



Strokestown Tidy Towns Group

Entry Form 2024



SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form 2024

We strongly recommend that you read the 2024 TidyTowns Information Booklet available on www.tidytowns.ie before completing this form.

About You!

Name of your Town/Area/Village/Island: **Strokestown**

Name of your Town/Area/Village/Island in Irish: **Béal Áith na mBuillí**

County: **Roscommon**

Region: **North West & West** (See list of Regions / counties at Terms & Conditions no. 22.)

Specify your Local Authority: **Roscommon County Council**

Last Year of Entry: **2023**

Organisation Name: **Strokestown Tidy Towns Group**

Contact Name:	Jonathan Cassidy	Martina O' Connor	Mark Chilvers
Position:	Chair	Secretary	Treasurer
Address:	Lissaphobble, Strokestown. County Roscommon. F42 TP04.	Tuam, Kilrooskey. County Roscommon. F42 D328.	Ballyfeeny Old School House (lower), R371, Kilglass. County Roscommon. F42 P657.
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Social Media address: <https://www.facebook.com/strokestowntidytowngroup>

Estimated Location

Your adjudicator may not have visited your area before so please describe briefly where your town or village is located within your county, e.g. Xkm north/south etc. of the nearest large town or give the road number along which your town is situated. Absolute clarity is of key importance.

Strokestown is situated centrally in Ireland, approximately 140km from Dublin and approximately 100km from Galway on the N5. Located to the north of County Roscommon (approximately 20km from the county town) Strokestown is also close to the County Longford and County Leitrim borders, approximately 23km from the towns of Longford (via the N5) and 25km from Carrick-on-Shannon (via the R368).

Population Category

Please tick your population category and enter your actual population (based on the latest census). If you are unsure please check with the central statistics office, www.cso.ie or your Local Authority. Your adjudicator may check you have entered the correct category.

Please enter your actual population here e.g. 19,999: **850** (CSO 2022)

Prize Category Population

Village	<input type="checkbox"/>	A (Under 200)	Large Town	<input type="checkbox"/>	E (5,001 to 10,000)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	B (201 to 1,000)		<input type="checkbox"/>	F (10,001 to 15,000)
Small Town	<input type="checkbox"/>	C (1,001 to 2,500)	Large Urban Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	G (15,001 to 25,000)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	D (2,501 to 5,000)		<input type="checkbox"/>	H (25,001 and over)

SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form 2024

By signing below, I understand and agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of the SuperValu TidyTowns Competition and consent to the personal data contained in this form being released to printers for the purpose of posting invitations, entry forms, results books or other documentation for the purpose of administering the SuperValu TidyTowns Competition and other related initiatives. I also consent to this data being released to the TidyTowns Adjudicators as part of the Entry Form upon which our adjudication is based. I understand that the printers contracted to carry out this work will be advised that all data should be deleted once the specific task has been completed. I understand that Personal Data provided in this form will be retained by the Department for a period of 3 years for the distribution of entry forms and information directly related to the competition.

I understand that I can withdraw my consent at any time to this information being stored or used in this way by writing to the TidyTowns Unit stating I am withdrawing my consent.

Signed (on behalf of entrant)

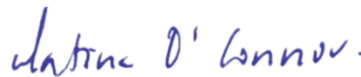
Jonathan Cassidy
CHAIR



Mark Chilvers
TREASURER



Martina O'Connor
SECRETARY



Date: 7th May 2024

SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form 2024

Community Map – Community Assets / New Projects / Maintained Projects

Please find following our 2024 Entry Application Community Map and associated Key.

We are conscious of the short time that Tidy Towns judges & assessors are able to spend in Strokestown so wanted to assist by clearly defining areas we consider important to Strokestown and provide evidence and examples that are not possible to reflect via our map.

We hope that you find this useful.

Community Assets (CA)			
CA 1	Strokestown Park House / National Famine Museum	CA 10	St. Mary's National School
CA 2	The Percy French Hotel	CA 11	Westward Scania
CA 3	Strokestown Graveyard	CA 12	Roscommon Genealogy Centre / St. John's Church
CA 4	St. Patrick's Boys' National School	CA 13	Primary Care Centre
CA 5	Strokestown GAA / Strokestown Soccer Club	CA 14	Playground / Community Playschool
CA 6	Community Sports Centre	CA 15	Library
CA 7	Church of the Immaculate Conception	CA 16	Brothers of Charity
CA 8	Courthouse	CA17	Cloonslanor Famine Burial Ground
CA 9	Scoil Mhuire	CA18	Strokestown Grotto + Shrine

Housing Estates (HE)			
HE 1	Kildalogue	HE 8	Farnbeg Grove
HE 2	Vesnoy	HE 9	French Court
HE 3	The Barony	HE 10	Lisnaree
HE 4	The Crescent	HE 11	The Maples
HE 5	Forge Hill	HE 12	Shevlin Court
HE 6	Park Court	HE 13	Lisroyne Elms
HE 7	Stone Crescent	HE 14	Tower View

New Projects (N)			
N1	Dog Fouling Awareness Campaign	N9	Nature & Biodiversity recognised
N2	Commercial refurbishment	N10	Nature & Biodiversity: Share the Taste
N3	Civic Amenity refurbishment	N11	Improving how we work: Sustainably
N4	Strokestown Grotto	N12	Keeping Politics clean
N5	Town Centre 1 st Policy	N13	Return from the dead
N6	Long-term Community planning: structural planting	N14	Property refurbishment
N7	Future colour: under-tree planting	N15	Pedestrian connections
N8	Strokestown Grotto		

Maintained Projects (M)			
M1	Heritage refurbishment: Ongoing challenges	M7	Some people just don't care: ongoing challenges
M2	Business supporting our Community	M8	A Community together: annual Cohesion events
M3	Estates together: Ongoing maintenance	M9	Garden Care
M4	Community colour: year-round with more to come	M10	Childrens Amenities: Community challenges
M5	How to help: Raising awareness	M11	Year-round planting
M6	Keeping Strokestown tidy: it's a generational thing	M12	Recognition where it's due



COMMUNITY MAP

Key

Community Asset (CA)	Housing Estates (HE)
New Projects (N)	Maintained Projects (M)

Cosgrove / McGuinness: SuperValu
Our Community Sponsor



SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form 2024

Community - Your Planning and Involvement

80 Marks



Marks are awarded for the overall quality of the Entry Form, town/village map and appropriateness of backup material submitted with your entry. Other key issues are the participation of the local community, businesses, schools and youth in general; working partnerships with local civic agencies; works carried out and appropriate projects completed; existence of an achievable updated TidyTowns Plan. Consideration will be given to social inclusion, whole of community approach, the role of volunteers and new residents in activities.

After two extremely busy years the 12mths since our last Tidy Towns assessment has been one where we have placed a greater focus on embedding our ongoing work and future plans into daily Strokestown life.

Number involved in your Committee: **5 (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Community Planting x 2)**

Number not on committee but who volunteer: **100+ (includes Core Group members and those volunteering for events)**

Please indicate level of voluntary commitment (number of TidyTowns meetings, community meetings, general involvement of the community, new residents, etc.):

Monthly Tidy Towns Executive Committee meetings
Close work with Primary & Secondary schools
Community Cohesion events with new residents
Social Inclusion partnership with Brothers of Charity
Maintenance of Tidy Towns website
Attendance at Roscommon PPN events
Ongoing liaison with HSE

Representation at monthly Town Team meetings
Grant application support provided to Resident Associations
Tractor & Truck Run (Adult + Juniors)
Regular social media community updates
Attendance at County Council events
Support for national community-based events
Close engagement with all Community Groups

Please list all of the agencies, bodies and businesses that have supported your activities (through sponsorship, resources, funding, advice etc.)

SuperValu (our community Tidy Towns sponsor)
Roscommon County Council
Strokestown GAA
POBAL
Green Hub Gardening Club
HSE
Scramogue Tidy Towns
Department of Social Protection (TÚS / RSS / CE)
Brennan Tree Care
Roscommon Volunteer Centre
Golden Sheds
Roscommon Library Services
Ballyleague Tidy Towns
Drumsna Garden Centre

Eurospar Strokestown
Strokestown Town Team
Strokestown Ladies GFA
Brothers of Charity
Strokestown Womens' Shed
Cloontuskert Tidy Towns
SCDA
Roscommon Courts Service
Roscommon PPN
An Taisce
Senator Aisling Dolan
Beirnes' Stores
Strokestown Writers' Corner

Strokestown Hardware
DRCD
Sliabh Bawn Amenities Group
Roscommon Leader Partnership
Strokestown Mens' Shed
Scoil Mhuire Strokestown
Ardcarne Garden Centre
Gerry Neary Plant Hire
Ivy Rose Floral Design
An Gaisce
Ballybeg Development
The Percy French Hotel
Strokestown Library

How do you communicate with your community (newsletter, newspapers, public meetings, email, social media, website, etc.)?

Communication: Since you last visited us, using our extremely active [Facebook](#) page the Tidy Towns Chair and Treasurer have continued to actively promote our activities, specific relevant information, work being undertaken, our plans and information of use to the WHOLE community.

Communication: We continue to engage with residents, businesses and visitors via our community [Tidy Towns website](#). This also provides users with Tidy Towns information & news, handy gardening tips & advice and access to the Tidy Towns Community Improvement Plan (showing work completed and tasks profiled).

Communication: We also provide regular information updates to our Parish newsletter and promote events by means of posters in local shops, An Post, hotel, filling station and Health Centre.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

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SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form 2024

Communication: Following 12 months of negotiation we are introducing a specific 'communication point' in conjunction with Roscommon Library Services, with the Strokestown Head Librarian giving us access to their 'in-house' Library TV system – this will enable us to communicate important Tidy Towns information to further community members and visitors.



Communication: Our [Community Flagpole](#) project is working well – enabling us to build strong relationships with a range of other community groups. Strokestown Tidy Towns Group has organised the purchase of flags for all interested community groups – these are used by individual groups to promote events they are holding, with photos of flag raising being taken to show Tidy Towns members along with representatives from the respective Community Group (and posted to the Tidy Towns Facebook page).



It's a great way for everyone to know what's going on.

How do you engage with your local schools, youth clubs, etc.? How do you involve youth in your work, do you have a Junior TidyTowns, is there youth representation on your committee.

Youth Engagement: Our Chair and Secretary have developed strong relationships with our local Primary and Secondary schools enabling us to hold very successful An Taisce supported 'Grand Litter Picks' of countryside areas adjacent to each school.

In addition our extremely positive supportive youth population has supported us with specific estate-focused Tidy Towns work, in-year tree planting, our annual Community 'Clean-Up' Day and were a key part of our successful 2023 Christmas Tractor + Truck Run.

Our Chair has been in regular communication with regional and national bodies to re-introduce a formal Foroige programme into Strokestown – something not available for a number of years.

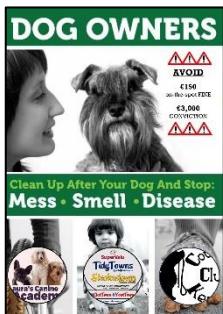
We even had our 2023 Christmas poster designed by one of local students!!



Briefly identify **ONE** specific project where particular effort was applied since June 1st, 2023. (This can include ongoing maintenance work or new project)

NEW (N1) Working together: As a new project in August 2023, working in close liaison with the Environment Department of Roscommon County Council, we initiated a [Community 'Dog Fouling' Awareness programme](#) reminding all dog owners of the legal and moral impact of failing to properly clear up their pets' waste.

This campaign has enabled us to work closely with two local dog-oriented businesses ([Laura's Canine Academy & Friends](#) and [Country Club Kennels](#)) with them supporting our community efforts and using their direct customer links to reinforce awareness.



Approximately how many years has your community entered the competition. How has your community benefited from involvement in the competition?

Community Tidy Towns involvement: Thanks to a series of committed volunteers Strokestown has been a privileged and active participant in the Tidy Towns competition since 1960.

In the last 64 years, working closely with other community groups, the work of these Tidy Towns committees has been a consistent focus during changing social and economic times.

Whilst other community groups 'come and go' the work of consecutive Tidy Towns volunteers has become a well-understood and respected part of Strokestown life.

This degree of community understanding provides us with a measure of focus helping offer a cohesive direction, motivation and stimulus to Strokestown residents and businesses.



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SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form 2024

Streetscape & Public Places

80 Marks



Please refer to the 2024 SuperValu TidyTowns Information Booklet available on www.tidytowns.ie and state if you have entered a Special Award relevant to this category.

List projects undertaken since June 1st, 2023 including, **new projects (N)** completed this year, previous projects that you have **improved or maintained (M)**. It would be helpful if you could number your project descriptions and include date project was initiated and completed, where applicable.

Note: all projects are referenced on our map using the reference numbers assigned below.

Buildings: Conservation and presentation of heritage buildings and quality of shopfronts will be considered, taking account of the design, sustainability, accessibility, usability and suitability of new structures or civic amenity buildings for all people, regardless of age, size, ability or disability. Please highlight the efforts made to address derelict sites and unoccupied buildings even if unsuccessful.

NEW (N2) Commercial refurbishment: In the last 12 months we have been pleased to see a previously empty commercial property reopening.

Style4Less, located on Elphin Street is run as a social enterprise by our fantastic community Brothers of Charity team and helps Service Users partake in business opportunities and contribute to Strokestown.



NEW (N3) Civic Amenity refurbishment: Following representations to the HSE we have been pleased to see Strokestown Primary Care Centre repaired.

MAINTENANCE (M1) Heritage refurbishment – Ongoing challenges: As reported in previous years Strokestown has long-term plans to convert the historic former Magnet Ballroom into a multi-functional Community Centre to be used to deliver community education, business office work spaces and act as a central focal meeting point for all community groups (including us as Tidy Towns).

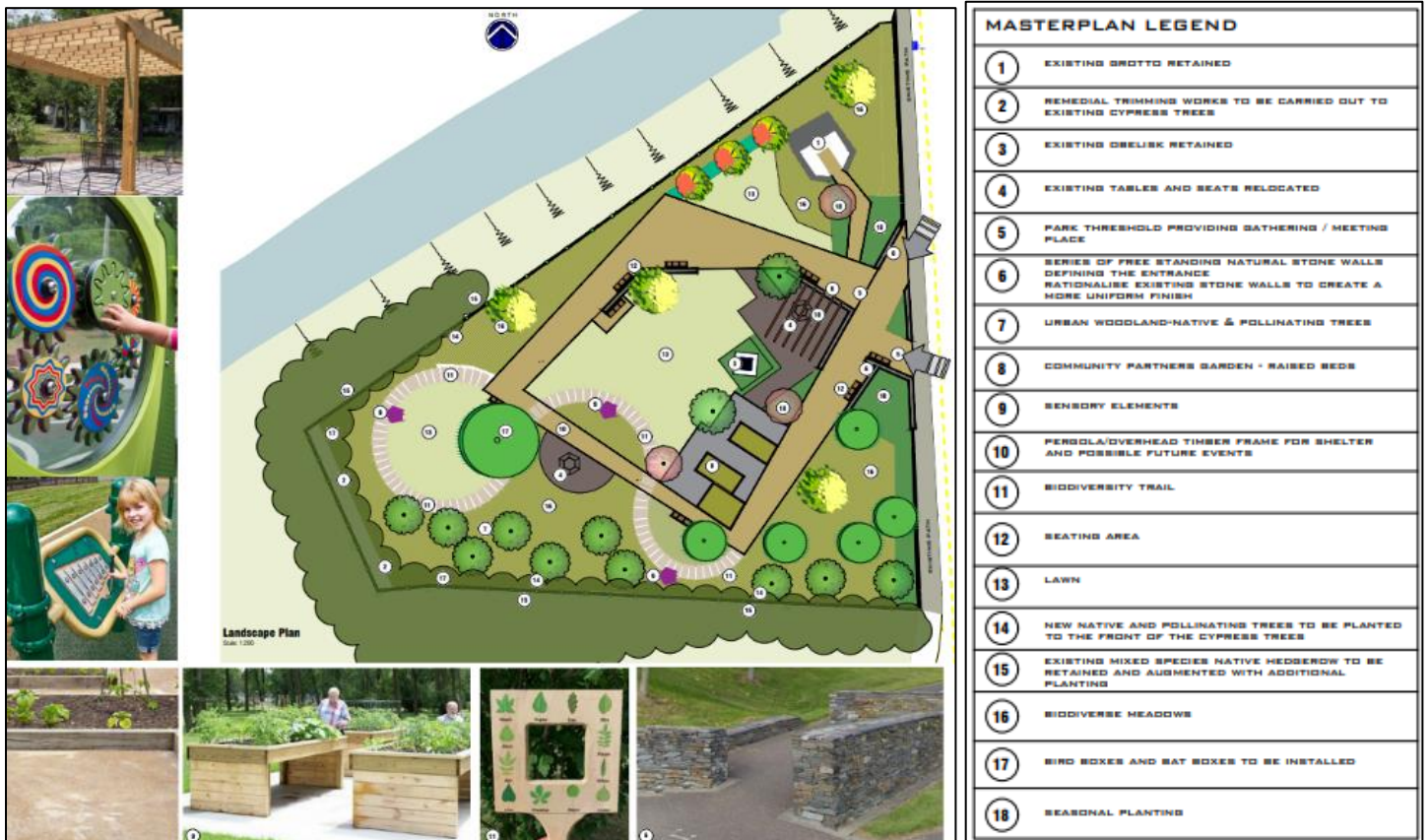
Fire damage has resulted in these plans being unfortunately delayed - however we are giving strong support to the Town Centre 1st project (being led by Strokestown Town Team) which has clearly defined proposals for the required developments.



SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form 2024

Streetscape & Public Places - continuation

Public Spaces: Consideration will be given to squares, parks, streetscape, paving, landscaping and street furniture mindful of sustainability and access for all. Condition of street lighting, building facade lighting, appropriately designed signage and wayfinding relating to streets and place nameplates. Attention will be given to the presentation of parking locations, historical trails, walkways and access points to local amenities or facilities and the general use of the Irish language.



NEW (N4) Strokestown Grotto: Building on our work completed over the last two years, the above formal plans have been drawn up as a clear direction of travel defining our intentions for the long-term development of Strokestown Grotto.

This currently underused, and undervalued community space will be remodeled to offer a learning area, a place to meet, a civic recreation / entertainment area and Community & Sensory gardens.

RECREATION & SOCIAL PRESCRIBING: A specific multi-use area will promote the Grotto to families with future plans for this to be used as a civic entertainment area for outside shows & events. Access to the Bumlin River will be explored to develop Angling opportunities for residents and visitors.

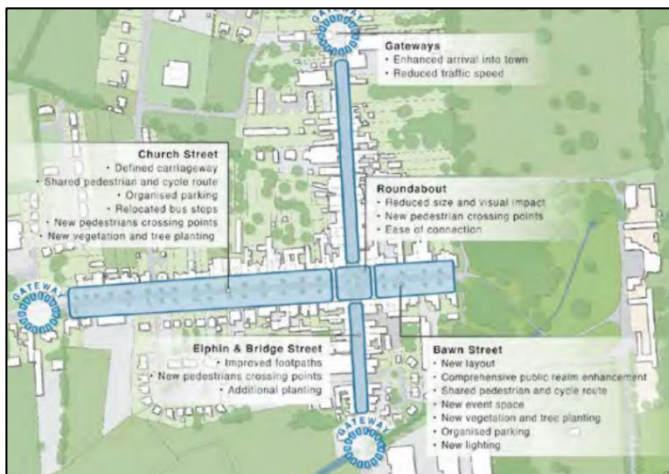
SOCIAL INCLUSION: Use of planters by service users, supported by Strokestown Brothers of Charity (located 50 m from Grotto) will offer Social Inclusion learning. Rerouting of existing pathways, improving access for individuals of all abilities, and a Sensory Garden will attract a wider audience.

CULTURE & HERITAGE: The Shrine to Our Lady of Fátima and Tighe famine monument are important elements of Strokestown history. Redesign of the current layout and installation of Strokestown history information boards will enhance the visitor experience and refocus the site as a community asset.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: A Community Garden will provide biodiversity enhancements by converting an existing grassed area into one providing organic produce. Future use will provide a learning area for Pre-school, Primary and Secondary students. Planting of a Wildflower area and increasing availability of bat and bird boxes will support improvements to the existing biodiversity environment.

TOURISM: Strokestown is to be bypassed in the next four years. Development of the Grotto into an attractive green space, as detailed above, will be one of many actions taken to encourage visitors into our heritage community.

Streetscape & Public Places - continuation



NEW (N5) Town Centre 1st Policy The Town Centre 1st policy aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community.

Specifically for Strokestown the Town Team, in conjunction with the DRCD and Roscommon County Council, a cohesive [Community Transformational Plan](#) has been created providing a long-term development plan for our town.

For us, as Strokestown Tidy Towns Group, this 17-year plan helps bring a focus on issues that we have been raising for many years:

- Bus stop locations not ideally placed on Bridge Street
- Insufficient public bins leading to inappropriate levels of littering and fly tipping throughout the town centre
- A lack of river access / walkways
- A significant opportunity to develop a new 'walking trail'
- A lack of appropriate outdoor 'green space' within the town
- Insufficient seating / social areas bringing people together.
- An opportunity to develop a new Town Park providing outdoor green, social, horticultural and play space for people of all ages and abilities.
- Promote Strokestown as a focal point for heritage, arts and history.
- The lack of an accessible multi-functional Community Centre – needed to address loneliness and social isolation, deliver programmes and activities supporting better physical and emotional health and wellbeing choices, enabling the social connection of local groups and helping them deliver more activities and services and facilitating external statutory and voluntary agencies to deliver services and activities in Strokestown on an outreach basis.

MAINTAIN (M2) Business supporting our Community:

We couldn't complete this section without making specific mention of the wonderful support given by McDonnell's Pharmacy – a local business, supporting the local community. Their continual imagination of colourful window displays not only makes Strokestown residents smile but also makes a hugely positive impact on visitors stopping in town or passing through – **THANK YOU TO THEM.**



SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form 2024

Green Spaces and Landscaping

80 Marks



Please refer to the 2024 SuperValu TidyTowns Information Booklet available on www.tidytowns.ie and state if you have entered a Special Award relevant to this category.

List projects undertaken since June 1st, 2023 including, **new projects (N)** completed this year, previous projects that you have **improved or maintained (M)**. It would be helpful if you could number your project descriptions and include date project was initiated and completed, where applicable.

Note: all projects are referenced on our map using the reference numbers assigned below.

Communities should demonstrate the following: The planning, design and management of green spaces. The selection and appropriate siting of trees and their ongoing maintenance, including formative pruning, watering and attention to the stakes and ties. Presentation of landscaping of all entrances to your town/village/locality in consultation with your local authority, where appropriate. The use of suitable plants for hedges and shrubs for year-round effect is important as is the siting of seasonal bedding schemes where you wish to highlight important areas. The use of plant containers can provide impact where it is not possible to plant directly into the ground. To reduce maintenance tasks limit the use of containers.

To demonstrate the year-round impact of the landscape works in your community, you are encouraged to provide dated photographs of, for example, daffodil schemes which are not evident in summertime.



NEW (N6)

Long-term Community planning: Structural planting

Looking beyond our current 3-year plan (attached to this application) we have begun the early stages of considering impactful, structured planting projects.

Strokestown is home to a glorious peacock, who resides in the grounds of Strokestown Park House and regularly ventures into the community.

Making a direct reference to this and working to offer new attractions to visitors after the opening of the bypass, we are planning to install a metal peacock structure which will be planted up with colourful perennials and annuals.



MAINTAIN (M3)

Estates together: Ongoing maintenance

The 'hidden' work of all Tidy Towns Groups and Residents' Associations – maintaining, pruning, and watering.

So time consuming, but so important – our thanks to all help – whether as part of our Tidy Towns Group or in your individual homes and businesses.



NEW (N7)

Future colour: Under tree planting

As referred to in other sections Strokestown Tidy Towns Group is a positive supporter of [Town Centre 1st](#) partnership plan (with Roscommon County Council and the Department of Rural and Community Development).

We have been key contributors to the current plan and have ensured that our voice is heard in relation to the design and management of new green spaces and associated planting.

One such element is our wish to plant colourful perennials into the beds of all trees running parallel to Church Street and Bawn Street. We have agreed to delay actioning this to fit in with the wider Public Realm Development plans.



SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form 2024

Green Spaces and Landscaping - continuation

MAINTAIN (M4) Community colour: Year-round planting with more to come

As part of our Tidy Towns committee we are blessed to have two 'Planting Queens' who combine their wide horticultural knowledge with a keenness and drive to succeed.

They've not only formed a strong relationship with [Ardcarne Garden Centre](#) (our planting partner) but have also drawn up a structured Planting Plan (showing what is being planted where and when) and have even dedicated their own greenhouses to growing future years plants!

Thank you ladies – we couldn't do this without you.



	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	Task 5	Task 6	Comments
GROTTO	Sleeper bed: relocate catnip, buddleia (late autumn/early spring) & any other viable plants. Refresh compost, plant up as a cottage bed: lupins, foxglove etc.	Entrance beds: relocate box bushes, clear bed, renew compost and replant. Needs colour.	Main beds: Relocate: oregano, sedum and any other viable plants. Replace compost and replant. Perennials and bulbs. Needs height and colour.	Shrine: Weed and trim plants.	Urns: empty and repaint. Re-compost and plant: annuals?	Fence Area: Prune roses. Plant box shrubs x7 (2"entrance beds/3"roundabout/2"weighbridge pots). Any other spare plants that fit.	
LARGE PLANTERS (Opp Grotto)	Lift the Begonia Boliviensis and pot the tubers, keep moist. Top up compost. Plant spring bulbs (daffs & tulips?) & flowers (need ideas for this one)	Summer planting: Hopefully the Boliviensis tubas, if not, replace. Some petunias would be good, purple?					
WATER PUMP AREA	Plants in the 2 urns need to be removed. Pot up the salvias and any other viable plants. Refresh compost as needed and plant bulbs and violas?	Prune 2 roses. Move front rose to the Grotto fence & develop this bed to match the opposite one in size.	Small bed: remove annuals, weed & plant spring bulbs. Spring planting: yellow carpet rose and blue geraniums. (this needs to be repeated in the new front bed)	Paint pump, colour to be decided and paint purchased. Pot placed on pump and planted with bulbs. Summer planting - petunias & another - to be decided.	Sign to be placed on back wall, to be agreed at exec meeting.		
LONGFORD ROAD	Prune tree, trim grass. Plant wild seeds.						
ROUNDAABOUT & PLANTERS	Remove 3 box shrubs & plant in Grotto near fence. For all 3 beds: temporarily remove blocks, permanently remove compost from all 3 beds. Resize beds if required & replace blocks in an upright position. Refill beds with fresh compost & well rotted farmyard manure. Planting to be decided.	Tidy the 3 barrels & plant spring bulbs around edge.					
WEIGH STATION	Remove 2 box shrubs from pots. Replace compost completely. Plant violas & spring bulbs. Summer planting to be decided.	Trough: pot up geraniums for next year. Plant spring bulbs & violas.					
ST JOHN'S AREA	Remove phormium & relocate to Tower View. Remove box shrub & relocate to grotto.	Assess plants remaining & clear area ready for additional compost & new planting. Perennials/colourful shrubs.	2 planters: Remove geums & relocate to grotto. Plant spring bulbs & violas? Trim oregano. Summer planting: petunias & begonia boliviensis.	Level right hand-side planter.			
MAGNUM PLANTERS	Prune trees if required - Byron to check. No spring planting	Summer planting: refresh compost in top - petunias? Nearft					

+ ≡
2024 OVERALL PLAN
SEEDS SOWN
PLANT PURCHASES
EQUIPMENT PURCHASES
2024 Planting Plan

SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form 2024

Nature and Biodiversity in your locality

55 Marks



Please refer to the 2024 SuperValu TidyTowns Information Booklet available on www.tidytowns.ie and state if you have entered a Special Award relevant to this category.

List projects undertaken since June 1st, 2023 including, **new projects (N)** completed this year, previous projects that you have **improved or maintained (M)**. It would be helpful if you could number your project descriptions and include date project was initiated and completed, where applicable.

Note: all projects are referenced on our map using the reference numbers assigned below.

Show your understanding and awareness of nature and biodiversity in your locality. This may include protected areas and/or areas important for conservation e.g. waterways, field boundaries, coastal features etc.

Show an appreciation of how your local species and habitats should be best managed and protected. Evidence of co-operation with expert groups and relevant authorities, especially in carrying out work in sensitive areas, is desirable.

MASTERPLAN LEGEND	
1	EXISTING GROTTO RETAINED
2	REMEDIATION TRIMMING WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT TO EXISTING CYPRESS TREES
3	EXISTING OBELISK RETAINED
4	EXISTING TABLES AND SEATS RELOCATED
5	PARK THRESHOLD PROVIDING GATHERING / MEETING PLACE
6	SERIES OF FREE STANDING NATURAL STONE WALLS DEFINING THE ENTRANCE RATIONALISE EXISTING STONE WALLS TO CREATE A MORE UNIFORM FINISH
7	URBAN WOODLAND-NATIVE & POLLINATING TREES
8	COMMUNITY PARTNERS GARDEN - RAISED BEDS
9	SENSORY ELEMENTS
10	PERGOLA/OVERHEAD TIMBER FRAME FOR SHELTER AND POSSIBLE FUTURE EVENTS
11	BIODIVERSITY TRAIL
12	SEATING AREA
13	LAWN
14	NEW NATIVE AND POLLINATING TREES TO BE PLANTED TO THE FRONT OF THE CYPRESS TREES
15	EXISTING MIXED SPECIES NATIVE HEDGEROW TO BE RETAINED AND AUGMENTED WITH ADDITIONAL PLANTING
16	BIODIVERSE MEADOWS
17	BIRD BOXES AND BAT BOXES TO BE INSTALLED
18	SEASONAL PLANTING

NEW (N8) Strokestown Grotto: Building on our work completed over the last two years, the above formal plans have been drawn up as a clear direction of travel defining our intentions for the long-term development of Strokestown Grotto.

This currently underused, and undervalued community space will be remodeled to offer a learning area, a place to meet, a civic recreation / entertainment area and Community & Sensory gardens.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: A **Community Garden** will provide **biodiversity enhancements** by converting an existing grassed area into one providing organic produce. Future use will provide a learning area for Pre-school, Primary and Secondary students. **Planting of a Wildflower area and increasing availability of bat and bird boxes will support improvements to the existing biodiversity environment.**

SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form 2024

Nature and Biodiversity in your locality - continuation



NEW (N9)

Nature & Biodiversity recognised: As volunteers we give our valuable time because Strokestown is important to us – now and in the future.

It's always a welcome bonus to have our efforts recognised and, in December 2023, Strokestown Tidy Towns Group received two awards from the Environment Department of Roscommon County Council as part of the 2023 **Greener Spaces Awards**.

In acknowledgement of our long-term focus we were awarded **1st place** in the **Biodiversity Matters Awards** indicating a wider appreciation of our community efforts to improve understanding, awareness and action by residents, other groups and businesses.

We also received an **Endeavour Award** as part of the **Pollinator Awards** scheme, recognizing our work in introducing additional specific, indigenous planting across our community.



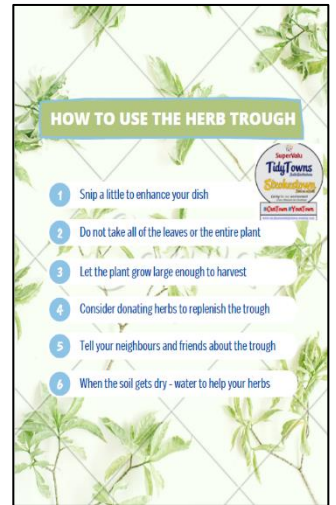
NEW (N10)

Nature & Biodiversity: Share the Taste

New for 2024! Bring the taste of Strokestown Tidy Towns Group into your home.

Being currently planted into the trough, located in the centre of Strokestown at the historic weighbridge – fragrant herbs for community use.

This will be promoted via our Facebook page, website, Library links and general community discussions.



SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form 2024

Sustainability - Doing more with less

55 Marks



Please refer to the 2024 SuperValu TidyTowns Information Booklet available on www.tidytowns.ie and state if you have entered a Special Award relevant to this category.

List projects undertaken since June 1st, 2023 including, **new projects (N)** completed this year, previous projects that you have **improved or maintained (M)**. It would be helpful if you could number your project descriptions and include date project was initiated and completed, where applicable.

Note: all projects are referenced on our map using the reference numbers assigned below.

Describe how your activities help to make your centre more sustainable and reduce your environmental impact. For example, consider how you use your resources (e.g. methods or materials you use), in your project work under one or more of the following key themes: sustainability, water, transport, waste, energy, and climate action.

Describe awareness raising activities carried out across your community and detail any involvement with other Community Groups in this category.

NEW (N11) Improving how we work – Sustainably



As with Tidy Towns Groups across the country, one of the biggest challenges is how to ensure that community planting is regularly watered during warmer months.

The developing issues of Climate Change will only increase the need to find a sustainable balance – one that enables us to keep our communities looking attractive and welcoming whilst ensuring that this doesn't negatively impact on the environment around us.

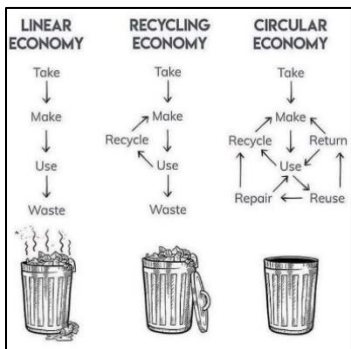
In Strokestown we are lucky to have the free-running Bumlin River situated immediately adjacent to our Grotto recreational area.

Using this as a focal watering point we are working to identify suitable funding to enable us to purchase a Solar-powered water pump. The intention is for this to be located in the Grotto with extracted water being deposited into IBC containers – these will be connected up to a trolley system enabling them to be used around town.

MAINTAIN (M5) How to help: raising awareness

Since forming the current committee Strokestown Tidy Towns Group has made great efforts to pass local, national and international knowledge and advice onto residents, businesses and other community groups.

Using our popular [Facebook](#) page and [website](#) (and soon to be enhanced with imminent links into our Library IT / TV systems) we are able to regularly share relevant information.



[Circular Economy awareness](#)



[Local Plant & Seed swap](#)



[Council Upcycling competition](#)

SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form 2024

Tidiness and Litter Control

90 Marks



Please refer to the 2024 SuperValu TidyTowns Information Booklet available on www.tidytowns.ie and state if you have entered a Special Award relevant to this category.

List projects undertaken since June 1st, 2023 including, **new projects (N)** completed this year, previous projects that you have **improved or maintained (M)**. It would be helpful if you could number your project descriptions and include date project was initiated and completed, where applicable.

Note: all projects are referenced on our map using the reference numbers assigned below.

Tidiness: General lack of clutter, blocked footpaths, redundant poles, unsightly overhead electric cables, absence of graffiti and flyposting and evidence of control of weed growth at kerbs. Absence of unsightly and/or inappropriate advertising, such as that on gables of buildings and mass-produced advertising banners in shop fronts.

Please note that although general tidiness is evaluated and marked in this category, tidiness is also considered under other categories including Streetscape & Public Places, Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes.

Litter: The adjudicator will assess the absence of litter and dumping, evidence of litter control strategy, including regular litter patrols, segregation of collected litter during clean-ups and promotion of anti-litter awareness throughout community.



MAINTAIN (M6) Keeping Strokestown Tidy: it's a Generational thing

Let's put it simply ... Strokestown Tidy Towns Group wouldn't exist, wouldn't work and wouldn't have a future without the generations of people who put the time in, **#MakeADifference** and care.

Whether from those more experienced in years, willing youth students (working hard towards their An Gaisce awards) or the youngest in our community – it all matters and it all counts!



MAINTAIN (M7) Some people just don't care: Ongoing challenges

We see similar issues from other Tidy Towns Groups across the country so we know we're not alone ... but why do some people not care?

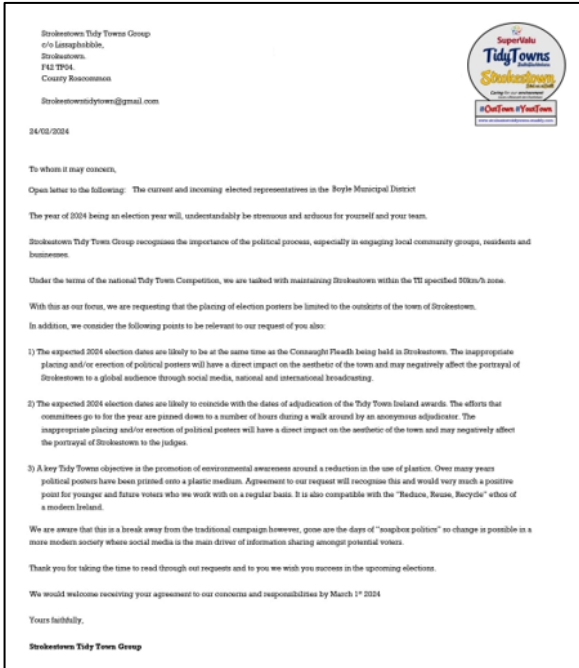
We have well used Bring Banks + Clothes Banks that are regularly monitored by helpful residents for

Despite this, regardless of our [updates and reminders](#), certain individuals think that the norms of society don't apply to them.

We are in correspondence with the Environment Department of Roscommon County Council to explore how recent legal changes (in respect of the use of CCTV footage in court proceedings) can be used to our community benefit.

SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form 2024

Tidiness and Litter Control – continuation



NEW (N12)

Keeping Politics clean

2024, and 2025, are bringing a number of local, national and European elections.

A key element of our Community Improvement Plan is ensuring that our elected (and to-be-elected) representatives all recognise their role in keeping the Strokestown community tidy.

To promote our role, and to drive this awareness, we have [contacted all potential candidates](#) asking them not to erect election posters across Strokestown.

MAINTAIN (M8) A Community Together: annual Cohesion Days

On an annual basis Strokestown Tidy Towns Group holds a Community Cohesion & Clean-Up Day. This is a key engagement tool designed to involve Strokestown residents in core Tidy Towns work (i.e. the ongoing maintenance of a well-kept community).

Concurrently this positive community input is also a fantastic way of connecting with specific sectors of our population to focus on improving key healthcare issues.

The event is supported by a range of other community groups (including – but not exclusively - Brothers of Charity, Strokestown United FC, Strokestown Ladies GFA, Strokestown GAA, Sliabh Bán Athletics Club, Sliabh Bán Community Amenity Group, local Primary & Secondary Schools, An Taisce, SuperValu Strokestown, Eurospar Strokestown).

We pride ourselves on being fully inclusive, welcoming (and encouraging) interaction and support from ALL individuals, irrespective of their background and abilities.

Promotion of the annual Community Cohesion & Clean-Up Day is done via social media, local newsletters, posters in local businesses and word of mouth.



SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form 2024

Residential Streets & Housing Areas

55 Marks



Please refer to the 2024 SuperValu TidyTowns Information Booklet available on www.tidytowns.ie and state if you have entered a Special Award relevant to this category.

List projects undertaken since June 1st, 2023 including, **new projects (N)** completed this year, previous projects that you have **improved or maintained (M)**. It would be helpful if you could number your project descriptions and include date project was initiated and completed, where applicable.

Note: all projects are referenced on our map using the reference numbers assigned below.

Residential streets that include Town Houses are integral parts of towns and villages and should be treated in a similar fashion to public and private housing developments.

Consideration is given to proper presentation and maintenance of all properties with due cognisance given to maintenance of frontages, boundary and gable end walls.

Gardens, where applicable, should be presented to a good standard. In housing developments green areas should be cut regularly.

Children's play areas to be considered with equipment maintained to best standards. Where possible individual estates should have suitable name signs - stones, plaques, signposts, etc. preferably bilingual.

Unfinished estates will not reflect badly on the efforts of any community but examples of how the community is addressing this issue should be highlighted.



NEW (N13) **Return from the dead:** In the last 12 months we have been pleased to see a long-standing 'ghost estate' being brought back to life. Previous unoccupied properties on Farnbeg Grove have been elegantly refurbished and returned to the residential market and have sold very quickly.



NEW (N14) **Property Refurbishment:** We have been pleased to see a number of individually owned (and business) heritage buildings being professionally decorated and 'brought back to life' with some being made available to purchase, or as social housing.

SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form 2024

Residential Streets & Housing Areas - continuation



MAINTAIN (M9) Garden Care: Thanks to a number of 'house-proud' Strokestown residents (across all housing estates) we are proud of the personal care given to maintenance of individual gardens – whilst always looking to promote awareness of the 'biodiversity' importance of NOT cutting too soon.



MAINTAIN (M10) Childrens Amenities – Community Challenges

Since 2015 Strokestown has been home to a locally funded purpose-built playground, located on Caslin Way (immediately adjacent to the fantastic Community Playschool).

Unfortunately, in recent weeks the Playground Committee has had to temporarily close the area due to play equipment being vandalized resulting in it becoming unsafe.

We hope that the overarching committee (led by Strokestown Community Development Association) will quickly identify a suitable funding stream to enable the reopening of this important town asset.

SuperValu Tidy Towns Entry Form 2024

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes

55 Marks



Please refer to the 2024 SuperValu Tidy Towns Information Booklet available on www.tidytowns.ie and state if you have entered a Special Award relevant to this category.

List projects undertaken since June 1st, 2023 including, **new projects (N)** completed this year, previous projects that you have **improved or maintained (M)**. It would be helpful if you could number your project descriptions and include date project was initiated and completed, where applicable.

Note: all projects are referenced on our map using the reference numbers assigned below.

Appropriate presentation of approach roads, including the roadside verges and their boundary treatment. The appearance of town and village streets, connecting roads, laneways, bridges and cycle lanes. Provision for inclusive access and pedestrian connections.



MAINTAIN (M11) Year-round planting: As part of our multi-year partnership with [Ardcarne Garden Centre](#) our planting team has maintained a seasonal planting programme helping Strokestown look at its best for residents, businesses and visitors.



MAINTAIN (M12) Recognition where it's due:

Whilst we, as a Tidy Towns committee give a large amount of personal voluntary time to driving community improvements forward we recognise (and immensely appreciate) the huge efforts made by our sole CE Scheme worker.

For the majority of the last 12 months this person has been the only person made available to Strokestown by regional Department of Social Protection.

We are extremely frustrated when we see other, less populous, communities being provided with larger pools of CE Scheme / TUS / RSS workers and would welcome any support that can be provided.



NEW (N15) Pedestrian connections: As part of the partnership [Town Centre 1st project](#) (and in conjunction with the opening of the N5 bypass) Strokestown will finally have properly marked / designated pedestrian crossings. These will have a massively positive impact on the safety of all residents and visitors – especially those with specific access needs.

SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form 2024

Mapping your town or village

Please draw or attach a sketched or printed map of your town/village/area with street and place names and prominent landmarks. The locations of your new work for this year's competition should also be marked. Ensure each project is clearly listed in the legend.

Please refer to the 2024 SuperValu TidyTowns Information Booklet available on www.tidytowns.ie

Please note the following advice:

- A hand-drawn map is perfectly acceptable if a formal printed map is not available or suitable.
- Map should be a manageable size, A4 or A3 depending on the layout of your town or village.
- Please name priority streets/roads as necessary and mark the key public buildings/landmarks.
- You are advised not to use Google mapping.
- You may find Ordnance Survey Ireland Urban (or Rural as applicable) 'Place' Maps most useful.
- Examples of effective maps can be found at www.tidytowns.ie in addition to A4 and A3 map graph templates.
- A clear legend is essential; please ensure that a unique numbering sequence is applied.

TidyTowns Entry Form Checklist

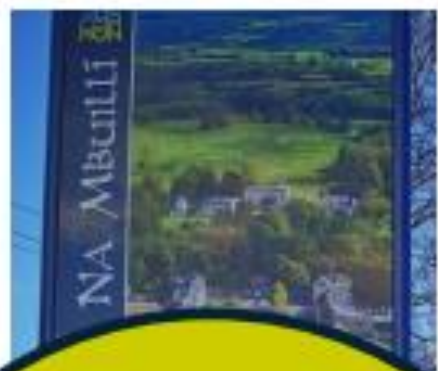
- Ensure you have signed and dated the entry form in the "About You" section and that you have completed all categories.
- Please ensure it is sent to tidytowns@drctd.gov.ie. It should be all contained in **one email and must not exceed 20MB**. We will acknowledge receipt of all email entries but please allow 10 days after the closing date for this acknowledgment.
- When emailing photographs, it would be advisable to copy them into a WORD document which will reduce the size of your email entry, you can easily fit up to 4 or 6 photographs per page.
- Sometimes less is more, be mindful of the volume of material you submit, the Adjudicator has limited time to review your work during their adjudication so it should be presented in a clear and concise manner.
- Please ensure you have included a map of your area and your TidyTowns 3/5 year plan with your entry.
- Don't forget to enter our Special Awards, information can be found on www.tidytowns.ie

Completed Entries should be emailed by Wednesday 8th May 2024 to: tidytowns@drctd.gov.ie

Best of Luck!



Strokestown Tidy Towns Group



3-year plan
2022 - 2024





Strokestown Tidy Towns Group: 3-year plan (2022 – 2024)

Welcome to the Strokestown Tidy Towns Group 3-year plan

This plan is designed to guide the work of us as a Committee, and our amazing volunteers, for the period 2022 - 2024.

We do not intend for it to specifically detail all of the excellent work carried out by Strokestown Tidy Towns Group but to provide direction.

First of all we set out our Key Projects - major projects that will have greatest impact for Strokestown.

Then we have a yearly schedule of tasks that will address our work towards all aspects of Tidy Towns categories.

Finally, a series of ongoing tasks and projects is given. These include multi-year initiatives that may extend beyond the duration of this plan.

Where relevant and possible this plan incorporates [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#), introduced internationally in 2015 to end poverty, improve health and education, reduce inequality, spur economic growth and tackle climate change.



Acknowledgments

Strokestown Tidy Towns Group would like to expressly thank previous Committees and dedicated volunteers for their work over the 60+ years of our community involvement in the national Tidy Towns competition.

We are appreciative of the ongoing support given by individuals, other fantastic Strokestown voluntary groups, Strokestown businesses and especially Roscommon County Council and the Department of Rural & Community Development.





Strokestown Tidy Towns Group: 3-year plan (2022 – 2024)

A Brief History

Strokestown is one of Ireland's few planned towns, showing evidence of formally aligned streets and prominent public buildings.

Our town makes a feature of the second-widest street in Ireland and Strokestown Park House, an 18th-century mansion which is home to the National Famine Museum, remembering the Great Famine of 1845

The name "Strokestown" is a partial translation of the original Irish language name, Béal Atha na mBuillí, which meant "the mouth of the ford of the strokes" ("mouth" referring to the Bumlin River, running through the demesne).

According to one theory, "strokes" referred to ancient clan battles that took place in the area ~ another hypothesis has suggested that "strokes" signified the use of agricultural implements.



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An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail Department of Rural and Community Development



Impressions of Strokestown



In producing this 3-year plan the Committee of Strokestown Tidy Towns Group has been able to utilise (and benefit from) feedback, suggestions and comments provided by many years of national Tidy Towns competition judges/assessors.

This has enabled us to produce a plan that highlights our community strengths and recognises where improvement work can be undertaken (always ensuring reference to national competition baselines).

From the Judges: what are we doing well?

“... You have designed and published your new website: <https://strokestowntidytowns.weebly.com/> - packed with tips, advice and information ...”

“... You have support from groups, businesses, schools etc all working together ...”

“... Working closely with residential estates, over 500 bulbs were distributed and new fruit trees were planted ...”

“... Your [Facebook](#) page regularly shares community, regional and national events and news ...”

“... We have loved your 2022 & 2023 Tractor Runs ...”

“... We loved the inclusive nature of your 2022 & 2023 Junior Tractor Runs ...”

“... The refurb of the Tourism Information booth is to be applauded ...”

“... Planting around the water-pump at the R368 junction looked well ...”

“... Congratulations on the production of the [Local Biodiversity](#) guide





Strokestown Tidy Towns Group: 3-year plan (2022 – 2024)

From the Judges: improvement ideas

“... Use your Facebook page and website to provide an on-line suggestion box for the community ...”

“... There is poor signage at and around the Recycling banks ...”

“... The lovely window setting of the Post Office could be revitalised and made more colourful ...”

“... The “Sli na Slainte” sign at St John’s Church of Ireland needs to be replaced ...”

“... We have been disappointed with the industrial metal frame erected around the weighbridge which distracts from this heritage feature ...”

“... Recycling banks themselves were grubby and would not entice you to recycle here – maybe place some nice planters here ...”

“... Planting either side of Bawn Gates entrance needs attention ...”



Using previous years Judges improvement ideas, talking with Strokestown residents and businesses and incorporating Committee suggestions we have produced detailed year-on-year **Community Improvement Plans** for [2022](#), [2023](#), and [2024](#).

This itemises agreed tasks and respective actions and is regularly published for wider community awareness via our [Strokestown Tidy Towns Group website](#).

For the purposes of this overarching 3-year plan we have extracted a set of **Key Projects**.

We consider these to be the projects that will have the greatest positive impact on our town, its landscape and natural environment over this time.

They are also the projects that will demand the greatest time and resources of Strokestown Tidy Towns Group and our supporters.

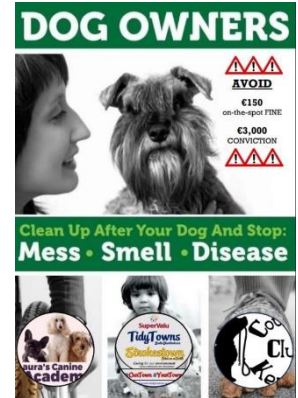




Strokestown Tidy Towns Group: 3-year plan (2022 – 2024)

Key Projects

Key Project 1: Love Our Town



The Scoop the Poop programme sees us working alongside the Strokestown community (groups, businesses and residents) and the Environment Department of Roscommon County Council to raise awareness of the legalities and moralities of preventing dog fouling.

Using our [Facebook](#) social media feed (accompanied by distribution of related information into local businesses, our Library and through partner community groups) we are determined to positively engage with identified perpetrators to highlight their responsibilities.

We are in close, and regular correspondence with our Council to obtain additional MuttMitt bins (providing strong, easy-to-use bags for waste collection) for placing around town. To aid the correct use of MuttMitt bags we will produce a clear User Guide.

We are also liaising with Roscommon County Council to explore the legalities of using CCTV to identify perpetrators, following recent changes to the appropriate law.

Tidy Towns Category: Community - Your Planning & Involvement / Streetscape & Public Areas / Sustainability - Doing more with Less / Tidiness & Litter Control / Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes



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Strokestown Tidy Towns Group: 3-year plan (2022 – 2024)

Key Project 2: Give us the tools



Historically Strokestown has been poorly served by national and regional decisions on numbers allocated to assist under the **TÚS**, **CE** and **RSS** schemes – we have been able to evidence greater support being provided to Tidy Towns groups in a number of other counties and communities.

In conjunction with the Sliabh Bawn Community Amenity Group (a collaboration of local Tidy Towns / Development Groups) our Chair has:

- held a number of meetings and conversations with relevant authorities working to increase numbers allocated. CE scheme being redrafted nationally. An identified issue is that Strokestown is covered by Longford DSP but relevant TUS / CE / RSS applications are processed by Roscommon DSP.
- contacted local Senators and TDs to identify ways of improving allocations.
- produced a detailed report detailing essential Strokestown need and comparing our provision to that of other communities. This has been handed personally to Minister Heather Humphreys (Minister for Social Protection) but, to date, little progress has been made.

Tidy Towns Category: Community - Your Planning & Involvement / Streetscape & Public Areas / Green Spaces & Landscaping / Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality / Sustainability - Doing more with Less / Tidiness & Litter Control / Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes



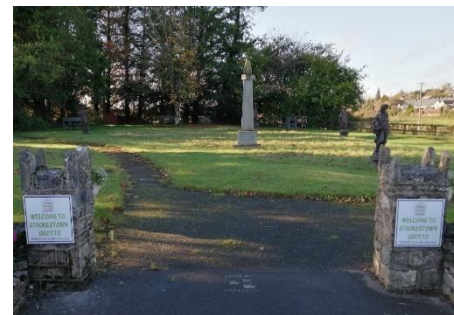
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Key Project 3: Connecting our past and future



We are planning to develop **Strokestown Grotto** to re-engage the community with this important recreational / amenity area.

To do this we plan to:

- * redesign the layout of existing pathways to provide a distinct journey and improve access for those less mobile.
- * extend paved areas surrounding existing seating/table areas.
- * clean and repaint shrine fencing.
- * lop/remove non-indigenous trees.
- * make a feature of existing metal seating, focusing on the passage of time.
- * acknowledge our relationship with Brothers of Charity by planting a Sensory Garden.
- * introduce a raised planter area – to be maintained by Strokestown Womens’ Shed.
- * establish a range of bird and bat boxes, to encourage greater site biodiversity.
- * designate a specific area to be a Community Garden – to be maintained by the Green Hub Gardening Club.
- * install a purpose-built, heritage-focused, Pergola / covered seating area.

In addition we have introduced a **Community Flag** project. We have funded the purchase and installation of a flagpole, and (following close liaison with other community groups) have purchased flags for all, showing individual group logos. This has enabled us to develop strong cross-community group cohesion by using these flags to promote events happening across Strokestown.

Tidy Towns Category: Community - Your Planning & Involvement / Streetscape & Public Areas / Green Spaces & Landscaping / Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality / Sustainability - Doing more with Less / Tidiness & Litter Control



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Strokestown Tidy Towns Group: 3-year plan (2022 – 2024)

Key Project 4: Working to a common aim



The **Strokestown Christmas Tractor Run** started in 2022, directly linking into the successful community Strokestown Christmas Market, with over 40 tractors (all decorated with Christmas lighting) taking part.

As part of the same event, as part of our inclusivity aims, we also held a ‘Junior Run’ with over 25 local children taking part.

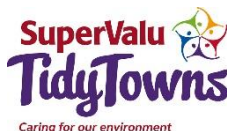
Our key aim in organising this is to share the event with other Community Groups, enabling us to develop long-term relationships (whilst not ignoring the positive financial fund-raising this event provides).

The first two years have been immensely successful and the event has been positively welcomed by residents, visitors and participants.

2023 saw the event expand to incorporate a large fleet of festively illuminated large trucks, in addition to tractors (not forgetting the ‘fleet’ of amazingly lit children’s carts and buggies) – with participants arriving from across Connacht and beyond.

As a committee we are determined to continue building on previous year’s positive feedback and the 2024 event is already in the early stages of planning.

Tidy Towns Category: Community - Your Planning & Involvement





Key Project 5: Community Cohesion



The Strokestown Tidy Towns Group **Community Cohesion & Clean-Up Day** is designed to provide the following benefits:

Community Cohesion: over the last two years (as part of our community receiving unplanned numbers of new residents from outside of Ireland) an important factor in our annual event has been encouraging these individuals and families to participate – improving community involvement and understanding.

Social interaction: a key element of our project is encouraging and enhancing the Social Interaction element of the Community Cohesion & Clean-Up Day - bringing the differing Strokestown elements together (irrespective of ability, age, gender, ethnicity) and developing new relationships - all working to a communal cause, the improvement of Strokestown.

Physical effort: although very light work, the Clean-Up Day encourages participants to be active – walking, bending and stretching – especially relevant to participants with mobility issues.

Mental stimulation: by incorporating all of the above-mentioned benefits the Community Cohesion & Clean-Up Day also supports mental well-being by showing how the time given by participants helps Strokestown.

This is also a great way of making a great impact in a short period. All we ask is for attendees to **#GiveOneHour** – accumulating to a great multiple result.

Our 2022 and 2023 events were a huge community success providing a fantastic focal point enabling us to engage with all ‘corners’ of Strokestown.

Tidy Towns Category: Community - Your Planning & Involvement / Streetscape & Public Areas / Green Spaces & Landscaping / Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality / Sustainability - Doing more with Less / Tidiness & Litter Control / Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes



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Strokestown Tidy Towns Group: 3-year plan (2022 – 2024)

Key Project 6: Working together for a better future



Strokestown 2040

A Town Centre First Plan



The [Strokestown Town Centre First \(TCF\) Plan](#) is an ambitious strategy that defining a pathway for the revival and rejuvenation of our once vibrant market town.

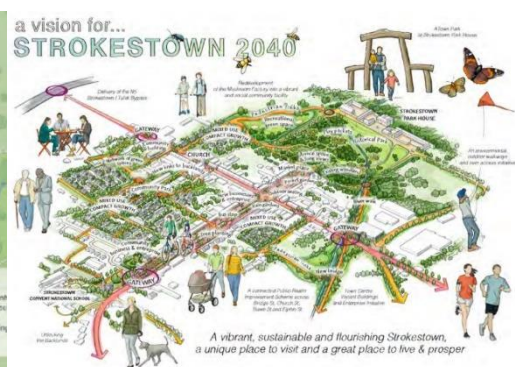
It sets out a 17-year vision for the town, reflecting what it can mean to be in Strokestown in 2040.

In December 2021, Phase 1 funding was announced as part of the Government's 'Town Centre First' policy. As part of the initial phase of the programme Roscommon County Council received a budget allocation to support the development of a Town Centre First Plan for Strokestown.

As a partner Community Group we intend to work alongside Strokestown Town Team to facilitate a 'Town Centre First' project introducing colourful planting into all beds below trees running parallel to Church Street and Bawn Street.

In addition we will ensure that all newly introduced green areas (arising from any confirmed Town Centre First projects) are suitably resourced by Roscommon County Council to guarantee suitable maintenance is correctly funded and actioned.

Tidy Towns Category: Community - Your Planning & Involvement / Streetscape & Public Areas / Green Spaces & Landscaping / Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality / Sustainability - Doing more with Less / Tidiness & Litter Control / Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes



Comhairle Contae Ros Comáin Roscommon County Council



An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail Department of Rural and Community Development



OUR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN Projects planned for Year 1 (2022)

Project	Tidy Towns Category
Promote role, remit and actions of Tidy Towns at Easter Parade.	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement Streetscape & Public Areas Green Spaces & Landscaping Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality Sustainability - Doing more with Less Tidiness & Litter Control Residential Streets & Housing Areas Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes</i>
Encourage educational awareness of Tidy Towns.	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement Streetscape & Public Areas Green Spaces & Landscaping Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality Sustainability - Doing more with Less Tidiness & Litter Control Residential Streets & Housing Areas Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes</i>
Liaise with Cloontuskert Tidy Towns to distribute free indigenous trees to local schools, community estates and groups.	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement Streetscape & Public Areas Green Spaces & Landscaping Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality Sustainability - Doing more with Less Residential Streets & Housing Areas Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes</i>
Liaise with Caseys (Roscommon) to obtain free fruit trees for distribution around community.	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement Streetscape & Public Areas Green Spaces & Landscaping Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality Sustainability - Doing more with Less Residential Streets & Housing Areas Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes</i>
Reintroduce weekly Weekend Litter-picks.	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement Streetscape & Public Areas Green Spaces & Landscaping Tidiness & Litter Control Residential Streets & Housing Areas Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes</i>
Improve visible floral welcome into Strokestown from all entrance points.	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement Streetscape & Public Areas Green Spaces & Landscaping Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality Sustainability - Doing more with Less Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes</i>



Strokestown Tidy Towns Group: 3-year plan (2022 – 2024)

Project	Tidy Towns Category
Provide compost bins to residents of Tower View estate.	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement</i> <i>Streetscape & Public Areas</i> <i>Green Spaces & Landscaping</i> <i>Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality</i> <i>Sustainability - Doing more with Less</i> <i>Residential Streets & Housing Areas</i>
Arrange for indigenous wild flowering of land encompassing Strokestown Primary Care Centre on Caslin Way.	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement</i> <i>Green Spaces & Landscaping</i> <i>Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality</i> <i>Sustainability - Doing more with Less</i>
Introduce a community ‘Adopt-a-Tree’ scheme whereby selected households will have responsibility for upkeep of under-tree beds.	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement</i> <i>Streetscape & Public Areas</i> <i>Green Spaces & Landscaping</i> <i>Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality</i> <i>Sustainability - Doing more with Less</i> <i>Tidiness & Litter Control</i> <i>Residential Streets & Housing Areas</i> <i>Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes</i>
Open up Cloonslanor Burial Ground to Strokestown residents and visitors.	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement</i> <i>Green Spaces & Landscaping</i> <i>Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality</i>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





OUR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN Projects planned for Year 2 (2023)

Project	Tidy Towns Category
<p>Maintain and develop projects commenced in 2022.</p>	<p><i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement</i> <i>Streetscape & Public Areas</i> <i>Green Spaces & Landscaping</i> <i>Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality</i> <i>Sustainability - Doing more with Less</i> <i>Tidiness & Litter Control</i> <i>Residential Streets & Housing Areas</i> <i>Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes</i></p>
<p>Welcome to Strokestown:</p> <p>Purchase, plant and maintain recycled planters at Bridge Street.</p> <p>Relocate existing underused planters to plot in front of St. Mary's School.</p> <p>Plant donated fruit trees across Strokestown community (Longford Road, The Forge, Bridge Street, Tower View).</p> <p>Liaise with Scoil Mhuire to donate planting to school horticulture group.</p> <p>Work with An Taisce students to plant trees across community housing estates.</p> <p>Hold estate-based Tree Planting info session, in conjunction with Green Hub Gardening Club.</p>	<p><i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement</i> <i>Streetscape & Public Areas</i> <i>Green Spaces & Landscaping</i> <i>Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality</i> <i>Sustainability - Doing more with Less</i> <i>Residential Streets & Housing Areas</i> <i>Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes</i></p>
<p>Take responsibility for maintenance / future planting of 'Welcome' flowerbed at Turnafarn (Bridge Street / Longford Road).</p>	<p><i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement</i> <i>Streetscape & Public Areas</i> <i>Green Spaces & Landscaping</i> <i>Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality</i> <i>Sustainability - Doing more with Less</i> <i>Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes</i></p>
<p>Develop structured year-on-year flower growing / planting schedule to ensure consistency of approach.</p>	<p><i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement</i> <i>Streetscape & Public Areas</i> <i>Green Spaces & Landscaping</i> <i>Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality</i> <i>Sustainability - Doing more with Less</i> <i>Residential Streets & Housing Areas</i> <i>Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes</i></p>
<p>Explore the logistics of erecting of Church Street / Bawn Street / Elphin Street 'teardrop' lamppost flags, to link in with Community Flag project (promoting community groups and key events).</p>	<p><i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement</i> <i>Streetscape & Public Areas</i> <i>Green Spaces & Landscaping</i> <i>Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality</i> <i>Sustainability - Doing more with Less</i> <i>Tidiness & Litter Control</i> <i>Residential Streets & Housing Areas</i> <i>Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes</i></p>



Strokestown Tidy Towns Group: 3-year plan (2022 – 2024)

Project	Tidy Towns Category
TidyTowns to become ‘funding engine’ for community groups and Residents’ Associations providing guidance / training on how to identify and apply for local /national funding streams.	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement Green Spaces & Landscaping Residential Streets & Housing Areas Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes</i>
Reintroduce waste bins into town centre.	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement Streetscape & Public Areas Green Spaces & Landscaping Sustainability - Doing more with Less Tidiness & Litter Control Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes</i>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





Strokestown Tidy Towns Group: 3-year plan (2022 – 2024)

OUR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN Projects planned for Year 3 (2024)

Project	Tidy Towns Category
Maintain and develop projects commenced in 2022 & 2023.	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement Streetscape & Public Areas Green Spaces & Landscaping Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality Sustainability - Doing more with Less Tidiness & Litter Control Residential Streets & Housing Areas Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes</i>
Tidy Towns promotional noticeboard to be considered for placing at central point of community.	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement</i>
Improve signage attached to Bring Bank site to aid community awareness and increase use.	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement Streetscape & Public Areas Sustainability - Doing more with Less Tidiness & Litter Control</i>
Improve community watering functionality Purchase robust Solar Water pump to extract water from Bumlin River (existing natural asset) – to be located in Grotto – extracted water to be stored in IBC for onward distribution. Appropriate funding stream to be identified.	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement Green Spaces & Landscaping Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality Sustainability - Doing more with Less Residential Streets & Housing Areas Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes</i>
Community Event enhancement Purchase large inflatable tent (to be adorned with community group logos) – to be used for major Tidy Towns events – to be made available to other community groups for use. Appropriate funding stream to be identified.	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement Sustainability - Doing more with Less</i>
Wildflower planting to be introduced to site at Tusk Road entrance into Strokestown	<i>Green Spaces & Landscaping Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes</i>
Link with Strokestown Library to gain access to their in-house TV system, enabling us to promote Tidy Towns work	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement</i>
Liase with Roscommon PPN to promote Strokestown Tidy Towns Group via county-wide newsletter	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement</i>
Produce Christmas card for distribution into community thanking individuals, groups and businesses for support.	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement</i>
Identify a suitable central storage unit to hold equipment / provide workers + volunteers with dry meeting point.	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement Sustainability - Doing more with Less</i>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Comhairle Contae Ros Comáin
Roscommon County Council



An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and Community Development



ONGOING PROJECTS

Projects running from 2025 onwards

Project	Tidy Towns Category
Increase numbers of TUS and CE workers allocated to Strokestown Tidy Towns Group.	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement Streetscape & Public Areas Green Spaces & Landscaping Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality Sustainability - Doing more with Less Tidiness & Litter Control Residential Streets & Housing Areas Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes</i>
Develop direct walking trail between Strokestown Park House / National Famine Museum and Cloonslanor Burial Ground.	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement Streetscape & Public Areas Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality Residential Streets & Housing Areas Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes</i>
Work with community and County Council to raise awareness of issues surrounding dog fouling.	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement Streetscape & Public Areas Green Spaces & Landscaping Tidiness & Litter Control Residential Streets & Housing Areas Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes</i>
Support long-term implementation of Town Centre 1 st project. Ensure that Tidy Towns voice is heard during all related meetings + discussions.	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement Streetscape & Public Areas Green Spaces & Landscaping Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality Sustainability - Doing more with Less Tidiness & Litter Control Residential Streets & Housing Areas Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes</i>
<u>Introduce a Community Champion Award</u> Residents submit entries stating who is doing outstanding community TidyTown-style work (describing what they've done). Hold quarterly Facebook draw and award donated gift (SuperValu voucher) to winner.	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement</i>
Continue and develop existing association with Ardcarne Garden Centre.	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement Streetscape & Public Areas Green Spaces & Landscaping Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality Sustainability - Doing more with Less Residential Streets & Housing Areas Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes</i>




Strokestown Tidy Towns Group: 3-year plan (2022 – 2024)

Project	Tidy Towns Category
Progress ongoing plans to develop Grotto into an enhanced, inclusive recreational area.	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement</i> <i>Streetscape & Public Areas</i> <i>Green Spaces & Landscaping</i> <i>Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality</i> <i>Sustainability - Doing more with Less</i> <i>Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes</i>
Increase number of public waste bins in town centre. Replace / redesign existing bins (Elphin Street) to ensure consistency of aesthetics, reduce public abuse and reduce avian interference.	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement</i> <i>Streetscape & Public Areas</i> <i>Sustainability - Doing more with Less</i> <i>Tidiness & Litter Control</i> <i>Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes</i>
Ensure funding applications are completed to a 'ready-to-go' state (to include project costings, all required planning permissions etc).	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement</i>
Maintain and develop existing Strokestown Tidy Towns website, providing all users with direct access to ongoing plans, proposals, guidance and news.	<i>Community - Your Planning & Involvement</i>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





SuperValu

Tidy Towns
Bailte Slachtmhara

Strokestown
Béal na mBuillí

Caring for our environment
Cúram a Dhéanamh den Chomhshaoil

#OurTown #YourTown

www.strokestowntidytowns.weebly.com