updates on the main competition and all of the special awards. Looking forward to hearing from you all in the coming months.

Ukraine

Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Ukraine at this time. The suffering these people are currently enduring is heart-breaking to observe from a far let alone living through it. Seeing their homes, their cities, their lives shattered and having to leave the place they call home, on foot, in many cases, is very hard for many of us to comprehend.



The Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee TD, visited the reception facility at Dublin Airport last week where they met with people arriving from Ukraine under the Temporary Protection Directive.

The Ministers also met with the staff from each of their Departments and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth who are providing support and assistance to these people from Ukraine as they establish themselves in Ireland.

We will be welcoming many of these people in to our towns, our villages, our communities and in some cases, our homes. The Irish welcome that is known worldwide will no doubt be afforded to these people. TidyTowns groups have been a source of welcome and of identity in the community for many new residents and we are sure, that hand of friendship and welcome will be extended.

Well done to so many of you who have organised and supported collections of aid and essential supplies to support those who have been displaced and those who cannot leave, they too need support and care. It is commendable, the way in which communities have rallied together, from donations to offers of support with logistics, to drivers who travel in some cases into the unknown to deliver these essential items and to all involved in this humanitarian mission - Thank You!

Our sponsor SuperValu/Musgrave have also put their shoulder to the wheel in donating €250,000 To Irish Red Cross and UNICEF Ukraine Crisis Appeal. There is also a facility in their nationwide SuperValu and Centra stores via a simple “Tap to Donate” mechanism in store at the till.

We hope that better days are ahead for the people of Ukraine and that a peaceful resolution can be reached to bring this to an end.

Minister Humphreys launches €7 Million Fund to develop community facilities & amenities in rural areas under CLÁR



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- Applications invited under the 2022 CLÁR Programme
- Focus on developing local facilities and amenities in rural areas
- Grants of up to €50k available for wide range of projects including Youth Clubs, Handball Alleys, Community Gyms, Walking Tracks & more
- Minister introduces specific CLÁR measure to support Island communities

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, has recently launched the 2022 CLÁR programme. CLÁR provides funding for small scale infrastructural projects in rural areas that have experienced significant levels of population decline.

Community Groups are encouraged to consider applying for funding for projects such as the provision of Youth Hubs, Multi-Use Gaming Areas (MUGAs), Skateboard Parks, Playgrounds, Handball Alleys, Community Cinemas and Gyms and much more (see full list below).

Minister Humphreys has increased funding for the 2022 CLÁR programme by over 25% this year, in recognition of the importance of the programme to some of our most remote rural areas.

Announcing the details of the programme today, Minister Humphreys said:

“I am delighted to announce the launch of the 2022 CLÁR Programme. The priority of this year’s scheme is the development of facilities and amenities which will enhance our rural communities. CLÁR provides small grants which can make a big difference and I am encouraging local community groups, youth clubs, men and women sheds and sports clubs to apply via their Local Authority if they have an idea for a project which could make a difference in their area.”

Like many of our other CLÁR areas, our off-shore Islands have seen significant levels of depopulation over the years. They also face specific challenges such as rural isolation, population decline, service accessibility and social disadvantage. A new Measure specifically for our islands is also being introduced which is a key part of ‘Our Rural Future’.

The closing date for Measure 1: Developing Community Facilities & Amenities is Friday the 6th of May but local authorities will have earlier deadlines so please check with them first as the local authorities administer the scheme.

The closing date for Measure 2 Mobility, Cancer Care and Community First Responders Transport is Friday the 8th of April with the closing date for Measure 3 'Our Islands' is Friday The 6th of May.

Full details of the Programme and application process are available on the Department's website <https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/91ba52-clar/>

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's)



In September 2015, 193 UN Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development titled "Transforming our World". The centrepiece of the 2030 Agenda are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which reflect economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom, it recognises that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

The full version of the "Transforming our World" agenda can be found by visiting;

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld/publication>



The 2022 SuperValu TidyTowns entry form will feature these goals and the goals that apply to each of the different competition categories will be listed on the entry form similar to the 2021 entry from.

Groups are encouraged to reference any of the goals that their various projects or initiatives aim to deliver. We are not asking you to do anything differently, just to have an awareness that the work you are already undertaking is achieving so many of these goals already. After each project, you can insert a line to advise the Adjudicator if any of the SDG goals were achieved through that project.

Over the next couple of issues of the newsletter, we will give you a sample of some of the projects you might like to consider under each of the goals, chances are, you already have completed many of these types of projects in recent years. Recent issues of the TidyTowns newsletter, some of which contain articles or information on the goals can be found by visiting this link on the TidyTowns website;

<https://www.tidytowns.ie/about-us/newsletters/>

Projects that align to the various Sustainable Development Goals are as follows, please be assured that there will be no negative marking if you do not make links to projects but we would encourage you all to make an effort.



Support your local Charities & Voluntary Groups

Local Shoe Box Appeal

Take one /leave one behind

Include marginalised individuals



Edible Landscapes

Free Nutrition Classes

Grow It Yourself





Walk in the woods,
volunteering & Connecting

Support local Mental health
Association

Connect in with your community
for change

- Gardening
- Community Check in



Book Swap

Free community Library

Skill Share



Peer Support Groups

Men's Emotional Wellbeing

Support Domestic Violence Shelters



Drink from the Tap!

Refill.ie

Ask the Green school kids!!!

Keep Cup Bottles





Ask the Green school Kids – Energy Vampires

Energy saving community led initiatives

Learn to read your bills – Workshop

Plug out , turn off



Shop Local

Community based workshops

Community driven activities/festivals



Local Markets

Energy Co-ops

Work with industry in your communities

Such as Supervalu



Look at social inclusion in your area

Join or start a Befriending initiative

Local Information points



SuperValu partners with the All-Ireland Pollinator plan for “Save the Bees” Campaign

SuperValu and Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD recently launched the “Save the Bees” Campaign in partnership with the All-Ireland Pollinator plan and SuperValu TidyTowns. All 3,241 primary schools in Ireland will be sent a SuperValu “Save the Bees” Pollinator Pack so they can create their own bee-friendly garden.



This SuperValu Save the Bees Pollinator Pack was co-created with Dr Una Fitzpatrick, Head of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and is endorsed by SuperValu TidyTowns. It contains guidebooks, posters and bookmarks in addition to a pollinator-friendly garden kit with flower seeds and a garden sign. All elements of the Save the Bees Pollinator pack have been sustainably sourced and are recyclable.

To further promote awareness and action, families will receive their own Save the Bees cards in SuperValu with every spend over €30. These cards are added to each school’s Save the Bees poster, which, once completed, can be entered into a draw to win a share of €50,000 for the school.



Speaking at the launch, Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD said “Protecting our pollinators helps in turn to protect our planet which is why I am thrilled to launch the SuperValu Save the Bees campaign. Educating our children and communities about the importance of pollinators is vitally important and I look forward to seeing bee-friendly school gardens pop up across the country in the coming weeks and months.”

Through the Save the Bees campaign, SuperValu will work with schools and communities across Ireland to help educate people on the very real and current threat facing Ireland’s bees. As it stands, nearly one-third of Irish bees are in danger of becoming extinct. The loss of such a large portion of our bee population would be catastrophic. More than 75 per cent of our plant species are animal pollinated. Bees are important pollinators of Irish produce like strawberries and apples and they ensure diverse wild plant communities across the countryside that help regulate climate, provide healthy spaces for recreation, and support other wildlife.



Commenting on the campaign, Ian Allen, SuperValu Managing Director said; “At SuperValu, we are huge supporters of Irish producers and suppliers. We source 75 per cent of our goods in Ireland, and we want to keep buying and supporting Irish and local, which is why we are so committed to protecting pollinators. We are delighted to work with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan to make change through our Save the Bees campaign. There are simple steps we can all take to make Ireland a habitable ecosystem for bees and our SuperValu “Save the Bees” packs will provide support awareness, education and action for children across the country. This initiative will also give children the fantastic opportunity to win a share of €50,000 for their primary school.”

SuperValu want to help local communities, schools and families lead the way in creating an Ireland where pollinators can thrive. It is vital that bees and pollinators have enough to forage and safe places to use for nesting, among vegetation, the soil and hedges. The SuperValu Save the Bees campaign will not only help schools understand pollinators and how to protect them but also help them make Ireland more pollinator friendly.

The SuperValu TidyTowns competition also recognises the value and importance of biodiversity. Nearly half (46 per cent) of all TidyTowns committees say that biodiversity is their main priority area. More than 200 SuperValu TidyTowns committees have engaged with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and made their local areas significantly pollinator friendly. In 2021, Buncrana, Co. Donegal won the SuperValu TidyTowns’ All Ireland Pollinator Plan Local Authority Pollinator Award.

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD continued “The Save the Bees campaign is a great addition to the SuperValu Tidy owns competition which continues to bring biodiversity and sustainability to the fore. Committees around the country have been rewilding spaces and creating new green areas in our communities, not only helping our pollinators but improving our shared spaces for the whole community.”



For more information on the SuperValu Save the Bees campaign visit <https://supervalu.ie/real-people/save-the-bees>

For information on the All Ireland Pollinator Plan visit <https://pollinators.ie/>



National Tree Week 2022

This year we will celebrate National Tree Week from Sunday 20th March to Saturday 26th March 2022. More forests for a greener future. National Tree Week has been organised by the Tree Council since 1985 and in partnership with Coillte since 1989, it is a week-long programme of events to celebrate all things trees.

During National Tree Week everyone is encouraged to take a moment in time and visit one of our numerous woodlands to explore the wonderful world of trees!

There are so many marvellous forests throughout Ireland that one is spoilt for choice. Here is a list of just some to consider.

<https://www.treecouncil.ie/woodland-walks>

Listed below are just a few suggestions of different ways you might like to celebrate National Tree Week in your community, in your school or with your TidyTowns group. Loads more information can be found by visiting; <https://www.treecouncil.ie/national-tree-week>

We are delighted to announce the ongoing partnership between the SuperValu TidyTowns competition and the Tree Council of Ireland will continue for 2022 with the Tree Council Special Award. We would encourage all groups to consider entering this award and indeed all our special awards in this year's competition.

NATIONAL TREE WEEK 2022

More forests for a greener future



#TreeWeek2022

Celebrate the week in a personal way by planting a tree in your garden.

Climb a tree or even hug a tree!



Organise a walk or trail to showcase and tell the stories of any large, unusual or historic trees in your community.



Encourage your local residents association, tidy towns group, youth club, sports club or other local organisation to be involved in a tree planting or a tree maintenance project.



Celebrate in school by planting a tree in your grounds.

Draw pictures, make leaf prints or take bark rubbings of trees. Learn how to measure the height and spread of a tree.



Write poems or create and tell stories about trees.

Alone – Free Digital Skills Training

The charity ALONE are working in partnership with Vodafone to provide digital skills training workshops for organisations that work with older people. These workshops will focus on helping older people to get online.

ALONE and Active Retirement Ireland have partnered with Vodafone Ireland Foundation to deliver a new nationwide 5-year digital skills training programme for older people called Hi Digital.

The programme has been developed to help bridge the digital divide by offering free digital skills training to older people and upskilling the organisations that support them. The Plan aims to train 230,000 older people.

The programme consists of three different strands:

Online learning

A new FREE online learning platform has been created at hidigital.ie where older people can go online and start learning basic digital skills. The modules covered include:



The workshops will focus on getting an older person online. ALONE has been providing technology to older people for years, we know there can be challenges in accessing and using it. This course will acknowledge and address these challenges, using our experience and case studies to show how best we can support each individual to get online and *stay online*.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- 1 Understanding the Digital Champions' role in supporting older people with their digital skills
- 2 Understanding the older person's circumstances and building trust
- 3 Understanding the impact technology can have on an older person's life
- 4 Planning and supporting the learning process for the individual
- 5 How to facilitate one to one sessions and small groups

Duration: 3 hours

Cost: Free

IT/Digital Skills required: Basic

Who can attend: Any individual who works in organisation that supports older people and will be able to support older people with their digital skills.

Registration: You can register your interest in attending a workshop with ALONE by completing this quick form [here](#) or by emailing digitalskills@alone.ie. You can also call ALONE's Support Line on 0818 222 024.



- Introduction (what the internet is and what you can do)
- Using my smartphone
- Connecting with others (email, social media, WhatsApp)
- Entertainment and Shopping Online
- Hobbies and Travel

In-person group classes

Active Retirement Ireland will run in-person digital skills classes for older people across the country. For more information or to sign up, please visit www.activeirl.ie/hidigital or call 1800 20 30 30.

Digital Champion workshops

ALONE will train individuals from organisations that support older people to

become Digital Champions through online and in-person workshops. More information available by visiting; www.alone.ie

Our Rural Future: Minister Humphreys launches €15 million Fund to support Outdoor Adventure Activities



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- Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) to provide major boost to rural tourism
- €15 million fund to develop our mountains, lakes, beaches, bogs, forest walks, blueways, greenways and bridleways
- Focus on supporting adventure activities such as hiking, mountaineering, kayaking, swimming and cycling
- Funded in partnership with Fáilte Ireland Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, has today launched a major €15 million fund that will support dozens of outdoor adventure projects across the country.

The 2022 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) will see the development of natural amenities such as our mountains, lakes, beaches, bogs, walkways, greenways and blueways.

The Scheme, which saw its funding increased by Minister Humphreys as part of the Budget, will place a particular focus on developing adventure tourism in Rural Ireland. It will support activities such as hiking, mountaineering, kayaking, swimming and cycling, which were especially popular among families throughout the Pandemic. The projects that will be supported under ORIS are designed to benefit the health and Wellbeing of the communities in which they are located.

Launching the 2022 scheme Minister Humphreys said:

“I am delighted to announce the launch of the 2022 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme. To date, the Scheme has provided funding of over €87 million for more than 1,200 projects nationwide. The facilities and amenities funded under this Scheme represent a tremendous long-term asset for rural communities and visitors alike and are clear examples of the impact that “Our Rural Future” is having across Ireland. That’s why I have allocated €15 million to the Scheme as part of the biggest ever financial support package for Rural Ireland which I secured in Budget 2022.”

The 2022 scheme will provide investment ranging from €30,000 for small scale projects and up to €500,000 for large scale projects. This is an alteration on last year’s scheme, which provided funding ranging from €20,000 instead of €30,000.

The Scheme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development in partnership with Fáilte Ireland and project applications will be accepted under the following Measures:

- . Measure 1 for small scale projects requiring funding of up to €30,000,

- . Measure 2 for medium scale projects with funding of up to €200,000,
- . Measure 3 for large scale projects seeking funding of up to €500,000, and
- . Project Development Measure funding of up to €50,000 for development costs for strategic large scale projects.

If you are interested in applying for any of the measures above, please contact your Local Authority or Local Development Company who will be happy to assist you further. Information can be obtained by contacting oris@drcd.gov.ie

Sustainable Energy Communities and TidyTowns.



The SEAI Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) programme will support communities to develop energy management skills and knowledge and save energy across all sectors.

A key part of this programme is the SEC Network, established by SEAI in 2015, to support a national movement of SECs. The Network is now operating in every part of the country with more than 600 SECs now established nationwide, spread right throughout the country in every county.

An SEC may also choose to apply for dedicated funding (€10,000, €15,000 or exceptionally €20,000, depending on size) to develop their Community Energy Master Plan (a baseline of all energy usage in the community) and set energy objectives through a ranked list of energy reduction projects.

An energy project requires time, commitment and an informed approach. Working together as a community means a shared workload, better value for money, and a bigger impact.

Groups of people come together to improve how energy is used for the benefit of their community. They look at how we can use energy in a sustainable, holistic way. Energy communities often look at projects in homes, transport and local business. They also look at community buildings such as schools, community centres, and sports facilities.

Many TidyTowns groups have chosen to join the SEC Network as a practical way to reduce energy in the transition to being more carbon neutral. This is also relevant to the category 'Sustainability - doing more with less' in the TidyTowns Competition.



SECs have common goals:

1. Use less energy

Energy efficiency is the cheapest and most straightforward way for a community to become more sustainable. Most communities have buildings with old or outdated insulation, lighting or heating systems.

2. Use clean energy

Switching from fossil fuels to renewables is the next step where possible. This can be by way of renewable heating systems, changing energy suppliers, or generating energy.

3. Use smart energy

Technology gives us more control over how we heat homes, drive cars, or light buildings. Where suitable, communities can use these technologies to complement their other actions.

4. Community owned renewable energy production resources.

Consider the feasibility of community owned renewable energy production resources.

Register with SEAI

Join the Sustainable Energy Community network, now numbering 620 throughout Ireland. This way you can access the supports available through SEAI. Learn more about joining the Sustainable Energy Network by clicking on this website link:

<https://www.seai.ie/community-energy/sustainable-energy-communities/join-the-sustainable-ener/>

Talk to your mentor

A mentor will get in contact with you to help you get the ball rolling. They might invite you to events or workshops so you can meet with other communities and learn more about what you can do. There is a Community Mentor located in each county of Ireland. This means you get the opportunity to learn from other local communities and get guidance on your next steps from an experienced mentor. **Contact your county Mentor** To request a call back from your county Mentor email sec@seai.ie Your Mentor is there to support your progress through your project journey.



<https://www.facebook.com/OfficialSuperValuTidyTowns>



<https://twitter.com/TidyTownsIre>



<https://www.tidytowns.ie>



Remember to share the Newsletter with your wider Tidy Towns group and volunteers through your own social media or through email. It's good to keep everyone in the Picture!!!

Blackwater TidyTowns - Seeds to Success

The 'Seeds to Success' series is an online 'seed share' of knowledge and learned experience from six growing communities of various types and stages of development across County Wexford. The hope is sharing these growing experiences will inspire other communities to get digging, planting and producing in their own locality. Read more about the series here:



<https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/community/healthy-wexford/healthy-wexford-initiatives/seeds-to-success-community-growing-series>



The Blackwater TidyTowns episode can be accessed here:

Healthy Wexford Facebook -

<https://www.facebook.com/HealthyWexford/videos/635291144416031/>

Healthy Wexford YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHBaPx4L12c>

Keep in Touch

That's all we have you for this month folks, hope your plans are going well for TidyTowns 2022, stay safe, look after each other and do what you can, as you always do, to support those in need in our own communities and continue to welcome those who need a friendly hand who might be new to your area.

As always, we encourage you all to access the new TidyTowns Handbook on the website and to remind you that all issues of the Newsletter are on the TidyTowns website at <https://www.tidytowns.ie/about-us/newsletters/>. Keep sending items in to us, we love to hear from you all.

If you have any issues or queries, please drop us an email or give us a call, we are here to help in any way we can. **Happy St. Patrick's Day everyone, enjoy the long weekend.**

Anne, Helen & John

Department of Rural and Community Development
Government Buildings
Ballina
Co Mayo F26 E8N6
Email: tidytowns@drcd.gov.ie
Tel: 01 – 773 6938 or 01 – 773 6912



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Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future



SuperValu
TidyTowns
Caring for our environment