



Hello from Strokestown Tidy Towns committee

As a brand-new committee we are excited to be submitting our first Tidy Towns Application and look forward to receiving you on site.

The current Tidy Towns committee was only fully formed in March 2022. However, community support for Tidy Towns Ireland from consecutive Strokestown committees and unsung volunteers has been in place for approximately 40 years.

As with all communities the impact of the pandemic on individuals, families and businesses must not be understated. Hopefully, at the time of submission of our application, the effect of restrictions is lessening, and we all look to a positive 'bounce-back' across Strokestown and Ireland as a whole.

Our 2022 application is designed to build on the fantastic work undertaken by friends over the mentioned period and expand this to meet the needs of a modern Strokestown. We are conscious of ensuring that we set targets to deliver measurable and achievable outcomes and consider that all designated future objectives are realistic, feasible and have a positive impact across our town.

As a new committee we are, nevertheless, conscious that this, our first application to Tidy Towns Ireland, only brushes (strokes?) the surface of the work we wish to undertake and the potential we know that exists across the Strokestown community to work together to the betterment of all living, working and visiting our wonderful Heritage town.

We recognise that our application is likely not to meet the full requirements of an experienced Adjudication Panel. We are, however, keen to learn from this judging process and will be appreciative of all guidance, tips and information.

Please note that that all progress intentions are based in the current belief that Strokestown will be bypassed. This has recently been delayed and we are concerned that this has the potential of negatively impacting on the successful completion of key improvements.

Thank you for taking the time to visit us in Strokestown.

CHAIR Jonathan Cassidy		SECRETARY: Martina O'Connor		TREASURER: Mark Chilvers	
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SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form 2022

We strongly recommend that you read the 2022 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: **Beal atha na mBuillí**

County: **Roscommon**

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

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

Last Year of Entry: **2021**

Organisation Name: **Strokestown Tidy Town Group**

Contact Name: **Jonathan Cassidy (CHAIR)**

Address: **Lissaphobble, Strokestown, County Roscommon. F42 TP04**

Phone: **087 783 7759**

Email: strokestowntidytown@gmail.com

Internet or 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 located centrally in Ireland 140km from Dublin and 12km from Galway on the N5.

Our historic community can be found to the north of County Roscommon (approximately 20km from the county town) but is also close to the Longford and Leitrim county borders (approximately 23km from Longford and 25km from Carrick-on-Shannon).



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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: **825 (CSO data - Census 2016)**

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) |

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: Strokestown Tidy Towns

Date: 20 May 2022



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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 Tidy Town Plan. Consideration will be given to social inclusion, whole of community approach, the role of volunteers and new residents in activities.

Number involved in your committee: **3 (Chair, Secretary & Treasurer)**

Number not on committee but who volunteer: **70+**

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

(COMMUNITY1)

As per our newly agreed Constitution we hold:

12 Committee Meetings per year (including AGM)

4 Open Meetings per year

NEW

(COMMUNITY2)

Strokestown Tidy Towns holds one Community Clean-Up event per year designed to bring our town together and promote the role and relevance of Tidy Towns to Strokestown. This is promoted across the Strokestown community via various communication streams (word-of-mouth, Facebook, poster-drop into local businesses). For 2021 this resulted in nearly 80 residents, from all ages and social backgrounds, working together to the betterment of our community. MAINTAINING

(COMMUNITY3)

Monthly community ‘Tidy-Ups’, normally held first thing on Saturdays as ‘drop-in’ sessions to minimise impact on volunteer time and maximise benefit of time given freely. These sessions are promoted via Facebook. MAINTAINING



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(COMMUNITY4)

In addition, we are pleased to work closely with residents of our housing estates in supporting their hard work in maintaining and developing their living areas. **MAINTAINING**

(COMMUNITY5)

Strokestown Tidy Towns committee works proactively with other close-geographic Community Groups to assist with events and promotional activities that benefit all (including Scramogue Tidy Town, Cloontuskert Tidy Towns, Sliabh Bawn Community Amenity Group and Ballyleague Renewal Group). **NEW**

(COMMUNITY6)

The process of Grant Application is regular and ongoing work that is very 'time-heavy' (and a hidden element of being a Tidy Towns volunteer) due to the need for suitable Governance and financial propriety. The requirements of all applications is making this an increasingly onerous task, with inflexible forms, and an expectation of excessive evidence, not supporting volunteers with full time jobs or families.

MAINTAINING

(COMMUNITY7)

Our Tidy Towns Treasurer is currently in the early stage of creating a web-based online presence to run alongside our popular Facebook page. This will promote the role and community interaction of Strokestown Tidy Towns locally, nationally and internationally helping increase awareness of our biodiverse, sustainable community as a positive place to live, work and (from a business development perspective) invest in. It will also, concurrently, publicise the progressive role of Tidy Towns Ireland. **NEW**

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

Strokestown Tidy Towns thanks the following without whom our efforts would not be successful:

Strokestown Supervalu (our community Tidy Towns sponsor)	Strokestown Eurospar
Roscommon County Council	Strokestown Town Team
Strokestown GAA	Strokestown Ladies GAA
POBAL	Brothers of Charity (Strokestown)
Green Hub Gardening Club	Women's Shed Strokestown
Men's Shed (Strokestown)	HSE
Mountain Brew Coffee Shop	Strokestown Hardware
Sliabh Bawn Community Amenities Group	Roscommon Leader Partnership
Roscommon Youth Partnership	Cloontuskert Tidy Towns
Scramogue Tidy Towns	Scoil Mhuire Strokestown
Strokestown Community Development Agency	



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

(COMMUNITY8)

Since forming a new committee for 2022 imaginative and proactive work has been taken forward to re-engage with the Strokestown community via Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Strokestowntidytowngroup>). The positive response to this work, evidenced by a dramatic upturn in personal engagement from a raft of individuals. As a result, we intend to continue and develop this communication stream to highlight work currently being undertaken, our future plans, advertise our local events and promote work and events being done by our friends and colleagues in nearby Community Groups. **NEW**

(COMMUNITY9)

Our business communication has changed to a bi-monthly newsletter emailed via a mailing list. We found that we were able to structure our communications to include reminders around the legal obligations for businesses. This has been recognised as positive practice and has been promoted widely via the DRCD Tidy Towns Newsletter. **NEW**

(COMMUNITY10)

As a committee we recognise that not all of our community is comfortable with using technology-based communication methods so, to engage with this important group, post-COVID we are working closely to communicate regular Tidy Towns updates via our local Parish bulletin. **MAINTAINING**

(COMMUNITY11)

We look forward to the reopening of Strokestown Library which is a key tool in connecting with a wide range of people living in our town. **MAINTAINING**

(COMMUNITY12)

Alongside the above we make cost-effective use of our local media publications (Roscommon Herald, Roscommon People) to, again, communicate with as many potential volunteers as possible. **NEW**

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?

(COMMUNITY13)

As part of the Strokestown 'Teen Team' initiative, Strokestown Tidy Town Group works closely with our Transition Year students to meet their An Gaisce awards requirements for Community Involvement. This incorporates a range of duties including horticulture and biodiversity (clearing of leaves and weeds, creation of community recycling/compost areas) and working together (general tidying, street sweeping, physical help with Tidy Towns events). Dependant on suitable funding we intend to expand this relationship to develop these confident young people as the future of Strokestown Tidy Towns. **NEW**



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(COMMUNITY14)

This year we planted trees with our 6th class students signifying the transition and growth that they have experienced during the pandemic and reinforcing the significance of having roots in Strokestown as they grow and develop. **NEW**

Briefly identify **ONE** specific project where particular effort was applied since July 1st, 2021. (This can include ongoing maintenance work or new project)

(COMMUNITY15)

The establishment of a biodiversity and composting area in Tower View is our highlighted project. Historically, Tower View has had a turbulent time with challenging dynamics among residents. We have created an opportunity to bridge those gaps through a new project that includes the entire estate and the surrounding area. By understanding the various skill sets and attributes that each resident brings, we have been able to develop an obvious feeling of ownership and togetherness across this estate. The introduction of a native traditional pollinator area has reduced the costs associated with regular mowing while providing some native colour. Education and training support for residents has been provided by our local Green Hub Gardening Club and Permaculture Ireland. The provision of an estate-based composting area has added a new sense of involvement for residents and has helped engender a refreshed participatory ethos. Upcycling a series of old pallets into a composting system has reduced the cost of household waste removal for the estate and had increased the availability of compost for estate residents and Strokestown Tidy Town group. **NEW**

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

Support for Tidy Towns Ireland from consecutive Strokestown committees and unsung volunteers has been in place since the 1960s. Given this passage of time the beneficial impact on Strokestown is almost incalculable and it is beholden on the new committee to ensure that previous work is recognised, celebrated and built upon.

(COMMUNITY16)

Our organised 'Clean-Up' days have brought the wider Strokestown community together and have reinforced the positive number of supportive residents and volunteers happy to give their personal time up freely. This was particularly evident as the town emerged from lockdown. The 2021 community 'Clean-Up' was an ideal opportunity to reintroduce people to socialising in the street for a common goal in a structured, fun and safe environment. By providing free refreshments after the event (donated and sponsored by local businesses), we recognised the importance of food in being an integral part of bringing people together. **NEW**

(COMMUNITY17)

For 2022 it is our intention to hold a similar Social Inclusion event, working in close liaison with community Sports and Activities groups, highlighting the range of different societal groups that comprise the modern Strokestown by providing a selection of foods from each culture to volunteers after our grand town tidy – 2022 will be an International Community and Club Clean Up for Strokestown. **NEW**



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Streetscape & Public Places

80 Marks



Buildings: Conservation and presentation of heritage buildings and quality of shop-fronts 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.

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 way-finding 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.

Please refer to the 2022 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 July 1st, 2021 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: Please ensure all priority projects are uniquely referenced on your map and legend using the reference numbers assigned below.

(STREETSCAPE1)

Strokestown is the first town in County Roscommon to receive funding for the Government's 'Town Centre First' initiative (<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/473d3-town-centre-first-policy/>). We are currently awaiting direction and guidance from our local authority as this will help Strokestown Town Team focus essential resources on reducing vacancy and dereliction in our community. As such it is outside of our Tidy Towns remit, however we are actively participating in the discussions as part of the Town Team. **NEW**

(STREETSCAPE2)

In 2020 and 2021 Strokestown Town Team benefitted from successful bids and received funding as part of the national 'Town & Village Renewal' scheme. Using these monies 33 previously aging buildings have been painted to enhance the streetscape and outlook of our community for those living in, working in and visiting Strokestown. **MAINTAINING**



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(STREETSCAPE3)

As part of our ongoing 'Public Places' focus Strokestown Tidy Towns has collaborated with the Brothers of Charity to plant flower beds running alongside the Bumlin river. As a Community Integration opportunity, we have sponsored the purchase of colourful plants and bulbs in support of those attending this amazing local facility. Working closely with the Centre Manager we have been pleased to see the degree of enjoyment and autonomy this has given the individual Service Users as they take responsibility for maintaining this planting. **NEW**

(STREETSCAPE4)

During the 2021 'Clean-Up' day we cleaned, refreshed and repainted key identity markers used to publicise the Strokestown Heritage Trail improving aesthetics and functionality for visitors. **MAINTAINING**

(STREETSCAPE5)

We have also recently commenced work on improving the Grotto area, adjacent to Bumlin river and have 2022 plans to resource definitive changes to the tree line and non-indigenous planting historically introduced. **MAINTAINING**

(STREETSCAPE6)

The impressive changes currently being made to the National Famine Museum in Strokestown Park House have created an opportunity to tell the story of the documented 3000 people who attended the workhouse in the Cloonslanor area of our community. A key part of this is the 'Bully's Acre' site which Strokestown Tidy Towns are currently working on, in close liaison with specialist arborists, to provide a key community link, outside of the Park House site, enabling residents and visitors to learn about our history. With valuable guidance from Roscommon County Council – Heritage Department we are completing all work to meet best practice for development of historical sites. The workhouse formerly on this land was demolished in protest after its closure and the stone used to build the houses on Upper Elphin Street in Strokestown. However, the site remains and is an integral part of the history of Strokestown and as such deserves to be maintained. **NEW**

(STREETSCAPE7)

We were disappointed to see the Bank of Ireland close last year but on a more positive note the building has recently been purchased by a local businessperson and we look forward to this returning to be an important community building. **NEW**

(STREETSCAPE8)

We are extremely pleased to see the development of a Coffee Shop on Elphin Street. This is being driven by our community Brothers of Charity friends who formerly ran a similar facility in the old bank building on Church Street. **NEW**



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Green Spaces and Landscaping

80 Marks



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.

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Note: Please ensure all priority projects are uniquely referenced on your map and legend using the reference numbers assigned below.

Expanding on the hard work completed over previous years is a crucial focus for our new Tidy Towns committee has been a drive to use our community green spaces in new, exciting, sustainable directions that are intended to benefit residents, visitors and our local biosphere. To support this, we have put together a ‘Community Biodiversity’ guide which we will promote as being a reference point for anyone (local businesses or residents) wishing to find out how to engage more successfully with our environment. A copy of this is attached to this application.

(GREEN1)

Using our increasingly popular Facebook page we have taken definitive steps to increase community awareness of ongoing work and future plans. Combining this with provision of wider Tidy Towns specific information (e.g., biodiversity perception, bee-friendly planting, indigenous wild-flowering) and direct consultation with other key stakeholders has assisted and supported our committee decision making. **NEW**



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Introduction of ‘we will not mow but will let it grow’ pollinator beds on our (i) Tower View estate and the (ii) Grotto and a native traditional meadow in the (iii) HSE compound of the community Primary Care Centre), in the midst of our town, have been major projects since the forming of our new committee. These projects would not have been successfully organised, or received by those accessing these areas, without regular discussions and opinion-sharing through a myriad of phone calls, emails, online meetings and face to face contact.

(GREEN2)

Our Tower View project is a pilot scheme running with the full collaboration of the Residents Association, Roscommon County Council, Green Hub Gardening Club, Permaculture Ireland and Scoil Mhuire Secondary School. In a drive to do ‘more with less’ and embed a sustainable culture we have introduced a pollinator area to this housing estate. Alongside this change of community direction, we have also built a set of composting bays, using recycled wooden pallets, to an area where previously nothing happened other than regular mowing and tidying. As stated Strokestown Tidy Towns and estate residents are running this project as a ‘test bed’. We are confident that the intended benefits (wider community engagement / streetscape ownership / nature & biodiversity awareness / sustainability) will make a positive change to this residential area and will increase the potential for improved habitat creation in the long term. The scheme will be reviewed by all participating individuals and groups and, if deemed to have achieved the intended outcomes, will be introduced to all estates within Strokestown. A Project Phase 2 is also envisaged whereby areas currently supporting pollinator planting and composting will, in 2024, expand to encompass a Community Garden growing vegetables, herbs etc for local consumption.

NEW

(GREEN3)

The Grotto project takes the form of ‘mowing less and leaving more’. This area benefits from the free-flowing Bumlin river to the northwest, woodland to the south/southeast and natural limestone walls providing a traditional boundary. Strokestown Tidy Towns is working to replace non-indigenous planting with strategic, well communicated plans to allow the natural reintroduction of native species. This will create an ideal opportunity for wildlife to flourish and will revitalise this beautiful area for community and visitor use. Moving from the traditional ‘clean-mown’ look to a more beneficial six-week cutting regime is a positive step towards ensuring long-term sustainability. In addition, as a committee, we are aware of the dominance of the non-native treeline surrounding the Grotto area and are currently progressing plans to remove height from a selection (working in conjunction with ESB) and the replacement of others with more locally relevant planting. Having undertaken a review of county-wide amenity spaces we are also keen to expand the use of this area for ALL locals and visitors and are in the early planning stages of introducing a Sensory Garden to benefit adults and children. Working cohesively with the adjacently located Brothers of Charity we will take advantage of their specialist relevant knowledge. **NEW**



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(GREEN4)

Wilding and naturalising of grassed areas surrounding our community Primary Care Centre is a further collaborative project. Following lengthy discussion and dialogue with progressive and forward-thinking partners the new Tidy Towns committee have received agreement from the HSE that they will maintain a close-cut mown border to all grassed areas, preserving the aesthetic of their building and parking area. The remaining meadow will be left to provide a natural habitat for native, biodiverse plant growth and all animals/insects living in this area. Using the knowledge and expertise of the Green Hub Gardening Club, we are monitoring the growth and range of native plants and accompanying wildlife using the restructured meadow. Strokestown Tidy Towns recognises and appreciates the support and positivity given by the HSE in helping this project develop. **NEW**

(GREEN5)

As an active member of Strokestown Town Team we are aware of ongoing discussions with the Diocese and Bishop of Elphin with regard to developing a Community Park behind the Catholic church on Elphin Street and await progress with anticipation of playing an integral part of future plans. **NEW**

(GREEN6)

We are pleased to see the work completed by Strokestown Town Team in establishing a raised 'Welcome' flower bed at Turnafarn, the former location of Strokestown GAA and we are supporting them in ensuring that regular management and development of this area continues. **NEW**



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Nature and Biodiversity in your locality

55 Marks



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.

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Being a rural area steeped in farming and agricultural history biodiverse practices are a natural way of life for a large swathe of Strokestown residents. Recent years have highlighted this natural understanding of biodiversity being an overarching description for the variety of life in an area including organisms, habitat and the symbiotic interactions between all.

Across Strokestown we are focusing on a number of strategies designed to promote and embed biodiversity as a natural by-product of everyday life – the simpler the process of change for individuals and groups, the greater the potential for long-term engagement and success.

All actions proposed at committee level are only considered for introduction if they are compatible with a zero-herbicide approach ensuring a minimisation of direct or indirect harm to our environment.

Building on the work completed over many years by previous committees it is our priority that all future projects increase, enhance and promote biodiversity. As evidenced on our Tidy Towns Community Improvement Plan we are directing all available resources to the creation of biodiverse habitats and the maintenance and management of established areas referred to across this application.



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(NATURE1)

For 2022, in a clear divergence from previous years (and in addition to projects referenced elsewhere in our application), Strokestown Tidy Towns are intentionally not erecting planted hanging baskets around town. Rather than the aesthetic immediacy of these we are, in conjunction with the Green Hub Gardening Club, focusing on planting schemes that will provide long-term positive outcomes for our community habitat and the wildlife within. **NEW**

(NATURE2)

Long-term plans include the resurrection of previous attempts to create a 'Biodiversity Walkway' running parallel to the Bumlin river (also known as Ryan's River). Unfortunately, earlier efforts have been unsuccessful due to difficulties in seeking suitable permissions from landowners. The new committee are keen to raise this proposal once more and are hopeful that the beneficial community impact of such a walkway can be communicated in such a way as to mitigate any concerns. We are encouraged by landowner work in waterway protection and changes in agricultural practices improving the quality of upstream river water for livestock drinking use. **NEW**

(NATURE3)

Having formed a close and positive relationship with our friends in Cloontuskert Tidy Towns (and with express thanks to [Easy Treesie](#)) we have been able to recently distribute a number of bare root trees (Silver Birch, Scots Pine, Hazel, Oak, Rowan, Common Birch, Norway Spruce) across our community (including local Residents Associations, schools, sports clubs). This is a 'win/win' situation as it not only benefits our town but also helps engage individuals in having a wider understanding how simple it is to make a 'biodiverse difference'. **NEW**

(NATURE4)

Building on our intention to increase awareness of the role and importance of biodiversity to everyday life we have put together a 'Community Biodiversity' guide which we will promote as being a reference point for anyone (local businesses or residents) wishing to find out how to engage more successfully with our environment. **NEW**



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Sustainability - Doing more with less

55 Marks



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.

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Sustainability encompasses new ways of thinking. Small changes can make big differences.

(SUSTAINABILITY1)

Our Treasurer, on taking responsibility for Tidy Towns book-keeping, has switched to paperless statements with our banking provider. Electronic banking will be maintained wherever possible whilst continuing to ensure appropriate governance is applied to all payments. NEW

(SUSTAINABILITY2)

Strokestown has, in Church Street, the widest street thoroughfare outside of Dublin. Running parallel, and extending into Bawn Street, are a number of established trees. Over the next three years the Tidy Towns committee plan to introduce an 'Adopt-a-Tree' scheme whereby town residents and businesses will be encouraged to name one of the mentioned trees and ensure that this is kept tidy and properly maintained. Tidy Towns will support this process by ensuring any planting meets overall objectives. NEW

(SUSTAINABILITY3)

The roundabout at the centre of Strokestown is an important marker in our community. Working in close cooperation with the Town Team Strokestown Tidy Towns committee intend to fully utilise this area to promote local events, activities and happenings. NEW



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SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form 2022

(SUSTAINABILITY4)

Our Secretary is consulting with Roscommon County Council to link Strokestown into an existing county contract providing grass-cutting services on behalf of Roscommon Tidy Towns and other groups/areas. Standardising such services at a county level will provide continuity of delivery, reduce associated costs and will remove a burden from our committee. **NEW**

(SUSTAINABILITY5)

We are committed to buying and producing locally where possible and this is one of our central themes. We source our materials locally and many of our local shops including Strokestown Hardware, Eurospar and our local Tidy Towns sponsor, SuperValu have been generous in donating provisions, prizes and sponsorship. **NEW**

(SUSTAINABILITY6)

Strokestown Tidy Towns committee works proactively with other close-geographic Community Groups to assist with events and promotional activities that benefit all (including Scramogue Tidy Town, Cloontuskert Tidy Towns, Sliabh Bawn Community Amenity Group and Ballyleague Renewal Group). Recent activities include a multi-group 'tidy-up' of the Sliabh Bawn visitor area, with refreshments provided by the owners of Franks Bar, a bar located in the same area. **NEW**

(SUSTAINABILITY7)

Within Strokestown we have a long-established Men's Shed, working alongside the Tidy Towns committee, who have been an invaluable asset in supporting other community groups with the provision of hand-made objects making the finishing touch to successful town activities (an ideal example is the supply of a purpose built Santa's North Pole letterbox to the annual Christmas Markets). In addition, a more-recently formed Women's Shed is quickly becoming an active member of the Strokestown community with members involved with Tidy Towns, Town Team and other local events. **MAINTAINING**

(SUSTAINABILITY8)

As active members of Strokestown Town Team the Tidy Towns Chair and Treasurer have ensured that community Christmas Lights are powered by LED bulbs, minimising the power required to run the annual display (especially relevant in these times of rapidly increasing costs) and increasing the lifecycle of all purchases. **NEW**

(SUSTAINABILITY9)

In what we consider to be a first for County Roscommon Strokestown Tidy Towns has joined with Strokestown Soccer Club and Strokestown Ladies GAA to promote a ZERO-PLASTIC environment, promoting sustainability and litter control by sports participant, parents and visitors to games. **NEW**



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Tidiness and Litter Control

90 Marks



Tidiness: General lack of clutter, blocked footpaths, redundant poles, unsightly overhead electric cables, absence of graffiti and fly-posting 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 the 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.

Please refer to the 2022 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 July 1st, 2021 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: Please ensure all priority projects are uniquely referenced on your map and legend using the reference numbers assigned below.

(TIDY1)

Monthly community clean-ups are held, normally held first thing on Saturdays, to take consideration of volunteer time and to maximise benefit of time given freely. These 'drop-in' events are normally promoted via our Facebook page. **MAINTAINED**

(TIDY2)

The Department of Social Protection provides an excellent Rural Social Scheme (RSS) / C.E scheme to Strokestown. In addition, the town has been allocated a TUS Community work placement. Working together these individuals work diligently to maintain all community open spaces. Without their ongoing support Strokestown Tidy Towns would find it exceedingly difficult to operate effectively. **MAINTAINED**



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(TIDY3)

We take pride in helping our community Transition Year students meet their An Gaisce awards requirements (13 hours per student across the academic year) and offer them regular opportunities to help with a range of ongoing projects (including tidying and weeding of specific town areas). This incorporates a range of duties including horticulture and biodiversity (clearing of leaves and weeds, creation of community recycling/compost areas) and working together (general tidying, street sweeping, physical help with Tidy Towns events). Dependant on suitable funding we intend to expand this relationship to develop these confident young people as the future of Strokestown Tidy Towns. **NEW**

(TIDY4)

Following on from disappointing feedback received from residents regarding dog owners failing to control their pets Strokestown Tidy Towns has contacted our local Dog Warden and taken delivery of two animal waste bag dispensers. These will be located in key town areas with promotion of these being made via a range of communication channels. In addition, residents have been reminded of the legal requirement to clean up after their pets. **NEW**

(TIDY5)

For a number of years Strokestown has had no public waste bins within the town. Whilst the committee is aware that this situation arose following local abuse of previous units the lack of these facilities is counter to our remit and role. In response to this issue the Tidy Towns Chair has worked closely with students at Scoil Mhuire who have designed and manufactured an insert to existing outer bin covers preventing future misuse. We await confirmation from Roscommon County Council of how and when these can be returned to community use. **NEW**

(TIDY6)

With the ongoing and invaluable support of Roscommon County Council our town benefits from the council management of well used bottle banks. **MAINTAINED**

(TIDY7)

For 2022 it is our intention to hold a community clean-up which will be Social Inclusion event. We are working in close liaison with community Sports and Activities groups, with the plan being to highlight the range of different societal groups that comprise the modern Strokestown by providing a selection of foods from each culture to volunteers after our grand town tidy – 2022 will be an International Community and Club Clean Up for Strokestown. **NEW**



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Residential Streets & Housing Areas

55 Marks



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, sign posts, 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.

Please refer to the 2022 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 July 1st, 2021 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: Please ensure all priority projects are uniquely referenced on your map and legend using the reference numbers assigned below.

(RESIDENTIAL1)

The Tidy Towns committee would like to document the long-standing positive work completed by estate Residents Associations. This continues proactively and is an essential element of all Tidy Towns work. Each estate has developed a distinct 'personality' with all taking obvious pride in maintaining areas to the highest of standards. Future plans are for the Tidy Towns committee to give these Associations greater autonomy for their living areas. We will work with them to provide guidance on when developmental funding is available and will support the application process to work towards the greatest chance of successful funding bids.

MAINTAINING

(RESIDENTIAL2)

As a committee we are extremely pleased to see positive work being done to restore the 'ghost' housing estate at the junction of N5 and R368 – this is work that has been overdue and can only be encouraging for the whole of Strokestown. **NEW**



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(RESIDENTIAL3)

The Tidy Towns committee is pleased to see the recent work completed on installing new elements to the Community Playground. We are aware of the financial difficulties resulting from the pandemic and it is testament to the resilience of the SCDA, parents and fund-raisers that this work has been enabled. **MAINTAINING**

(RESIDENTIAL4)

Roscommon County Council has recently built new social housing in a central position in Strokestown. The Tidy Towns committee is very impressed with the quality of these and welcomes all new residents into our community. **NEW**



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Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes

55 Marks



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.

Please refer to the 2022 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 July 1st, 2021 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: Please ensure all priority projects are uniquely referenced on your map and legend using the reference numbers assigned below.

(APPROACH1)

The Department of Social Protection provides an excellent Rural Social Scheme (RSS) / C.E scheme worker to Strokestown. Using his personal skills on behalf of Strokestown Tidy Towns we have made essential repairs and rebuilding of a damaged traditional stone wall situated on the N5 / R368 junction. This level of assistance is indicative of the support the Tidy Towns committee receives from across our community. **NEW**

(APPROACH2)

We are pleased to see the work completed by Strokestown Town Team in establishing a raised 'Welcome' flower bed at Turnafarn, the former location of Strokestown GAA and we are supporting them in ensuring that regular management and development of this area continues. **NEW**

(APPROACH3)

Strokestown has, in Church Street, the widest street thoroughfare outside of Dublin. Running parallel, and extending into Bawn Street, are a number of established trees. The Tidy Towns committee are working alongside our Town Team to replace the grey slate at base of these trees with colourful annual plants providing an immediate splash of colour for residents and visitors. **NEW**

(APPROACH4)

Recent planting of a colourful flowerbed on entry to Strokestown from the Longford road has been positively received and, once fully embedded, will give a definitive WELCOME to all visiting our community. **NEW**



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(APPROACH5)

As active members of Strokestown Town Team the Tidy Towns Chair and Treasurer have worked closely with the Town Team committee to arrange for new town signage to be erected at all town entry points. Cloaked in Roscommon colours these provide a smart welcome to all visitors and gives consistency of signage with many other County Roscommon communities.

NEW



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SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form 2022

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 2022 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@drcd.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 to: tidytowns@drcd.gov.ie

Best of Luck!



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