



Wicklow County Council Tidy Town, Estates and Environmental Awards



Wicklow County Council's annual Tidy Towns and Environmental Awards were judged during the summer months of 2020. While the National Tidy Town did not proceed due to Covid restrictions communities were active when safe to do so and many significant projects and actions were completed in 2020. These awards recognise that work.

Cllr. Pat Kennedy
Cathaoirleach
Wicklow County Council



Frank Curran
Chief Executive
Wicklow County Council



On behalf of the members of Wicklow County Council I am delighted to announce the winners of this year's Tidy Town, Estates and Environmental Awards.

2020 was challenging for communities. Restrictions and social distancing limited what we could achieve at times and also called on us to provide support for family, friends and neighbours as well as the vulnerable in our society. We responded well as a county.

The National Tidy Towns Awards could not take place but the work continued in towns and communities across the county with groups delivering new projects. Wicklow County wishes to pay tribute to the people who helped to care for our environment and build a more sustainable future for all. These awards recognize your continued endeavours during 2020.

These awards are an opportunity to celebrate the great work that groups throughout the county delivered in 2020. While Covid 19 disrupted all our lives it did bring communities together and it did strengthen the relationship between communities and Local Government.

2020 was also a year in which Wicklow County Council established a new Climate Action Team. It was a year when we worked with communities on Climate Action through Sustainable Energy Communities with the first group Glenmalure completing their Energy Master Plan in November.

Climate and Biodiversity Action linked to citizen engagement are the common threads that run through the awards presented here. Congratulations to all award winners and Thank You to all who worked to contribute in your community over the last year.



Tidy Towns groups and residents associations maintained high standards in our estates and town centres throughout 2020. Action for biodiversity and sustainability was notable in all parts of the county. Many new volunteers assisted for the first time over the last year.

Tidy Estates Competition

Local Authority Estates

John Paul Ave, Arklow	1st
Mallens Wood, Grangecon	2nd
Gleann Chill, Glenealy	3rd
WHAD RA, Bray	Commended
Kenmare Heights, Greystones	Commended
Lathaleer, Baltinglass	Commended
Slaney View, Stratford on Slaney	Commended

Private Estates

Brennans Parade, Bray	1st
Fernhill, Arklow	2nd
Ashton, Blessington	3rd
Burgage Manor, Blessington	Commended
Rathdown Park, Greystones	Commended
Oak Park, Blessington	Commended
Dragoon Park, Hollywood	Commended
Sugar Loaf Crescent, Bray	Commended



Tidy Towns Main Street Competition

Small Towns

Hollywood	1st
Ballycoog	2nd
Grangecon	3rd
Glenealy	Commended
Newcastle	Commended
Lacken	Commended
Stratford on Slaney	Commended
Knockananna	Commended

Medium Towns

Dunlavin	1st
Avoca	2nd
Delgany	3rd
Laragh	Commended
Enniskerry	Commended
Roundwood	Commended
Ashford	Commended
NewtownmountKennedy	Commended

Large Towns

Greystones	1st
Arklow	2nd
Blessington	3rd
Baltinglass	Commended



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

Biodiversity Award

Greystones Tidy Towns

The Shoreline Centre was planted and managed for biodiversity. Planned with zoning of habitats and maintenance programmes. They are also incorporating biodiversity into all planting schemes around the town..



Biodiversity In Schools Award

Sacred Heart, Aughrim

Tree planting undertaken with the support of a local business. Developed a wildflower garden for bees and created a vegetable garden from which the produce was used for soup and salad.

Built Heritage Award

Knockananna Tidy Towns

Knockananna completed the restoration of the old blacksmiths house, restoring from dereliction a key historic structure in the centre of the town.

Business Award

Poppies Café, nominated by Enniskerry Tidy Towns

Commended

Healthy Matters, nominated by Bray Tidy Towns

Poppies invested in solar panels, LED lighting, and rainwater harvesting. Discounts are given for reusable cups and they have a focus on sustainable packaging. Coffee is sourced from a carbon neutral source. Local suppliers are used. Healthy Matters offer a range of refill options when purchasing instore.

Coast Care Award

Wicklow Aquanautics

They undertook citizen science monitoring of species re-establishing in Greystones Harbour, Also did invasive species monitoring, Divers did under water litter picks. They developed a biodiversity information leaflet on their findings.

Communal Gardening Award

Greystones Kilcoole Community Garden

Renovation of Shoreline Community Garden creating a thriving hub for GIY. Garden had been neglected. Remodelled with new focus on vegetable production.

Energy Award

Laragh Tidy Towns

They are undertaking a Sustainable Energy Communities Energy Master Plan, auditing energy usage to identify the best energy saving options for the community. Public engagement with the community in surrounding areas.

Climate Change Award

Arklow Tidy Towns

They are working with industry in the town to offset carbon emissions through tree planting, Partners include Servier, Echelon, Merck, Irish Water, Leon Recycling. They are developing a neighbour wood on 7 Ha with Sunbeam Services and Coillte, Planting in public spaces with residents and schools is also done. . They worked on a new Community Biodiversity Action Plan. Engaging all in Climate Action.

Local Food/Fairtrade Award Commended

Wicklow Wines nominated by Enniskerry Tidy Towns Baltinglass Fairtrade

Wicklow Wines are a member of the steering group and champion for Wicklow Naturally as well as participating in Origin Green. They use Bord Bia approved suppliers. They focus on energy efficiency and waste prevention. Pulp is composted for use in food production.

Baltinglass Fairtrade maintained Fair Trade status. Earth Day was celebrated. They had a swap your basket challenge. They have an ongoing schools campaigns.

Landscaping Award Commended

Ballycoog Tidy Towns Blessington Tidy Towns

Ballycoog were awarded for their landscaping of the Graveyard, the carpark, and their work with the school on creating a garden, Pollinator friendly planting was used. Perennial planting ensures longevity. The bottle banks were well presented and landscaped.

Blessington Tidy Towns created a new disability and age friendly garden cared for by local residents..



Local Champions

Stephen Brennan nominated by Scoil Realt na Mara

Commended Sharon Plunkett nominated by Bray Tidy Towns

Commended Eoin Llewellyn nominated by Greystones Tidy Towns

Stephen Brennan has led on many PURE Mile campaigns in the Brittas Bay area and worked to explore and document local heritage. Each year he involves local students getting them to learn about their heritage documenting and presenting it in school.

Sharon has been instrumental in leading local residents on a clean up and revamp of their estate and went on to further afield in the community of Bray on several campaigns with Bray Tidy Towns.

Eoin has worked to document local biodiversity and strengthen awareness on it. He has led on projects including planting a community orchard.

Local Heritage Award**Baltinglass Tidy Towns**

Baltinglass worked on a new walk in Lords Woods including paths and wooden infrastructure for visitors.

Schools Award**Scoil Realt na Mara, Brittas Bay**

Brittas Bay are recognised for their work in exploring their local heritage through PURE, their productive vegetable garden and their planting for biodiversity.

School Garden Award**Ballycoog National School**

Ballycoog have worked to establish a pollinator friendly garden to the front of the school and a fruit and vegetable garden to the back with support from parents



and the community.

Sustainable Tourism Award**Lacken Tidy Towns**

Lacken have restored their old mass path creating a lovely walk which can be looped back round to the town and which will create a great addition for visitors to the Blessington Greenway when it comes through.

Trees Award**Greystones Tidy Towns**

. A campaign called 20 trees for 20 was delivered with local sports clubs. A tree planted for each child who visited Santa resulted in 215 trees planted. Extensive planting of trees was undertaken at the shoreline centre.

Water Conservation Award**Arklow Tidy Towns**

Threatened with the loss of newly planted trees during the hot spell they used piping to create irrigation channels direct to the roots keeping trees alive while minimizing water usage.

Water Protection Award**Delgany Tidy Towns**

They undertook a citizen science based study to examine water quality in the Three Trouts River building up local knowledge and identifying options to improve water quality. Regular clean ups undertaken.

Waste Minimization Award**Reservoir Cogs nominated by Blessington Tidy Towns****Commended****Bray Crafters nominated by Bray Tidy Towns**

A thorough greening of this annual cycling event. No plastic bottles. Use of biodegradable materials. All waste segregated for recycling. A goodie bag swapped for litter at the end. Electric powered support vehicles.

Bray Crafters have incorporated reuse of fabrics into their craft activities.