

# Tidy Towns Competition 2023

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tullow - Tulach** Ref: **48**  
County: **Carlow** Mark: **339**  
Category: **E** Date(s): **13/07/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	48	49
Streetscape & Public Places	80	43	45
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	44	46
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	42	43
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	20	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	58	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	39	40
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	35	36
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>339</b>

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu don bhliain 2023. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Adh Mór! Welcome to the 2023 Supervalu National Tidy Towns Competition Tullow! Tullow Tidy Towns has made remarkable strides to improve their environment through various projects and initiatives, showing significant dedication. You have taken a proactive stance toward improving areas that need attention, evidenced in the Planning Workshop where you devised plans to enhance cleanliness and address approach roads. Your consistent performance in the National Tidy Towns Competition and other awards demonstrate the fruits of effective community involvement. Your enthusiasm, collaborative approach, achievements, and successes should all be celebrated. Your submission was nicely laid out but there is definitely scope to make it more succinct and reduce from 70 pages with reduced photo sizing and tighter formatting. Just to stress the info provided was very succinct so well done. The hyperlinks in the Table of Contents were very useful for this adjudicator. Don't forget to assign New or Maintained status as well as the SDGs. There is no need to duplicate the entry again at back of document. Photos aligned with text are easier for adjudicators. Your map could have been clearer; as a town one large scale and one town centre map might be worth investigating.

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

Well done on being proactive and spreading the word on the "Retail Enhancement Support Programme". Congratulations for keeping track of problem sites and using your position to influence and advocate for areas outside your direct control. This is evidenced in your site successes on Mill Street and Shillelagh Road. I very much liked your way of portraying this in the submission. The creation of an active travel footpath from Oakley Wood to Court View and Castle Lane exemplifies Tullow's dedication to improving community infrastructure. Supervalu's investment in its forecourt and replacement of wooden fencing at its central car park show their dedication to improving public spaces. Installing picnic benches near Riverbank Restaurant has enhanced Tullow's aesthetic appeal and served both restaurant patrons and others. I also loved the benches facing the river – one or two areas could be sensitively trimmed back, outside nesting season, to open up views of the river. Best to engage with your local Heritage Officer when planning such works. Notable premises on the day included the Garda Station, St. Columba's National School, Mary Maher & Co Solicitors the Credit Union and Tara Arms. I also loved the pedestrian bridge over the river and the old graveyard beside Tesco. Could a more sympathetic fence be installed here?

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

Tullow Tidy Towns has taken great pride in maintaining Tullow Town Park and Thomas Traynor Park for Carlow

County Council. Your comprehensive management approach entails grass cutting, edging, shrub maintenance, litter pickup and bench painting in order to keep parks attractive and accessible to their community. Recognisable is your commitment to environmental responsibility by recycling grass cuttings into mulch for wildlife-friendly verges along the River Slaney, thus encouraging biodiversity and sustainability. At Scoil Mhuire Lourdes, you demonstrate a dedication to maintaining green spaces that contribute positively to local ecosystems by planting pollinator-friendly bulbs, herbs, and shrubs in the school garden - an action which sets an excellent example for others to emulate - adding beauty and environmental value to the area.

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

Tullow Tidy Towns has demonstrated extraordinary dedication in their efforts to promote environmental conservation and biodiversity in their local area. Well done to Martina, Mary, Grace and Nicola for taking part in Water Blitz Day testing samples at various locations. Your advocacy for environmental inclusion in "Project Tullow 2040" Plan further demonstrates this commitment towards sustainable development. Congratulation on the award from Tesco and launching your report following the swift survey conducted with local volunteers and an ornithologist. This has provided valuable baseline data that sets a precedent for similar initiatives in future conservation efforts. A big shout out to the pupils from Tullow Community School who collaborated with Carlow BeeKeepers Association for the BT Young Scientist Competition. Best of luck with the Grey Partridge Project. I noted some Himalayan Balsam along the river – could you get involved in its removal/control?

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

It was great to read about Tullow Community School's participation in Junk Kouture, showcasing their creativity and commitment to sustainable fashion. Through creating and maintaining the Facebook page "Tullow Family Free Cycle," you promote community sharing while decreasing waste production. Scoil Mhuire Lourdes has earned its fifth Green Flag for Biodiversity to demonstrate their dedication to environmental preservation. Two new school gardens built with assistance from Tullow Tidy Towns have greatly increased biodiversity at the school, giving pupils more of an opportunity to appreciate nature. Charity shops in Tullow serve two functions, diverting materials away from landfills while contributing to local charities. Carlow County Council's WEEE Collection Day was highly successful at decreasing risks of illegal dumping while gathering a considerable quantity of white goods. Food waste is a major contributor to the climate crisis and your innovative project with Chef Gavin Byrne's providing cooking tips and using leftover ingredients only further advances sustainable practices. Overall, your efforts reflect an outstanding dedication to environmental responsibility and engagement that sets an inspiring example for others to follow.

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

The town was spotless on the day I visited – congratulations! Tullow Tidy towns has demonstrated impressive environmental stewardship through various initiatives. Your Bag it, Bin it campaign has successfully engaged children from primary schools while raising awareness of proper disposal of dog waste. Trash Bash litter picks at Tullow Town Park in between appointment of TUS workers proved successful at effectively addressing litter issues, while also providing for proper disposal of bottles collected. Congratulations on the collaborations with Tullow Men's Shed and Tullow Kayak Club. The annual River Slaney Clean-up demonstrates effective partnership efforts in clearing away rubbish from areas inaccessible to your group. Some small issues on the day included:

- Graffiti on the fish sculpture in the park behind Tesco.
- Some old wooden signage affixed to trees along the river.
- A lovely water pump with a hanging basket and LED lighting – sometimes less is more!

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

Commendable efforts made in Tullow to compile contacts for residential estates. This exemplifies your dedication and desire to strengthen relationships in the locality. Newsletter emails sent to residents are an invaluable source of information about various aspects of community life - Tidy Towns Competition results, grant opportunities, and local events like St Patrick's Day Parade etc. Keep up the great work in this category.

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

You have made great strides in improving various aspects of town's approach roads and streets, including marking of junctions. Replacing unattractive chain link and palisade fencing will improve the town's visual aesthetic. Rathoe Road's thoughtful development of a footpath/style not only allows workers easy access, but it also encourages eco-friendly practices by prompting some drivers to leave their cars at home.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Wonderful projects being undertaken by Tullow Tidy Towns and your community partners. Keep up the fantastic work!