




SuperValu
Tidy Towns
Bailte Slachtmhara
Strokestown
Béal na mBuillí
Caring for our environment
Cúram a Dhéanamh den Chomhshaol

#OurTown #YourTown

www.strokestowntidytowns.weebly.com



Tidy Towns competition 2023

SuperValu Tidy Towns Entry Form 2023

Welcome to Strokestown

And you are very welcome 😊

In celebrating the 65th year of the Tidy Towns competition we are very pleased to invite you to visit our amazing small community – one that has been part of the Tidy Towns family since the early days – and we hope that Tidy Towns judges and assessors have a positive visit 🙌

The current Tidy Towns committee was formed in March 2022. However, community support for Tidy Towns Ireland from previous Strokestown committees and unsung volunteers has been in place for over 50 years.

Our 2023 application is designed to build on the fantastic work undertaken by our hard-working predecessors, businesses, voluntary groups, community teams and caring individuals over many years and develop this to meet the needs of a 21st Century Strokestown – one that enables our ever-changing community to combine our undoubtedly important national and local history with the challenges and pressures of a changing international, national and local world.

As an Executive Committee we have met with our active Core Group, local businesses and other community-focused groups and individuals to discuss what's important to them and to Strokestown.

Based on this we have devised a Community Improvement Plan (CIP) to give all in Strokestown (residents, businesses and visitors) the ability to monitor our progress towards agreed actions, whether directly involved in making changes or viewing externally. We work hard to ensure that all actions are clearly measurable, achievable, realistic and will have a positive impact across our town. This CIP is regularly reviewed and updated and is publicly accessible to all via our website (<https://strokestowntidytowns.weebly.com/>).

A REQUEST FROM STROKESTOWN TIDY TOWNS GROUP: We ask that, during your consideration of our 2023 application, you note that ALL agreed improvement actions are factored on Strokestown being bypassed. This continues to be delayed, restricting our ability (as a committee and community) to develop substantive, long-term plans.

Thank you for taking the time to visit us in Strokestown. We hope you find our application useful, informative and enjoyable.

#Strokestown #OurTown #YourTown #MyTown #Community #StrongerTogether



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COMMUNITY MAP



CARRICK-on-SHAMMON
25km

Kildalogue **N7 / M7** 3)

Vesnoy **N4 / M7 / M8**

The Barony **M7**

The Crescent **M7**

Forge Hill **N7 / N11 / N20 / M7**

Park Court **M7**

N23

Tower View **M7 / N21**

Lisroyne Elms **M7**

Shevlin Court **M7**

5)

4)

6)

13) **N8**

11)

7)

N21

M3

15)

8)

10)

12)

16)

Stone Crescent **M7**

1)

French Court **M7**

2) **M5**

N8

The Grotto & Shrine
N1 / N2 / N3 / M1

9)

N4

The Maples
N4 / M7

Lisnaree **M7**

Famine Burial Ground **M9**

ROSCOMMON
20km

LONGFORD 23km
DUBLIN 143km

Key	Housing Estates	Areas of Interest & Note	Community Assets

SuperValu Tidy Towns Entry Form 2023

Key: Community Map & 2023 Entry Application

Please find the following key to 2023 Entry Application. We are conscious that this provides evidence and examples that are not possible to reflect via our map so wanted to assist Tidy Towns judges & assessors by clearly defining areas we consider important to Strokestown. **We hope that you find this useful.**

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

New Projects (N)					
N1	STREETSCAPE: Grotto 'Welcome' signage	N11	SUSTAINABILITY: Forge Hill compost bin	N21	RESIDENTIAL STREETS: new estate tidying work (Tower View)
N2	STREETSCAPE: Grotto weeding (before/during/after)	N12	SUSTAINABILITY: WEEE collection day	N22	RESIDENTIAL STREETS: new estate tidying work (Caslin Way)
N3	STREETSCAPE: Grotto Improvement Project	N13	SUSTAINABILITY: Composting advice via new website	N23	RESIDENTIAL STREETS: new estate tidying work (The Boreen)
N4	GREEN SPACES: Community Tree Planting	N14	SUSTAINABILITY: Food waste advice via website	N24	APPROACH ROADS: Bridge Street / Roscommon Road
N5	GREEN SPACES: Expert horticultural support	N15	TIDINESS: Schools Tidy-up days across Strokestown	N25	APPROACH ROADS: Wall repair - Bridge Street / Roscommon Road
N6	GREEN SPACES: Decorative Planters purchased	N16	TIDINESS: New street-sweeper in action	N26	APPROACH ROADS: Longford Road into Bridge Street
N7	GREEN SPACES: 2023 planting in progress	N17	TIDINESS: TÚS / CE / RSS team	N27	APPROACH ROADS: Decorative roadside plant pots
N8	GREEN SPACES: Wildflower seeding	N18	TIDINESS: Big Poop Scoop project	N28	APPROACH ROADS: Bridge Street into Longford Road
N9	NATURE: Biodiversity advice via new website	N19	TIDINESS: Council support - new bins	N29	APPROACH ROADS: New Council problem reporting IT system
N10	NATURE: Hedgehog Survey	N20	RESIDENTIAL STREETS: new estate tidying work (Forge Hill)		

Improved or Maintained (M)					
M1	STREETSCAPE: Shrine improvements	M4	GREEN SPACES: Tidy Towns Planting sub-group	M7	TIDINESS: Tidy Estates across Strokestown
M2	STREETSCAPE: Tourist kiosk renovation	M5	GREEN SPACES: Community business support - Percy French Hotel	M8	RESIDENTIAL STREETS: Vesnoy - exemplary work
M3	GREEN SPACES: Estates Planting	M6	TIDINESS: Community Clean-up Day	M9	NATURE: Famine Burial Ground revealed



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SuperValu Tidy Towns Entry Form 2023

About You

Name of your Town/Area/Village/Island: **Strokestown** Name of your Town/Area/Village/Island in Irish: **Béal 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: **2022**
Organisation Name: **Strokestown Tidy Towns Group**
Contact Name(s): **Jonathan Cassidy (Chair)** Address: **Lissaphobble, Strokestown, County Roscommon. F42 TP04**
Mark Chilvers (Treasurer) **Ballyfeeny Old School House (lower), R371, Kilglass. County Roscommon. F42 P657**
Martina O'Connor (Secretary) **Tuam, Kilrooskey. County Roscommon. F42 D328**

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).

Phone:

(087) 78 37759 (Chair) **(083) 87 18958** (Treasurer) **(086) 10 42419** (Secretary)

Email:

strokestowntidytown@gmail.com

Social Media address:

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

Internet (website) address:

<https://strokestowntidytowns.weebly.com/>



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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 – 2016 census (2022 data unvalidated)

Prize Category Population

Village

OA (Under 200)

OB (201 to 1,000)

Small Town

OC (1,001 to 2,500)

OD (2,501 to 5,000)

Large Town

OE (5,001 to 10,000)

OF (10,001 to 15,000)

Large Urban Centre

OG (15,001 to 25,000)

OH (25,001 and over)

By signing below, we understand and agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of the SuperValu TidyTown 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 TidyTown Competition and other related initiatives. We also consent to this data being released to the TidyTown Adjudicators as part of the Entry Form upon which our adjudication is based. We 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. We 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.

We understand that we can withdraw our consent at any time to this information being stored or used in this way by writing to the TidyTown Unit stating we are withdrawing our consent.

Signed (on behalf of entrant):

Jonathan Cassidy
CHAIR



Martina O'Connor
SECRETARY



Mark Chilvers
TREASURER



Date:



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Community – Your Planning and Involvement

SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form 2023

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.

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

Number not on committee but who volunteer: 100+ (includes Core Group members and those volunteering for Community Clean-Up 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
Representation at monthly Town Team meetings
Close work with Primary & Secondary schools
Regular updating of Community Improvement Plan by Treasurer

Co-host of welcome meeting for Ukrainian new residents
Community 'Clean-Up' sessions
Grant Bidding training provided to Resident Associations
Social Inclusion working partnership with Brothers of Charity



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

During 2023 Strokestown Tidy Towns Group is honoured to have received sponsorship, resources, funding & advice from:		
SuperValu (our community Tidy Towns sponsor)	Eurospar Strokestown	Strokestown Hardware
Roscommon County Council	Strokestown Town Team	Department of Rural & Community Development
Strokestown GAA	Strokestown Ladies GFA	Sliabh Bawn Community Amenities Group
POBAL	Brothers of Charity	Roscommon Leader Partnership
Green Hub Gardening Club	Womens' Shed	Roscommon Youth Partnership
Mens' Shed	HSE	Cloontuskert Tidy Towns
Scoil Mhuire Strokestown	Scramogue Tidy Towns	Strokestown Community Development Agency
Keadue Tidy Towns	Ardcarne Garden Centre	Department of Social Protection (TÚS / RSS / CE)
Roscommon Courts Service	Hanly Motors, Roscommon	

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

During 2023 the Tidy Towns Chair and Treasurer have actively used social media to promote work being undertaken, future plans, information of use to the WHOLE community and to engage with residents, businesses and visitors.

The Tidy Towns Treasurer has also used personal time to create a community Tidy Towns website, providing users with Tidy Towns information & news, handy gardening tips & advice and access to the Tidy Towns Community Improvement Plan (clearly showing work completed and tasks profiled).

However, we recognise that not all Strokestown residents are comfortable using IT, emails and/or social media. To reach this important community audience we 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.

At the time of completing this Tidy Towns Competition entry the Treasurer is working closely with the Strokestown Head Librarian to arrange for access to their in-Library TV systems, with the aim of communicating Tidy Towns information to further community members.



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

The Chair and Treasurer continue to engage closely with our local Primary and Secondary schools, with student support being an essential part of ongoing work to clear, develop and maintain the Cloonslanor Burial Ground/former workhouse, helping with community planting and undertaking Litter Picking events.

With specific regard to a 'Junior' Tidy Towns, we have recently been approached by two younger members of the Strokestown community asking if such a group could be created. This level of youth interaction is heart-warming and we are presently exploring the logistics of how we, as an Executive Committee, can take this forward.

Briefly identify ONE specific project where particular effort was applied since June 1st, 2022. (This can include ongoing maintenance work or new project)

Amongst a number of projects that we have completed since June 1st, 2022 the one that made the greatest 'whole Community' impact would be our Christmas Tractor Run ([Tractor Run 2022](#)). After months of planning this formed part of the annual Town Christmas Market and was supported by entrants from across multiple counties. As part of a fund-raising and awareness-raising event over 40 adult-driven tractors (illuminated with Christmas lights) lit up a circuit of Strokestown and neighbouring Townlands. In conjunction we also ran a 'Junior' Tractor Run enabling local children to illuminate their go-karts and mini-tractors – this attracted a great turn-out. Organisation of a 2023 event is already happening!!

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

As stated in our opening welcome, Strokestown has been an active participant in the Tidy Towns competition for over 50 years.

From a 'benefit' perspective we do not consider it hyperbole to recognise the importance of the Tidy Towns competition to Strokestown during difficult financial periods. The focus on 'TOGETHERNESS' provided by a wide community understanding of the Tidy Towns process offered a cohesive direction, motivation and stimulus to a small town dramatically affected by national economic downturns.

Life in a small town, such as Strokestown, has always been driven by relationships (family, social groups and business connections). Even in today's rapidly changing world, with international difficulties unfathomable to most, this viewpoint has not really changed and has, instead, adapted to welcome new challenges, new residents but still with 'COMMUNITY' at its heart.



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Community – Your Planning and Involvement (Strokestown images)



Social Inclusion



Local School links



Embedding the Tidy Towns ethos

On Thu, 20 Apr 2023, 19:53 Simas, <@gmail.com> wrote:
Hi

My name is Simas and I am 12 years old and like to help the town litter pick in Strokestown and would love some equipment to help me out and my best friend Fiona also like to take care of the environment so I think he would love to help me too so both of us have some type of job in the summer and also when possible and hope you respond no worry I'd I am too you or so but would like to clean the town up as there is not much to do at home

Thanks

On Sat 22 Apr 2023, 08:09 Strokestown Tidy Towns, <strokestowntidytown@gmail.com> wrote:
Good morning Simas. Firstly thank you for taking the time to contact us it is wonderful to see Secondly, we would be delighted to see young members coming on board and using email as a form of communication (very impressive sir)

Would you be able to meet with some of our committee and your parent or guardian on next Saturday morning?

Please let us know and we will certainly be delighted and grateful for your help and support.

Kindest regards,
Strokestown Tidy Town Group

On Sat 22 Apr 2023, 10:55 a.m. Simas, <@gmail.com> wrote:
Hi, just didn't know how to contact you

On Sun 23 Apr 2023, 07:54 Strokestown Tidy Towns, <strokestowntidytown@gmail.com> wrote:
No problem at all Simas
Are you in school during the week? If so, we can look at maybe a weekend litter pick to help?

Regards
Strokestown Tidy Town Group

On Sat 23 Apr 2023, 09:36 a.m. Simas, <@gmail.com> wrote:
That would be great. What will be the meet up point be at?

Future Junior Tidy Towns



Ukrainian welcome event



Clean-Up events



Community Flagpole launch



Working with local Groups
(Gardening Club / Women's Shed)



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SuperValu Tidy Towns Entry Form 2023

Community – Your Planning and Involvement (Strokestown images)



A Community Together



Our Community partner



Support from local students



Our Core Group



Junior Tractor Run



Adult Tractor Run



Strokestown Tidy Towns website



Support from local businesses



External agency liaison (HSE)



Community study (Wildflower survey)



Estates working together



Community appreciation



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Strokes

Our Local Environment

The board contains several sections: a title 'Our Local Environment', a map of the area, a photo of a person fishing, and a photo of two people walking. The text is in both English and Irish.

Streetscape & Public Places

SuperValu Tidy Towns Entry Form 2023

Streetscape & Public Places

80 Marks



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.

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.

Please refer to the 2023 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, 2022, 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.

A REQUEST FROM STROKESTOWN TIDY TOWNS GROUP: during 2022 Strokestown was announced as one of 26 towns included in the Government's 'Town Centre First' policy (<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/473d3-town-centre-first-policy/>). This is designed to "... *proactively address the decline in the health of towns across Ireland and support measures to regenerate and revitalise them* ...". Locally, this is being overseen by Strokestown Town Team (of which Strokestown Tidy Towns Group is an active member).

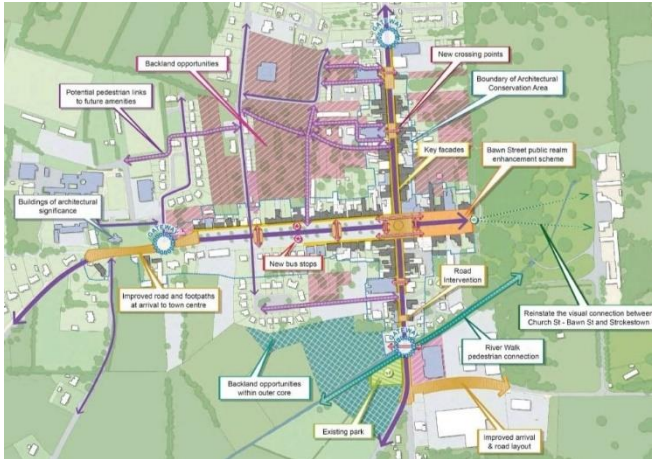


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A set of plans and proposals have been formulated which clearly specify structural amendments to the streetscape, paving, design and layout of Bawn Street and a section of Church Street. These plans also provide suggestions and a proposed direction for considerations to change the layout and usage of lands adjoining Bridge Street and Elphin Street.



Bawn St Public Realm

- Creation of a reimagined public realm scheme developed for Bawn St which will provide a visual and physical link to Strokestown Park House recognising the traditional/period character of the house and sympathetic to this in terms of lighting, street furniture, materiality and style.
- Space for events, festivals, markets and outdoor dining.
- Shared surface arrangements including redesigned formal off-street parking areas, recognising the need for safer vehicular and pedestrian movements
- Clear and appropriately sited public information and way-finding signage
- Landscaping and street furniture
- Upgrading of all associated services and utilities
- Address the function and form of the existing roundabout, associated crossing points, infrastructure and signage
- Creation of a “transition” between the new public realm on Bawn St and the existing Church St area.



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As a team Strokestown Tidy Towns Group has been asked NOT to consider or implement community streetscape changes until the 'Town Centre First' project reaches a completed state.

WE REQUEST THAT OUR CATEGORY SCORE IS NOT DETRIMENTALLY AFFECTED BY THIS GOVERNMENT-DRIVEN PROJECT.

Derelict Sites / Unoccupied Buildings:

During 2022/23 Strokestown Tidy Towns Group has been a driver of attempts to identify a suitable derelict site and / or unoccupied building within Strokestown to be renovated and retrofitted with the aim of providing a central meeting space / community area for local groups.

We have liaised extensively with Roscommon County Council in regard to:

- (i) JUNE 2022: the former Fire Station site (on Church Street) and submitted a Municipal District Fund application to organise a feasibility study. We have subsequently been notified by Roscommon County Council that this site has been allocated planning permission for other usage so we have been unsuccessful.
- (ii) DECEMBER 2022: the former Magnet Ballroom (on Elphin Street). This was identified as an ideal site for community requirements and, in association with Strokestown Town Team, we were hopeful of this becoming a successful project. Unfortunately, following a fire on site, this building is currently classified as unsafe to access. We remain in consultation with Roscommon County Council and hope that they do not allow this town-centre site to simply collapse into dereliction.

Public Spaces:

In the 12 months since our last Tidy Towns competition entry Strokestown Tidy Towns Group has commenced a long-term plan to renew, refresh and refurbish Strokestown Grotto and Shrine.

The Grotto, situated at the N5 junction with the R368, is one of a number of community-relevant historic sites within the Strokestown boundaries.

Historically, for a long period extending into the 1900s, the site was used as the community waste and rubbish tip! Thankfully, this is no longer the case and the Grotto is now a place for time with family, a place to meet and a place for quiet contemplation and reflection and is the location of the Shrine to Our Lady of Fátima, erected by local residents in honour of an much-loved School Principal.



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(M1) AUGUST 2022: Strokestown Tidy Towns Group has completed a renovation of the Shrine area, improving an improved outlook to users and passers-by and making the area safer for all visitors. This has been positively received from residents of Strokestown, including from relatives of the families involved in the building of the structure 😊

To further improve the safety of users we have also implemented a **'No Glass'** protocol, asking that no glass-based votive offerings be left within the Shrine area.

(M2) APRIL 2023: Using a new 'one-person' street sweeper (specifically purchased by Strokestown Tidy Towns Group to be used across the community to improve the removal of street debris) we have completed a thorough weeding of existing pathways and seating / table areas. This has made a fantastic improvement to how the area appears to users (and those driving past the site).

(NI) NOVEMBER 2022: As a starting point for refreshing site awareness for locals and visitors, Strokestown Tidy Towns Group has mounted **'Welcome to Strokestown Grotto'** signs at the entrance.

(M3) APRIL 2023: Over recent weeks Strokestown Tidy Towns Group has been pleased to see the results of a partnership between Strokestown Town Team and Strokestown Mens' Shed. Situated at the junction of Church Street and Elphin Street, the town Tourist Kiosk has been poorly maintained for a number of years resulting in it looking dowdy and giving a poor impression of Strokestown. The renovation and repair work completed by the Mens' Shed has resulted in this kiosk now being restored to being a community asset.



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Streetscape & Public Places (Strokestown images)



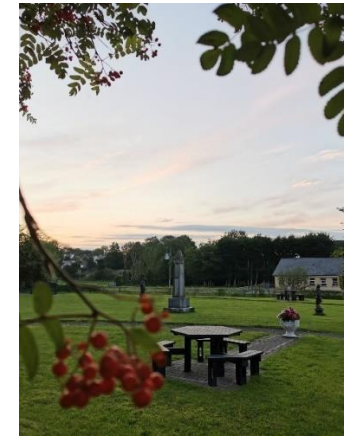
(M1) Shrine of St. Fatima (before)



(M1) Shrine of St. Fatima (after)



(M3) Kiosk renovation by Men's Shed



(N2) Grotto seating (after)



(N1) Welcome signage



(N2) Grotto seating (before 😞)



(N2) Grotto seating (during 😊)



(N2) Grotto seating (after 😊)

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Streetscape & Public Places (Strokestown images)

(N3) Despite the restrictions resulting from the mentioned 'Town Centre First' project Strokestown Tidy Towns Group remains unwavering in our desire and intent to ensure community public spaces are *monitored, maintained and 'made good'*. For 2023 we are submitting funding bids to further develop this area with the aim of it becoming an **enhanced Strokestown asset**, increasing public footfall, ease of access, relevance to the Strokestown community and a **biodiversity hotspot**.

The attached image, and key, clearly show our intent for this historic area to offer an expanded function, supporting work being undertaken by other Strokestown groups (such as Womens' Shed, Green Hub Gardening Club, Brothers of Charity).

If suitably funded, our Grotto Improvement Plan will also result in the laying of new walkways improving safety and accessibility for all users.

It will also provide Strokestown with a Community Garden (to be maintained by the Green Hub Gardening Club) and a Sensory Garden which, we hope, will enhance the visitor experience, whether this be for local residents / users (such as the Brothers of Charity, located immediately adjacent to the Grotto) or external visitors.



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1	Seal the existing Grotto entrance by building a recessed, decorative arch (with the potential of being future developed for use as a community art installation).
2	Create two new openings linking to replacements for existing, unsuitable Grotto walkways (providing safer, user-friendly surfaces) directing users on a journey around the site between the new openings, giving improved access to existing high-quality seating/tables areas and enhancing accessibility for all.
3	Provide community partners (Green Hub Gardening Club, Strokestown Womens' Shed, The Brothers of Charity, Strokestown Mens' Shed) with site-specific areas enabling them to develop their own projects and endeavours.
4	Introduce a Community Garden into Strokestown, in conjunction with the Green Hub Gardening Club.
5	Develop a Sensory Garden, to be used by local residents, community groups and visitors to Strokestown.
6	Build additional bedding areas (and improve existing areas) providing Strokestown Tidy Towns Group and the Green Hub Gardening Club with the ability to continue ongoing town enhanced planting plans.
7	Enable Strokestown Tidy Towns Group to improve community bird and bat nesting ecosystem.



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Green Spaces and Landscaping

SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form 2023

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.

Please refer to the 2023 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, 2022, 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.



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(N3) Grotto Improvement Project

MAY 2023: Strokestown Tidy Towns Group has specific plans to develop the Strokestown Grotto to offer an expanded function, supporting work being undertaken by other Strokestown groups (such as Womens' Shed, Green Hub Gardening Club, Brothers of Charity). It will provide Strokestown with a Community Garden (to be maintained by the Green Hub Gardening Club) and a Sensory Garden which, we hope, will enhance the visitor experience, whether this be for local residents / users (such as the Brothers of Charity, located immediately adjacent to the Grotto) or external visitors.

(M3) Estates planting

ONGOING: Thanks to a group of talented residents a number of our community estates continue to provide a colourful outlook to the Strokestown community and visitors.

(M4) Tidy Towns sub-groups

ONGOING: We are blessed to have talented horticulturalists and gardeners as part of the wider Strokestown Tidy Towns Group. These individuals have come together to form a '**Planting Sub-Group**' and are taking the lead on planting across the community.

(N4) Community tree planting

FEBRUARY 2023: Thanks to donation of a number of fruit trees by Caseys Londis (Roscommon) Strokestown Tidy Towns Group has been able to undertake planting across the town, both in estates and on general sites. Whilst doing this we have used the knowledge and teaching skills of local expert, Hannah Mole from [Earthcare Permaculture Ireland](#) to provide guidance and support on correct tree care.

(N5) Ardcarne Garden Centre – future planned planting

ONGOING: Strokestown Tidy Towns Group has developed a close working relationship with [Ardcarne Garden Centre](#), recognised as one of Ireland's marker leaders. Through this partnership we have begun to formulate a 'Community Planting Plan' designed to structure and plan our town's planting over coming years. This is an exciting scheme and we are looking forward to it progressing.



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(N6) Planting in community spaces

JUNE 2023: Utilising monies received following successful funding applications for 2023 Strokestown Tidy Towns Group has purchased two large planters, made from recycled materials. These will be located in front of a large industrial building on Bridge Street with the aim of improving the view for people using the Grotto and for those passing through.

In addition to this we intend to relocate 2 existing planters from an unused town site and two multi-platform planters, currently unused on housing estates.

These planters will be planted with a selection of the fruit trees donated to us, along with perennial, colourful flowers.

(N7) 2023 planting

MARCH 2023: Using monies received following successful funding applications for 2023 Strokestown Tidy Towns Group has purchased 500 bulbs to provide summer colour across the community.

These bulbs have been shared with estates Residents' Associations to provide continuity of colour across Strokestown. Planting guidance and support is being provided by the Green Hub Gardening Club.

(M5) Community business planting

JULY 2023: Strokestown Tidy Towns Group is lucky to have the support of a number of established local businesses who, every year, and ensure that flowers planted outside of their establishments positively represents our community, both to other residents and businesses but also to those visiting or passing through.

(N8) Wildflower planting

JULY 2023: As a first for Strokestown, during 2022 Strokestown Tidy Towns Group sowed traditional, indigenous wildflower seeds into a number of community spaces including, after a period of consultation on Health Care Centre land owned by the HSE.



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Green Spaces and Landscaping (Strokestown images)



(N3) Grotto Improvement Project

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Seal the existing Grotto entrance by building a recessed, decorative arch (with the potential of being future developed for use as a community art installation). |
| 2 | Create two new openings linking to replacements for existing, unsuitable Grotto walkways (providing safer, user-friendly surfaces) directing users on a journey around the site between the new openings, giving improved access to existing high-quality seating/labelled areas and enhancing accessibility for all. |
| 3 | Provide community partners (Green Hub Gardening Club, Strokestown Womens' Shed, The Brothers of Charity, Strokestown Mens' Shed) with site-specific areas enabling them to develop their own projects and endeavours. |
| 4 | Introduce a Community Garden into Strokestown, in conjunction with the Green Hub Gardening Club. |
| 5 | Develop a Sensory Garden, to be used by local residents, community groups and visitors to Strokestown. |
| 6 | Build additional bedding areas (and improve existing areas) providing Strokestown Tidy Towns Group and the Green Hub Gardening Club with a facility to continue ongoing town enhanced planting plans. |
| 7 | Enable Strokestown Tidy Towns Group to improve community bird and bat nesting ecosystem. |

(N3) Grotto Improvement Project



(M3) Beautiful estate planting (Cloonslanor)



(M4) Hard at work (Bridge Street)



(M4) Hard at work (roundabout)



(N4) Tree planting (The Maples)



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All community planting is being supported
by our friends at
Ardcarne Garden Centre (Roscommon)

Ardcarne GARDEN CENTRE

Huge THANKS for their help

(N5) Expert planting support



(N6) Decorative planters



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Green Spaces and Landscaping (Strokestown images)



(N7) 2023 planting



(M5) Community support



**(N8) Primary Care Centre
wildflowers**



**(M3) Private residences joining in
(The Maples)**



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Nature and Biodiversity in your locality

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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.

Please refer to the 2023 SuperValu Tidy Towns Information Booklet available on www.tidytowns.ie and state if you have entered a Special Award relevant to this category.

A REQUEST FROM STROKESTOWN TIDY TOWNS GROUP: for 2023 Strokestown Tidy Towns Group has submitted an entry into the Heritage Council 'Heritage Award' competition.

This entry is to recognise and promote the work being undertaken to bring Cloonslanor Burial Ground back to a condition where it can be used to remember those who lived through the Famine and had to be part of workhouse life.

Receipt of this Award entry was acknowledged by the Heritage Council on 18th April 2023.



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List projects undertaken since June 1st, 2022, 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.

(N9) Biodiversity: Website sustainability advice

OCTOBER 2022: Following creation of a specific, user-friendly website for Strokestown Tidy Towns Group (designed and maintained by the Treasurer) we have introduced a [Tips & Advice](#) section giving guidance on a selection of Biodiversity-themed subjects, including ideas on **pollinator-friendly planting and companion planting**.

(N10) Hedgehog Survey

SEPTEMBER 2022: As part of the 2022 National Hedgehog Survey we partnered with the Green Hub Gardening Club to hold an information session run by experts from the national body. This event was well attended and an number of attendees subsequently took part in the survey process.

(N8) Wildflower seeding

JULY 2022: As a first for Strokestown, during 2022 Strokestown Tidy Towns Group sowed traditional, indigenous wildflower seeds into a number of community spaces, including Tower View, our Primary Care Centre and Strokestown Grotto.

(N3) Grotto Improvement Project

MAY 2023: Strokestown Tidy Towns Group has specific plans to develop the Strokestown Grotto to offer an expanded function, supporting work being undertaken by other Strokestown groups (such as Womens' Shed, Green Hub Gardening Club, Brothers of Charity). It will provide Strokestown with a Community Garden (to be maintained by the Green Hub Gardening Club) and a Sensory Garden which, we hope, will enhance the visitor experience, whether this be for local residents / users (such as the Brothers of Charity, located immediately adjacent to the Grotto) or external visitors.



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(M9) Famine Burial Ground

The Cloonslanor site is a famine burial ground sitting within a ringfort and is associated with the Workhouse in Strokestown. Historical records indicate that, under pressure from Poor Law Commissioners, a workhouse was constructed in 1851/1852 on a 13-acre site to the south-west of Strokestown.

The Burial Ground remains a reminder of a part of our community history and heritage, and Strokestown Tidy Towns Group is currently working on a project to develop this burial ground into an attractive area of remembrance. Future plans are to create a walking trail linking the Cloonslanor Burial Ground site with the National Famine Museum, located at Strokestown Park House.

As evidenced in the photographs below community support has been immense with key work being completed by a range of individuals and groups. Strokestown Tidy Towns Group has been astounded by this local backing. An especial mention must go to An Gaisce students from Scoil Mhuire, our local Secondary School, who are undertaking regular sitework.

The ongoing development of the Cloonslanor Burial Ground (promoted via [Facebook](#), the [Strokestown community website](#) and the [Strokestown Tidy Towns Group website](#)) is a key way of linking our past [heritage](#) to that of our future and forms an essential part of our work.

The ongoing development of the Cloonslanor Burial Ground is managed as part of the [Community Improvement Plan](#) created and maintained by the Executive Committee of Strokestown Tidy Towns Group. Heritage support is provided by the Heritage Officer at Roscommon County Council.



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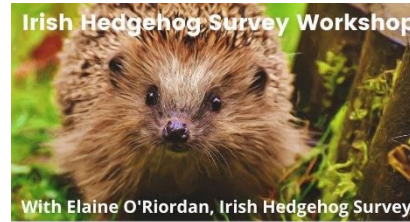
Nature and Biodiversity in your locality (Strokestown images)



(N9) Pollinator-friendly planting



(N9) Companion planting



With Elaine O'Riordan, Irish Hedgehog Survey
 Percy French Hotel Strokestown
 Saturday 17th September 2002 @ 10am
 Admission Free. Booking on Eventbrite
 Supported by Green Hub Gardening Club & Strokestown Tidy Towns

(N10) Hedgehog Survey



(N8) Wildflower seeding



(N3) Grotto Improvement Plan

- 1 Seal the existing Grotto entrance by building a recessed, decorative arch (with the potential of being future developed for use as a community art installation).
- 2 Create two new openings linking to replacements for existing, unsuitable Grotto walkways (providing safer, user-friendly surfaces) directing users on a journey around the site between the new openings, giving improved access to existing high-quality seating/tables areas and enhancing accessibility for all.
- 3 Provide community partners (Green Hub Gardening Club, Strokestown Womens' Shed, The Brothers of Charity, Strokestown Mens' Shed) with site-specific areas enabling them to develop their own projects and endeavours.
- 4 Introduce a Community Garden into Strokestown, in conjunction with the Green Hub Gardening Club.
- 5 Develop a Sensory Garden, to be used by local residents, community groups and visitors to Strokestown.
- 6 Build additional bedding areas (and improve existing areas) providing Strokestown Tidy Towns Group and the Green Hub Gardening Club with a facility to continue ongoing town enhanced planting plans.
- 7 Enable Strokestown Tidy Towns Group to improve community bird and bat nesting ecosystem.

(N3) Grotto Improvement Plan



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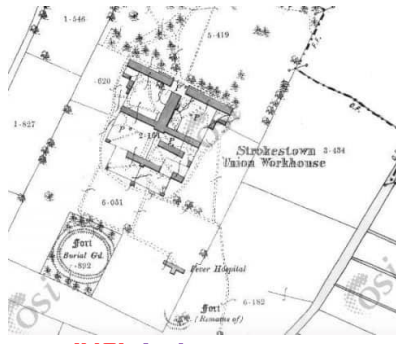
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Nature and Biodiversity in your locality (Strokestown images)



(M9) Burial Ground revealed



(M9) An historic site



(M9) Burial Ground revealed



(M9) Student involvement



(M9) Student involvement



(M9) Community together



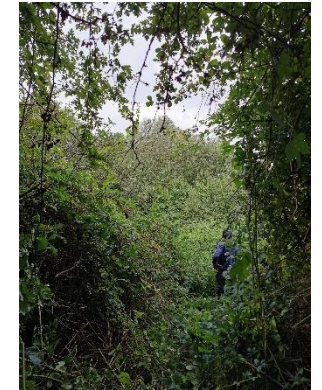
(M9) Linking past to future



(M9) Linking past to future



(M9) Community together



(M9) Burial Ground revealed




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Sustainability – Doing more with less

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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.

Please refer to the 2023 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, 2022, 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.

In the year since our last Tidy Towns judging Strokestown Tidy Towns Group has been actively working to raise community Sustainability awareness and to introduce simple ways for individuals and businesses to get involved in making our town more **resource friendly**.



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(N11) Waste management / Climate Action: Forge Hill estate compost bin

AUGUST 2022: Building on the 2022 composting project, started on our Tower View estate, the Residents' Association on our Forge Hill estate has sourced used wooden pallets and has converted these into a compost bin, for estate use 🍏

(N12) Energy / Waste Management: WEEE Collection Day

OCTOBER 2022: Following liaison with Roscommon County Council and WEEE Ireland, Strokestown Tidy Towns Group organised an **Electrical Waste Collection Day**, located on Church Street to provide easy access for our community. This was well received and it will be repeated.

(N13) Sustainability / Climate Action / Waste Management: Website sustainability advice

OCTOBER 2022: Following creation of a specific, user-friendly website for Strokestown Tidy Towns Group (designed and maintained by the Treasurer) we have introduced a [Tips & Advice](#) section giving guidance on a selection of Sustainability-themed subjects, including ideas on how to do **'more for less'** (benefitting the environment and the pocket).

(N4) Sustainability / Climate Action: Tree planting

FEBRUARY 2023: Building on a relationship with [Caseys Landis \(Roscommon\)](#) during 2023 we have been privileged to receive a donation of over 50 fruit trees. Working with our estates Residents' Associations, our TUS/CE/RSS workers and our local schools these have been planted around Strokestown (with An Gaisce students actually leading on the planting schedule).

(N14) Waste management / Sustainability / Climate Action: Recycling pumpkins

OCTOBER 2022: Easy advice -- YES / Widely known – NO

It's Hallowe'en time (did you know that the [festival of Hallowe'en](#) actually started on a site 15 minutes away from Strokestown?) Simple information ... great outcomes.



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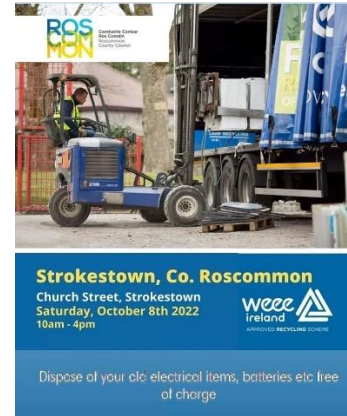
Sustainability - Doing more with less (Strokestown images)



(N11) Waste management / Climate Action: Forge Hill compost bin (before)



(N11) Waste management / Climate Action: Forge Hill compost bin (after)



(N12) Energy / Waste Management: WEEE Collection Day



(N13) Sustainability / Climate Action / Waste Management: Website advice



(N13) Sustainability / Climate Action / Waste Management: Website advice



(N4) Sustainability / Climate Action: Tree planting



(N4) Sustainability / Climate Action: Tree planting



(N14) Waste management / Sustainability / Climate Action: Recycling



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Tidiness and Litter Control

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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 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.

Please refer to the 2023 SuperValu Tidy Towns Information Booklet available on www.tidytowns.ie and state if you have entered a Special Award relevant to this category.

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(N15) APRIL/MAY 2023: Schools Litter-picking

As part of our plans to involve and encourage longer-term awareness and understanding of the importance of community tidiness over recent months we have started a new project going into local schools and taking young students out into their local environment to undertake a fun, but focused litter-pick. We would like to place on record our immense thanks to local schools for supporting and helping with this.

(N16) FEBRUARY 2023: purchase of Street-Sweeper

Using monies received following a funding application we have purchased a walk-behind' street sweeper. This has enabled us, and our TÚS / CE / RSS team, to make an immediate positive impact on accrued kerbside debris across Strokestown.

(M6) JUNE 2023: Community Clean-Up days

Building on the successful events that have run over the last two years we are planning a further Community & Club Clean-Up day for June 2023. Not only do these help to tidy the town but they're also a great way to bring community groups together 😊

(M7) ONGOING: Tidy Estates

Working closely with estate Residents' Associations (and explaining how what they do fits with the aims of the Tidy Towns competition) we've seen a real 'upswing' in interaction and involvement.

(N17) FEBRUARY 2023: New TÚS / CE / RSS workers

As an active member of [Sliabh Bawn Community Activity Group](#) Strokestown Tidy Towns Group has, for the last year, been exploring ways to have additional TÚS / CE / RSS workers allocated to Strokestown. In February we were pleased to welcome two additional team members who, since then, have made a massive impact to the tidiness and maintenance of the Strokestown community 😊



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(N18) AUGUST 2023: Big Poop Scoop project

Dog fouling is a problem affecting all communities. Strokestown Tidy Towns Group is working closely with 2 community businesses [Laura's Canine Academy](#) (a local kennels and animal training specialist) and [Isle of Dogs](#) (a local dog groomer) to try and educate dog owners in how to correctly care for their animals whilst helping keep Strokestown clear of dog waste. We have, additionally, arranged for the installation of [Mutt Mitt](#) dog waste bag holders in two sites.

(N19) FEBRUARY 2023: Council help

In August 2022 Strokestown Tidy Towns Group Chair and Treasurer met with the newly employed Roscommon County Council Municipal Engineer to raise concerns regarding the lack of community waste bins and the poor service being provided with regard to the frequency of visits by the Council street sweeper.

As a result of regular follow-up conversations we are extremely pleased to see the installation of 3 new waste bins and an increased frequency of street sweeper visits and we would like to place on record our appreciation of the support provided by the Municipal Engineer.



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SuperValu Tidy Towns Entry Form 2023

Tidiness and Litter Control (Strokestown images)



(N15) Schools Tidy-Up days



(N15) Schools Tidy-Up days



(N16) Street sweeper: in action



(N16) Street sweeper: the results



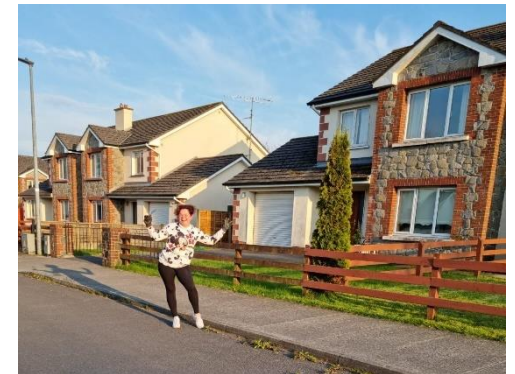
(M6) Community Clean-Up days



(M6) Community Clean-Up days



(M7) Tidy Estates



(M7) Tidy Estates



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Tidiness and Litter Control (Strokestown images)



(N17) TÚS/CE/RSS team: can we have more please?



(N17) TÚS/CE/RSS team: can we have more please?



(N17) TÚS/CE/RSS team: can we have more please?



(N17) TÚS/CE/RSS team: can we have more please?



(N18) Big Poop Scoop project



(N18) Big Poop Scoop project



(N19) Council support: new bins



(N19) Council support: street-sweeper



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Residential Streets & Housing Areas

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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, 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.

Please refer to the 2023 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, 2022 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.

Strokestown Tidy Towns Group is blessed to have, as a long-standing member of our Core Group, a number of dedicated individuals who quietly go about maintaining their estates ♥



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(M8) MARCH 2023: Estate Tidiness (Vesnoy)

Great work being done planting new fruit trees donated by Caseys Londis (Roscommon). A fantastic group of people working together.

(N20) AUGUST 2022: Estate Tidiness (Forge Hill)

A lovely piece of work completed to make an untidy estate corner into a residential asset.

(N21) SEPTEMBER 2022: Estate Tidiness (Tower View)

Some great ground clearance work, not only brightening the estate area but also making it safer for residents to use.

(N22) APRIL 2023: Street Tidiness (Caslin Way)

More evidence of the positive impact being made by the Strokestown Tidy Towns Group purchase of a walk-behind street sweeper.

(N23) FEBRUARY 2023: Street Tidiness (The Boreen)

Estate roads look immaculate, thanks to weeding intervention completed by local residents.



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Residential Streets & Housing Areas (Strokestown images)



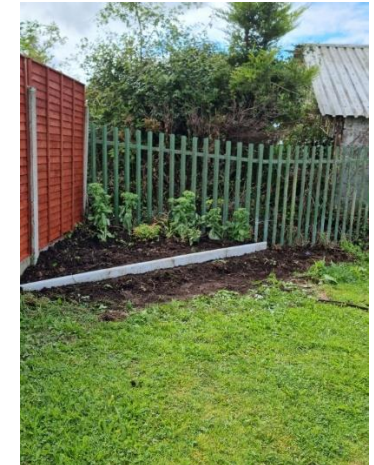
(M8) Quality Vesnoy work



(M8) the Vesnoy team



(N20) Forge Hill (before) ☹️



(N20) Forge Hill (after) 😊



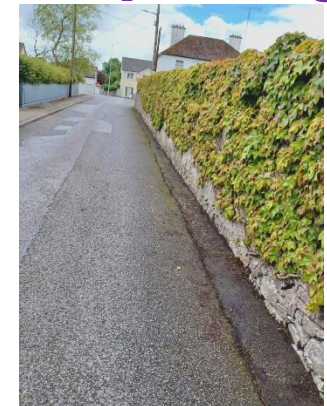
(N21) Tower View (before) ☹️



(N21) Tower View (after) 😊



(N22) Caslin Way post-sweeper



(N23) The Boreen looking fabulous



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Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes

SuperValu Tidy Towns Entry Form 2023

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 2023 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, 2022, 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.

A REQUEST FROM STROKESTOWN TIDY TOWNS GROUP: during 2022 Strokestown was announced as one of 26 towns included in the Government's 'Town Centre First' policy (<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/473d3-town-centre-first-policy/>). This is designed to "... *proactively address the decline in the health of towns across Ireland and support measures to regenerate and revitalise them* ...". Locally, this is being overseen by Strokestown Town Team (of which Strokestown Tidy Towns Group is an active member).

A set of plans and proposals have been formulated which clearly specify structural amendments to the streetscape, paving, design and layout of Strokestown all approach roads (Bridge Street, Church Road, Elphin Street and Bawn Street).



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Bawn St Public Realm

- Creation of a reimagined public realm scheme developed for Bawn St which will provide a visual and physical link to Strokestown Park House recognising the traditional/period character of the house and sympathetic to this in terms of lighting, street furniture, materiality and style.
- Space for events, festivals, markets and outdoor dining.
- Shared surface arrangements including redesigned formal off-street parking areas, recognising the need for safer vehicular and pedestrian movements
- Clear and appropriately sited public information and way-finding signage
- Landscaping and street furniture
- Upgrading of all associated services and utilities
- Address the function and form of the existing roundabout, associated crossing points, infrastructure and signage
- Creation of a “transition” between the new public realm on Bawn St and the existing Church St area.

As a team Strokestown Tidy Towns Group has been asked NOT to consider or implement community streetscape changes until the 'Town Centre First' project reaches a completed state. **WE REQUEST THAT OUR CATEGORY SCORE IS NOT DETRIMENTALLY AFFECTED BY THIS GOVERNMENT-DRIVEN PROJECT.**



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(N24) APRIL 2023: Tidy Approach Roads - Bridge Street / Roscommon Road

Improved approach road and street tidiness and maintenance is now possible due to increased manpower in our TÚS / CE / RSS team and as a direct result of Strokestown Tidy Towns Group purchased a walk-behind street sweeper.

(N25) JUNE 2022: Bridge Street / Roscommon Road

Fantastic traditional wall repair skills being provided by our TÚS / CE / RSS team.

(N26) APRIL 2023: Tidy Approach Roads – Longford Road into Bridge Street

Improved approach road and street tidiness and maintenance is now possible due to increased manpower in our TÚS / CE / RSS team and as a direct result of Strokestown Tidy Towns Group purchased a walk-behind street sweeper.

(N27) JUNE 2022: Decorative roadside plant pots

Strokestown Tidy Towns Group would like to thank Ivy Rose Floral Designs for their donation of plants, brightening up the Bridge Street roadside.

(N28) APRIL 2023: Tidy Approach Roads – Bridge Street into Longford Road

Improved approach road and street tidiness and maintenance is now possible due to increased manpower in our TÚS / CE / RSS team and as a direct result of Strokestown Tidy Towns Group purchased a walk-behind street sweeper.

(N29) JUNE 2022 onwards: Council support via online reporting

Roscommon County Council have a useful [online portal](#) enabling communities to report issues that require Council action. Strokestown Tidy Towns Group make regular use of this facility to ensure that repairs and maintenance issues are recorded and completed.



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Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes (Strokestown images)



(N24) TUS / CE / RSS team in action



(N25) Bridge Street maintenance



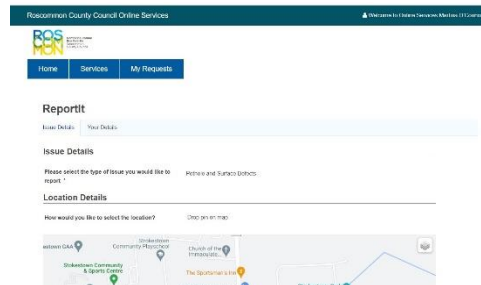
(N26) Longford Road



(N27) Bridge Street



(N28) Bridge Street



(N29) Use of Online Services



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SuperValu

Tidy Towns
Bailte Slachtmhara

Strokestown
Béal na mBuillí

Caring for our environment
Cúram a Dhéanamh den Chomhshaoil

#OurTown #YourTown

www.strokestowntidytowns.weebly.com

Community Improvement Plan

SuperValu Tidy Towns Entry Form 2023

Community Improvement Plan (CIP)

"... STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS ..."

Easy to say -- Difficult to achieve!

Strokestown wouldn't be the place it is without years of hard work by Tidy Towns volunteers over 50+ years.

The current Executive Committee, and Core Tidy Towns Group, is determined to build on these efforts to support our community and develop strong local, national and international links ensuring that what's done today sets the direction for future committees, local groups and individuals.

To embed and future-proof this we've:

- * walked around town and looked objectively at what needs doing;
- * spoken with different groups and individuals;
- * listened to what we've been told;
- * identified available local, national and international funding streams.

This has enabled us to formulate a detailed, multi-year **Community Improvement Plan (CIP)** laying down measurable, achievable and relevant tasks all designed to help Strokestown be a better place, whether you live here, work here or visit here.

Our Community Improvement Plan is updated at monthly Executive Committee meetings and is discussed at regular Core Group meetings.

Please take some time and look through it -- if you have ideas to benefit the Strokestown community we'd love to hear from you -- [GET IN TOUCH!!](#)



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STROKESTOWN TIDY TOWNS Community Improvement Plan 2022 – 2024



Tidy Towns Marking Structure		2023	Previous years						
		Target	2022 score	2021 score	2020 score	2019 score	2018 score	2017 score	2016 score
A	COMMUNITY - YOUR PLANNING & INVOLVEMENT	80	38	36	COVID (No assessment)	36	36	36	35
B	STREETSCAPE & PUBLIC AREAS	80	40	39		38	37	37	36
C	GREEN SPACES & LANDSCAPING	80	36	35		35	34	34	33
D	NATURE & BIODIVERSITY IN YOUR LOCALITY	55	31	29		28	27	27	25
E	SUSTAINABILITY - DOING MORE WITH LESS	55	21	19		18	17	17	17
F	TIDINESS & LITTER CONTROL	90	52	52		51	50	48	44
G	RESIDENTIAL STREETS & HOUSING AREAS	55	35	35		34	33	32	31
H	APPROACH ROADS, STREETS & LANES	55	33	33		33	33	33	32
TOTAL MARK		550	286	278	-	273	267	264	253

Key
Action Completed
Action In Progress
Action NOT Completed
Action NOT Processed

Ref	Action	Marking structure	Proposed target date	Comments	Lead person(s)	Date Actioned
01-a	Repair limestone wall on N5/R368 junction.	B, C, H	30/04/22	Diffley's wall repaired by Dennis McHugh.	Jonathan Dennis	30/03/22
2-a	Improve visible floral welcome into Strokestown from all entrance points.	A, B, C, D, E, H	31/12/22	<p>2022</p> <p>Distinct bulb planting completed at top of Bridge Street. This will develop over coming years (funding-dependent) with further planting indigenous of /colourful plants.</p> <p>03/10: Mark suggests allocating task to newly formed PLANTING sub-group. Approved by Committee – to be discussed at Core Group Meeting 10/10/22.</p> <p>08/11: New planting sub-group (Beverley, Julia, Melissa, Catherine) is up and running and working brilliantly.</p> <p>Proposal has been received from Ardcarne Garden Centre for them to develop a formal planting programme for Strokestown. Beverley to arrange meeting with Mary Frances.</p> <p>14/12: Jonathan & Planting Group met with Ardcarne Garden Centre. Fantastic proposal for standardised, planned multi-year planting schedule discussed. To be progressed during 2023.</p>	Planting sub-group	14/12/22



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02-b	Improve visible floral welcome into Strokestown from all entrance points.	A, B, C, D, E, H	31/12/23	<p>2023 20/02/23: planting of roundabout, grotto and water pump has taken place.</p> <p>27/03/23: great work being completed by Michael / Padraig / Dennis. Roundabout has been planted.</p>	Planting sub-group TUS/CE	
03-a	Promote role, remit and actions of Tidy Towns at Easter Parade.	A, D	17/04/22	<p>2022 Use Town Team gazebo. Share SCDA facilities. Attract new/additional Tidy Towns helpers via sign-on sheet (name, address, contact details). Jonathan to produce video promoting Strokestown to run during Parade. Provide leaflet information to visitors relating to biodiversity, pollinator planting etc. Increase community awareness of Tidy Towns - run Easter Colouring Competition for local children (14/04 – 22/04) - donation of prize to be sought from local business (with assurance of positive publicity).</p> <p>17/04: Successful attendance at Easter Parade – no entries for colouring competition.</p>	Jonathan Mark	17/04/22
03-b	Promote role, remit and actions of Tidy Towns at Easter Parade.	A, D	30/04/23	<p>2023 27/03/23: RTV to be used as a float. Suggestion raised by Treasurer to sponsor Parade Best Float. Core Group approached to participate.</p>	Jonathan Mark	



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04-a	Provide compost bins to residents of Tower View estate. Introduce pollinator-planting area.	A, B, C, D, E, G	31/12/22	<p>2022</p> <p>Work in progress to create series of compost bins (reuse of old pallets). Residents to have oversight / responsibility for ongoing maintenance. Potential resident-driven expansion to include vegetable plot. If project is successful, then Tidy Towns will seek to replicate across other Strokestown estates.</p> <p>09/06: promotional photos to be taken 11/06 (17:00) for Facebook and website.</p> <p>30/06: above remains outstanding – photos still to be arranged. Improved (larger) pollinator-friendly signage purchased – erected in replacement of existing small signs.</p> <p>Arrange collation of portfolio of work completed (can be provided to media outlets as promotion). Local schools & playgroup to be approached to connect onsite learning with physical ‘turning’ of compost bins.</p> <p>13/08: Project to be expanded to provide similar facility to Forge Hill residents. Photos still to be arranged.</p> <p>08/09: Committee are working hard to bring all Tower View groups together into one cohesive party – pending this a series of general ‘Community Appreciation’ posts will be made to Facebook by Jonathan.</p> <p>03/10: Byron to be approached to liaise with all estates/Residents’ Associations to produce a small written piece from each, along with a set of photos – details of who contact to be provided by Jonathan.</p> <p>08/11: Mark & Jonathan to discuss with Byron in early 2023. Project to be reviewed Jan 2023.</p>	Jonathan Mark Byron All estates	08/11/22
04-b	Provide compost bins to residents of Tower View estate. Introduce pollinator-planting area.	A, B, C, D, E, G	31/12/23	<p>2023</p> <p>27/03/23: Review required of resident use of compost bins.</p>	Jonathan Mark Byron All estates	



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05-a	Hold year-on-year Community Together 'clean-up' days.	A, B, C, E, F, G, H	30/06/22	<p>2022 Promote Community Together day from May onwards. Liaise with community groups to encourage in-person support.</p> <p>Seek financial / provision / physical support from local businesses. Arrange suitable location.</p> <p>09/06: plan for tables to be erected adjacent to SCDA. Speak with Seasons/Yu Garden/Antonelli's – Jonathan has spoken with SuperValu who will support – speak again re: Polish food. Community groups to be recontacted.</p> <p>30/06: Community & Club 'Clean-up' day successfully held 19/06. 80+ volunteers involved in weeding & tidying around town, in the Grotto and clearing Famine burial ground. Promotional images and words sent to Roscommon Herald.</p>	Jonathan Mark Martina	19/06/22
05-b	Hold year-on-year Community Together 'clean-up' days.	A, B, C, E, F, G, H	30/06/23	<p>2023 27/03/23: Early arrangements being made.</p>	Jonathan Mark Martina	
06-a	Take responsibility for maintenance / future planting of 'Welcome' flowerbed at Turnafarn (Bridge Street / Longford Road).	C, D, H	30/06/22	<p>2022 <i>Town Team has current responsibility – have struggled to provide regular maintenance / weed control. Moving to Tidy Towns is logical decision and will benefit from biodiversity / planting expertise.</i></p> <p><i>23/04: Change to be raised with Town Team – proposal to be that Town Team sponsor/fund TidyTowns to maintain site (€300 p.a.?). Jonathan has been approached by two residents who are willing to take responsibility for ongoing maintenance.</i></p> <p><i>06/05: Town Team meeting held 04/05/22. Mark notified all that TidyTowns adjudicators could be on site from July. Asked what plans there are for tidying/maintaining/developing Turnafarn. Relevant ladies ummed/aahed & stated they were going to work on site. Mark said if there were difficulties doing this TidyTowns could take ownership. Received positive response from majority of non-committee attendees but not relevant ladies - stated they wished to still be responsible. Mark said TidyTowns have no issue with this & would not press the subject, but there was expectation that site is weeded/maintained from now on as can't have adjudicators arriving & seeing a messy Turnafarn corner on entering Strokestown.</i></p>	Mark	



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06-b	Take responsibility for maintenance / future planting of 'Welcome' flowerbed at Turnafarn (Bridge Street / Longford Road).	C, D, H	31/12/23	<p>2023 27/03/23: although this proposal was rebuffed by previous Town Team committee, it is hoped that the new 'top table' will have a more sensible view. To be raised by Mark / Jonathan at a future Town Team meeting.</p> <p>Entire area will need extensive work to bring up to standard.</p>	Mark Jonathan Planting Group	
07-a	Arrange for indigenous wild flowering of land encompassing Strokestown Primary Care Centre on Caslin Way.	B, C, D, E, G, H	31/12/22	<p>2022 Meetings held by Jonathan & HSE to agree this. HSE to take responsibility for mowing border around PCC grassed areas, remaining land to revert to indigenous flowering. Agreement made for this to happen for a minimum of 1yr when review of project success will take place. If review decides project success, then re-wilding will continue. If project not successful, then land will revert to previous (i.e., grass cutting by HSE).</p> <p>23/04: promotional signage required publicising working with HSE – Martina to discuss with Nollaig Feeney.</p> <p>09/06: HSE to attend site 24/06. Proposal for historic hay cutting event.</p> <p>24/06: Meeting held (Jonathan, Mark & HSE executives). Photos taken. Wildflower signage installed. Event to be organised re: cutting of wild grass – involve thresher, local AmDram in 'correct dress' – liaise with Anne-Marie O'Sullivan.</p> <p>13/08: Wildflower ID evening held 14/07/22 – Grasses event to be held 19/08/22.</p> <p>08/09: Mid-Roscommon Vintage Club to provide traditional tools to cut wildflowers & grasses.</p> <p>03/10: Due to mechanical issues, grass cutting not possible. Jonathan in discussion to have area cut.</p> <p>08/11: Following interaction with on-site HSE Psychology team project reduced to smaller area at rear of PCC.</p>	Jonathan Mark	08/11/22



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07-b	Arrange for indigenous wild flowering of land encompassing Strokestown Primary Care Centre on Caslin Way.	B, C, D, E, G, H	31/12/23	<p>2023 27/03/23: following 2022 intervention by HSE Psychiatric Team original meadow plans have been revised/shrunk. Majority of land has returned to the control of HSE maintenance function.</p>	Jonathan Mark	
08-a	Encourage educational awareness of Tidy Towns.	A, E	31/12/22	<p>2022 Run a Facebook competition for Strokestown students asking them (in no more than 250 words) to submit their views of what a Tidy Town means to them. Prize donation to be requested from local businesses. 23/04: Competition to be run at start of next full educational year. 30/06: Discussions ongoing re: structure & timing of contact with local schools. 13/08: Continue developing 'Teen Tidy Towns' links with TY students. Jonathan to liaise with local Heads to discuss how to factor competition into curriculum. 08/09: Jonathan to continue discussions with Senior & Junior school Heads. 03/10: This is being discussed with local schools to fit with the Spring Term. 08/11: Discussions are ongoing.</p>	Jonathan Mark Local Schools	08/11/22
08-b	Encourage educational awareness of Tidy Towns.	A, E	31/12/23	<p>2023 27/03/23: Review of Action required.</p>	Jonathan Mark Local Schools	



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09-a	Tidy Towns to hold annual (year-on-year) Christmas Fundraiser / Promotional event seasonally themed Tractor Run with selected partners.	A	31/12/22	<p>2022 Jonathan has already held discussions with organiser of similar Tipperary event – to be progressed. Will coincide with Sunday of Christmas Market.</p> <p>08/09: Jonathan is awaiting confirmation (from Kiltrustan Sports Club) of their willingness to share event (and funds raised). If not, Cloontuskert Tidy Towns will be approached. Event moved to 2nd Sunday of December so doesn't clash with Christmas Market.</p> <p>03/10: Event will coincide with Saturday of Xmas Market. Mark has confirmed insurers are content with event structure. Jonathan has route and logistics planned.</p> <p>08/11: Event organisation well-advanced. Marshalls being arranged for evening.</p> <p>03/12: Event was a huge success - 40+ junior participants / 40+ tractors involved.</p>	Jonathan Mark	03/12/22
09-b	Tidy Towns to hold annual (year-on-year) Christmas Fundraiser / Promotional event seasonally themed Tractor Run with selected partners.	A	31/12/23	<p>2023 27/03/23: agreement made with 2023 Christmas Market team to hold Tractor Run concurrently with Market.</p>	Jonathan Mark	
10-a	Improve frontage of Bridge Street industrial estate.	A, B, C, D, E, H	31/12/22	<p>2022 Jonathan has approached Gerry Jordan (site owner) who has agreed to provide sections of plastic piping, to be placed behind existing wall and planted with suitable, colourful plants and shrubs - assurance provided of associated positive publicity.</p> <p>PROJECT REVIEW: Jan 2023</p>	Jonathan Mark	31/12/22
10-b	Improve frontage of Bridge Street industrial estate.	A, B, C, D, E, H	31/12/23	<p>2023 27/03/23: 2 x large planters purchased and sited on Gerry Jordan's site. Further to existing units to be relocated from outside of Magnet Ballroom. Additional unused Kildalogue unit to also be relocated. All to be planted with fruit trees (donated by Jim McCausland: Caseys) and bedding/trailing plants (to be maintained by Planting Group).</p>	Jonathan Mark	



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11-a	Tidy Towns to become 'funding engine' for community groups and Residents' Associations providing guidance / training on how to identify and apply for local /national funding streams.	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/22	<p>2022 26/04: Funding applications proposed by community groups & individual housing estates NOT to be submitted without prior Tidy Towns ratification, for consistent approach.</p> <p>30/06: Open Meeting to be held 02/07/22 (incl. Tidy Towns Core Group) to structure future plans, ensure everyone understands and works to one theme/direction, to promote work already done by local Residents' Associations and bring team together.</p> <p>13/08: Open meeting held – poor community attendance – future meeting to be arranged. Discussions to be had with Residents Associations contacts to offer assistance, gauge uptake and plan support (where requested).</p> <p>08/09: Martina to develop links with Residents Associations over coming months.</p> <p>08/11: Martina to hold meeting(s) with all estates in early 2023 to support greater understanding of funding streams – each estate to be responsible for submitting their own grant applications.</p>	Martina	08/11/22
11-b	Tidy Towns to become 'funding engine' for community groups and Residents' Associations providing guidance / training on how to identify and apply for local /national funding streams.	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/23	<p>2023 27/03/23: Education/Support session held by Martina & Ollie. Limited attendance by Residents' Associations.</p>	Martina	08/11/22
12-a	<p>In support of Government 'Town Centre First' policy arrange for colourful planting of all beds below trees running parallel to Church Street and Bawn Street.</p> <p>Introduce a community 'Adopt-a-Tree' scheme whereby selected households will have responsibility for upkeep of under-tree beds.</p>	B, C, D, H	31/12/22	<p>2022 Replacement of existing slate will improve the immediate community eyeline to all travelling along N5.</p> <p>23/04: Jonathan to liaise with Town Team to ensure consistency of approach.</p> <p>08/09: Town Team are pursuing as part of Town Centre 1st project.</p> <p>03/10: Further consultation required on how to implement an 'Adopt-a-Tree' scheme.</p> <p>08/11: Project 'on-hold' until further progress with Town Centre 1st project.</p>	Jonathan Mark	08/11/22



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12-b	Introduce a community 'Adopt-a-Tree' scheme whereby selected households will have responsibility for upkeep of under-tree beds.	B, C, D, H	31/12/23	<p>2023 27/03/23: this has been precluded by delays in Town Centre 1st plans (being overseen by Town Team). Would benefit from Tidy Towns revisit of ideas.</p>	Jonathan Mark
13-a	Install traditional phone box (location TBC) providing an audio, video, photographic history of Strokestown.	A, B	31/12/22	<p>2022 <i>Project started by previous Tidy Towns committee. Capital project so falls outside of local Tidy Towns remit (site approval/planning permission required). POBAL funding granted. Jonathan & Martina to liaise with POBAL re: planning permission difficulties / impact of Strokestown Park House work (impact of increased visitors).</i></p> <p><i>New project to be sent to POBAL – improve Grotto pathway / lop trees surrounding Grotto (discussions in progress between Jonathan and ESB regarding trees touching power lines – ESB to lop affected trees?) / redesign existing bridge stanchions. Jonathan to approach local quarry merchant (Hanlys of Laragan) to discuss them sponsoring/improving Grotto paths.</i></p> <p><i>23/04: Martina suggests site includes adult/child Sensory Garden. Jonathan agrees to approach POBAL to discuss project revision.</i></p> <p><i>10/05: Jonathan has spoken with Helen Murray (Dept of Rural & Community Development). Email required re: project change of direction. Jonathan to arrange.</i></p> <p><i>30/06: Jonathan has sent email. Phone box no longer required – to be returned to donor.</i></p> <p><i>13/08: Phone box has been returned to donor.</i></p>	Jonathan



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14-a	Open up Cloonslanor Burial Ground to Strokestown residents and visitors.	A, B, C, D, E	31/12/22	<p>2022 Continue previously completed work. Local Tree Surgeon is taking lead on site clearance.</p> <p>23/04: Confirmation of associated funding application awaited</p> <p>Application for funding to be submitted early 2023 with completion work to follow.</p> <p>09/06: Future plans include installation of augmented reality viewing platform showing historic workhouse layout.</p> <p>30/06: site cleared again as part of Community Clean-Up day. Jonathan to liaise with Nollaig Feeney re: next steps for site. Explore forming closer IHT links to connect site with new Famine Museum.</p> <p>13/08: As part of Heritage Week 2022 Jonathan published Facebook posts of historical sights of Strokestown along with how community is strengthening modern links to past heritage.</p> <p>08/09: Jonathan has agreed with Scoil Mhuire for TY students to be tasked with 'mapping' layout of Burial Ground and location of existing graves.</p> <p>03/10: Jonathan has had An Gaisce students on site clearing ground and is developing useful links with Scoil Mhuire to arrange an ongoing 2yr student site maintenance programme.</p> <p>08/11: as per 03/10.</p>	Jonathan	08/11/22
14-b	Open up Cloonslanor Burial Ground to Strokestown residents and visitors.	A, B, C, D, E	31/12/23	<p>2023 27/03/23: Ongoing grounds maintenance being supported by TY students. Discussions held (Mark & Jonathan) regarding relocating Four Seasons statuary from Grotto.</p>	Jonathan	



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15-a	Standardise grass cutting procedures across community spaces.	B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/22	<p><i>Martina has been made aware that RosCoCo provide grass cutting services to Roscommon Tidy Towns. Should this not follow for the Strokestown community?</i></p> <p><i>Martina & Jonathan to contact RosCoCo (Ivor Kilcline?) for clarification – with assurance to be given of positive publicity for council. If agreed by RosCoCo this will reduce financial and time burden for Strokestown Tidy Towns and will ensure improved sustainability by standardisation of services under one county contract.</i></p> <p><i>23/04: Awaiting County recruitment of new Area Engineer. In preparation Martina will raise with Ivor to ensure his awareness. Jonathan to talk with Tommy Carolan to ensure his knowledge of potential changes and to maintain his continuing support.</i></p> <p><i>30/06: new engineer (Andrew Ganly) now in post. Secretary to raise issue with him.</i></p> <p><i>13/08: Jonathan & Mark meeting with Area Engineer 16/08/22 – will discuss then.</i></p> <p><i>16/08: Disappointing meeting with Area Engineer – he is not aware of an agreement between RosCoCo & Ros Tidy Towns – he will investigate and update us.</i></p> <p><i>08/09: Martina has researched this and states it will not happen. Area Engineer stated he would update us so Mark will contact.</i></p> <p><i>03/10: Mark has emailed Area Engineer for promised update following August meeting.</i></p>	Martina	
16-a	Liaise with Cloontuskert Tidy Towns to distribute free indigenous trees to local schools, community estates and groups.	A, B, C, D, E	31/05/22	<p>24/04: Selection of bare-root sapling trees donated by Cloontuskert Tidy Towns.</p> <p>Jonathan has communicated availability and multiple trees donated.</p> <p>Photo opportunities encouraged at all hand-over events to help promote and embed role of Tidy Towns.</p>	Jonathan Mark	18/05/22
17-a	FUNDING APPLICATIONS Community Activities Fund	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/22	<p>2022</p> <p>10/02: Application submitted. Funding requested to purchase additional equipment and pay for running costs.</p> <p>04/05: €1000 awarded by RosCoCo.</p> <p>30/06: Claim form submitted by email 25/06 (hard copy in post 29/06) with invoices covering purchases of strimmer, blower, spray back-packs, decorative stone & 2022 liability insurance costs.</p>	Jonathan Mark Martina	29/07/22



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				13/08: €1000 received into Account 29/07.		
17-b	FUNDING APPLICATIONS Community Activities Fund	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/23	<u>2023</u>	Jonathan Mark Martina	
18-a	FUNDING APPLICATIONS Community Integration Fund	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/22	<u>2022</u> 10/03/22: Application submitted by Jonathan. Regular liaison with Senator Aisling Dolan re: key themes. 30/06/22: Application rejected by DCEDIY on 20/06/22.	Jonathan	
18-b	FUNDING APPLICATIONS Community Integration Fund	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/23	<u>2023</u>	Jonathan Mark Martina	
19-a	FUNDING APPLICATIONS Coca-Cola Community Fund	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/22	<u>2022</u> Access to fund not researched.	Jonathan Mark	
19-b	FUNDING APPLICATIONS Coca-Cola Community Fund	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/23	<u>2023</u>	Jonathan Mark Martina	
20-a	FUNDING APPLICATIONS SuperValu donations	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/22	<u>2022</u> 30/06/22: Strokestown SuperValu have agreed to donate €500 (double the national expectation) – to be accessed in the form of provision of foodstuffs etc. 13/08/22: Jonathan suggests requesting SuperValu vouchers as prizes for Community Champion programme (scheme to be introduced). 03/10/22: SuperValu management will be approached as and when donation of physical goods is required 22/12/22: €50 hamper provided by SuperValu for presentation to Steiger family for regular maintenance of Longford road.	Jonathan Mark Martina	
20-b	FUNDING APPLICATIONS SuperValu donations	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/23	<u>2023</u>	Jonathan Mark Martina	



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SuperValu Tidy Towns Entry Form 2023

21-a	FUNDING APPLICATIONS Amenities Grant	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/22	<p>2022</p> <p>31/03/22: Application submitted. Funding requested to tidy community areas, increase community engagement with Tidy Towns, develop historic Strokestown areas, maintain previous years planting, increase levels of planting.</p> <p>04/05/22: €1500 awarded by RosCoCo.</p> <p>30/06/22: Invoices & receipts being collated towards total grant allocation.</p> <p>13/08/22: Claim submitted 05/08/22. €1134.59 (75% of receipts submitted) received into account 19/08/22.</p> <p>17/01/23: Additional €287.61 received from RosCoCo.</p>	Jonathan Mark Martina	
21-b	FUNDING APPLICATIONS Amenities Grant	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/23	<p>2023</p> <p>10/02/23: Application documentation received from RosCoCo.</p> <p>27/03/23: Application submitted to cover costs of 2 x planters + bulbs purchased for Estates (€1358.99) Grant has maximum 75% recompense rate (€1019.24). €1900.00 Grant approved.</p>	Jonathan Mark Martina	
22-a	FUNDING APPLICATIONS Town & Village Renewal	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/22	<p>2022</p> <p>30/06/22: Expression of Interest submitted 24/06/22. Funding requested to undertake improvements to Grotto (see Action 20).</p> <p>13/08/22: Decision awaited from RosCoCo. Update requested 01/09/22.</p> <p>08/09/22: Application not approved.</p>	Jonathan Mark Martina	
22-b	FUNDING APPLICATIONS Town & Village Renewal	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/23	<p>2023</p>	Jonathan Mark Martina	



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23-a	FUNDING APPLICATIONS Municipal District Funding	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/22	<p>2022 30/06/22: Application submitted 07/06/22. Funding requested to complete feasibility study relating to purchase of former Fire Station building on Church Street – to be used at community focal point by Tidy Towns, Men’s Shed, Women’s Shed, GHGC etc.</p> <p>13/08/22: Application approved - €1800 granted towards feasibility study. Additional €2000 available via successful funding bids by Mens Shed & Womens’ Shed.</p> <p>08/09/22: Waiting for receipt of €2,000 grant from HSE towards feasibility. Project has been discussed with Town Team with proposal that it forms part of Town Centre 1st project.</p> <p>03/10/22: Fire Station deemed not to be viable. Awaiting formal confirmation of this disappointing decision.</p>	Jonathan Mark Martina	
23-b	FUNDING APPLICATIONS Municipal District Funding	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/23	<p>2023</p>	Jonathan Mark Martina	
24-a	FUNDING APPLICATIONS Tesco Community Fund	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/22	<p>2022 Access to fund not researched. Martina to investigate for 2023.</p>	Martina Mark	
24-b	FUNDING APPLICATIONS Tesco Community Fund	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/23	<p>2023</p>	Martina Mark	
25-a	FUNDING APPLICATIONS Axa Parks Fund	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/22	<p>2022 Access to fund not researched. Mark to investigate for 2023.</p>	Mark	
25-b	FUNDING APPLICATIONS Axa Parks Fund	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/23	<p>2023 20/02/23: enquiry sent (via Twitter) to identify whether funding stream will be available for 2023.</p>	Mark	
25-d	FUNDING APPLICATIONS Community Support Fund	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/23	<p>2023 17/01/23: CSF funding request submitted - €632.44 (2023 liability insurance + T. Carolan 2022 maintenance fees)</p>	Mark	



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26-a	<p>PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS Purchase & develop media / tools / signs to clarify & increase local understanding of Tidy Towns role & impact.</p>	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/22	<p>2022 30/06/22: additional pollinator / wildflower signage purchased – to be erected in key sites to improve residential / visitor understanding of work completed.</p> <p>New website to be launched providing access to info, news, tips, guidance about biodiversity, planting, pollinators etc.</p> <p>2 x pull-up banners ordered to be used at future events. Consideration being given to purchase of Tidy Towns branded bunting for use around community.</p> <p>13/08/22: Website launched and regularly updated. Pull-up banners received. Awaiting Bug Hotels from Men's Shed.</p> <p>08/09/22: Bug Hotels to be produced in early 2023 (to be located across town). Fibre 'pop-up' signs to be purchased with Tidy Towns branding. Purchase of bunting proposed to Town Team as part of Town Centre 1st project.</p> <p>03/10/22: Town Team meeting 05/10/22 – bunting purchase approved. Fibre 'pop-up' signs not to be purchased due to cost.</p> <p>08/11/22: Mark has redrafted website into a sharper, more user-friendly profile.</p>	Jonathan Mark Martina
26-b	<p>PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS Purchase & develop media / tools / signs to clarify & increase local understanding of Tidy Towns role & impact.</p>	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/23	<p>2023</p>	Jonathan Mark Martina



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27-a	Develop structured year-on-year flower growing/planting schedule to ensure consistency of approach.	A, B, C, D, E, G, H	31/12/22	<p>2022 30/06/22: close liaison in Core Group by members of Women's' Shed & GHGC to produce flowers for 2023.</p> <p>13/08/22: Speak with Julia & Bev (Womens' Shed & GHGC) to get plan of action for what is being grown and related planting schedule.</p> <p>08/09/22: Mark has spoken with Julia who is in agreement – will pick Bev up at next 'Open' meeting.</p> <p>03/10/22: Mark has spoken with Beverley & Julia who are in agreement. Would love to have Melissa as part of this group – all three ladies have wonderful knowledge.</p> <p>For the long-term success of this sub-group it is essential that all work together to produce cohesive plan for scheduled plant growing and planting. Mark has spoken with Mary Frances (Ardcarne) and has mentioned plan to her, and she has stated his willingness to help as/where required.</p> <p>08/11/22: at October Core Group meeting Melissa agreed to be part of Planting Sub-Group (along with Catherine). Proposal has been received from Ardcarne Garden Centre for them to develop a formal planting programme for Strokestown. Beverley to arrange meeting with Mary Frances.</p>	Planting sub-group Ardcarne Garden Centre
27-b	Develop structured year-on-year flower growing/planting schedule to ensure consistency of approach.	A, B, C, D, E, G, H	31/12/23	<p>2023 17/02/23: Beverley met with Mary Frances to discuss future plans and agree on account maintenance/access.</p> <p>27/03/23: Beverley has met with Mary Frances to further discuss Ardcarne support. Awaiting more information.</p>	Planting sub-group Ardcarne Garden Centre



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SuperValu Tidy Towns Entry Form 2023

28-a	<p>GROTTO Develop Grotto to become community recreational / amenity area:</p> <p>(i) Increase awareness of Grotto site;</p> <p>(ii) Improve access to site and seating within;</p> <p>(iii) Improve on-site layout;</p> <p>(iv) Relocate Percy French monument from Grotto to Burial Ground;</p> <p>(v) Purchase and install solar powered water pump into Grotto;</p> <p>(vi) Decorate Grotto bridge supports – sponsorship / donation of paints – use local artist to paint scenery / wordage / colours? Hold competition for students to design.</p>	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/22	<p>2022 30/06/22: Town & Village Renewal Scheme funding application submitted requesting funding to:</p> <p>* Replace existing pathways / * Extend paved areas surrounding existing seating/table areas / * Complete maintenance of shrine fencing / * Undertake lopping/removal of non-indigenous trees / * Cleaning of statuary and monoliths.</p> <p>Consideration being given to purchase / installation of flagpole (and Tidy Towns branded flag).</p> <p>13/08/22: Flagpole (& flags) purchased & installed. Community Groups encouraged to buy their own flags which can be flown to promote events etc. Beverley & Byron have produced plaques to be fitted to existing old metal seating.</p> <p>08/09/22: Site refresh ongoing. Town Team will fund purchase of Community Group flags. Jonathan & Mark to arrange.</p> <p>08/11/22: Community flags have been arranged – waiting for Town Team to raise payment. Grotto Entrance signs purchased and installed, along with NO GLASS sign for Shrine. Shrine fence to be renovated in 2023. Old metal seats to be removed.</p>	Mark Planting sub-group	
28-b	<p>GROTTO Develop Grotto to become community recreational / amenity area:</p> <p>(i) Increase awareness of Grotto site;</p> <p>(ii) Improve access to site and seating within;</p> <p>(iii) Improve on-site layout;</p> <p>(iv) Relocate Percy French monument from Grotto to Burial Ground;</p> <p>(v) Purchase and install solar powered water pump into Grotto;</p> <p>(vi) Decorate Grotto bridge supports – sponsorship / donation of paints – use local artist</p>	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/23	<p>2023 27/03/23: Proposal discussed (Mark & Jonathan) to relocate 4 Seasons statuary to Cloonslanor Burial Ground and Tighe Famine monument to a new site (to be identified) - Jonathan discussing this with the Tighe family.</p> <p>Sets of fruit trees (donated by Jim McCausland: Caseys) to be planted around central grassed area.</p> <p>Existing metal benches to either be renovated (by Men's Shed??) or removed.</p> <p>Mark to identify suitable solar spotlight to highlight Shrine.</p> <p>Renovation of Shrine metal fence work to be undertaken.</p> <p>Mark suggests that grassed bank, leading down towards river, be offered to Green Hub Gardening Club for use as Community Garden.</p>	Mark Planting sub-group	



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	to paint scenery / wordage / colours? Hold competition for students to design.			Entrance to Grotto to be redesigned to provide separate 'in' & 'out'.	
29-a	Develop current business e-zine to be published, on a bi-monthly basis, to general public via Facebook.	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/22	<p>2022</p> <p>30/06/22: Mark proposes expanding current distribution to incorporate non-business audience, providing an alternative bi-monthly framework to consolidate and aggregate Tidy Towns information & guidance.</p> <p>13/08/22: Committee agrees to widen distribution to incorporate business and general public.</p> <p>08/09/22: Committee considers e-zine to be no longer relevant as community work undertaken is widely promoted via Facebook and other avenues. NO LONGER PROCEEDED WITH.</p>	Jonathan
30-a	Increase numbers of TUS and CE workers allocated to Strokestown Tidy Towns Group.	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/22	<p>2022</p> <p>30/06/22: Jonathan has had a number of meetings and conversations with relevant authorities working to increase numbers allocated. CE scheme being redrafted nationally. Chair to contact local Senator to identify ways of improving allocations.</p> <p>Discussions ongoing re: access Early Release Scheme offenders from Prison Service.</p> <p>13/08/22: Wider Sliabh Ban Amenity Group to seek approval for creation of 'regional' body of TUS/CE workers. Lack of support highlighted as part of Town Centre 1st consultation.</p> <p>08/09/22: This issue has been flagged as a 'blocker' to Town Centre 1st consultants.</p> <p>03/10/22: Jonathan has produced a detailed report detailing essential Strokestown need and comparing our provision to that of other communities. Will be liaising with Senator Aisling Dolan to progress this.</p> <p>08/11/22: Additional workers identified – awaiting approval.</p>	Jonathan
30-b	Increase numbers of TUS and CE workers allocated to Strokestown Tidy Towns Group.	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/23	<p>2023</p> <p>17/02/23: two additional workers have commenced work.</p> <p>27/03/23: Michael & Pdraig are working hard and have made a positive impact on town tidiness. Positive comments received from many.</p>	Jonathan



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31-a	Explore access to Roscommon Courts 'Poor Box' funds.	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/22	<p>2022 30/05/22: Mark has contacted Clerk to Roscommon Courts Services who has approached sitting Judge - €250 donation received. Letter of thanks sent to Judge by Treasurer on behalf of committee.</p> <p>30/06/22: Further €700 donation received.</p>	Mark	
31-b	Explore access to Roscommon Courts 'Poor Box' funds.	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/23	<p>2023 20/02/23: two further donations received (€200 & €500).</p>	Mark	
32-a	Link with Strokestown SuperValu to install TV instore, promoting TidyTowns work (+ other community groups) whilst enabling store to advertise special offers.	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/22	<p>2022 13/08/22: SuperValu Managers approached by Ann Carolan – proposal agreed to. TV to be donated by Jonathan.</p> <p>08/09/22: Further arrangements being made with SuperValu Managers.</p> <p>03/10/22: In light of ongoing rising energy costs it has been agreed with SuperValu management that this action will be postponed.</p>	Jonathan Mark	
32-b	Link with Strokestown SuperValu to install TV instore, promoting TidyTowns work (+ other community groups) whilst enabling store to advertise special offers.	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/23	<p>2023 15/02/23: discussions commenced with Library (Helen Kerins) to link into Library TV.</p> <p>27/03/23: further information provided by Mark to Helen regarding our ideas. She is very positive. Library IT work is ongoing and Helen will liaise with her IT team and will revert to us.</p>	Jonathan Mark	



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33-a	Reintroduce waste bins into town centre.	B, F, H	31/12/22	<p>2022</p> <p>Scoil Mhuire 5th & 6th Year students have designed insert to be placed into 8 available bins preventing use for disposal of household waste. Bins are currently being painted. Installation to be coordinated with Area Engineer.</p> <p>16/08/22: Disappointing meeting with Area Engineer who informed us that RosCoCo will not sanction installation of waste bins. This is to be pursued through local representatives, written depositions and all avenues available.</p> <p>08/09/22: Issues raised with Town Centre 1st consultants and discussed with Town Team.</p> <p>03/10/22: Mark has emailed Area Engineer for promised update following August meeting.</p> <p>08/11/22: Issue is ongoing – has been formally raised with local, regional and national political representatives and has been subject of interest from local media.</p> <p>01/12/22: phone call from Andrew Ganly proposing RosCoCo purchase and installation of 3 bins into Strokestown (in addition to existing 2 on Elphin Street). RosCoCo propose (i) 1 at Antonelli's, (ii) 1 at Municipal Office, (iii) 1 bin at top of Church Street (adjacent to Brogan's). Mark agrees to (i) & (ii) but requests (iii) is located outside of Leavy's Auctioneers to facilitate passing pedestrians and those using seating areas. Mark requests that existing Elphin Street bins are refurbished to meet standards of new bins and to mitigate household and avian abuse.</p> <p>21/12/22: RosCoCo agree to placement of 1 new bin at Leavy's Auctioneers. Work on installation should happen early-2023. RosCoCo unwilling to refurbish Elphin Street bins - would require specialist work to prevent H&S claims. Andrew asks for bins in Jonathan's care are returned to RosCoCo. Andrew to liaise directly with Jonathan to arrange this.</p>	Jonathan Mark
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33-b	Reintroduce waste bins into town centre.	B, F, H	31/12/23	<p>2023 27/03/23: three news bins installed by RosCoCo (Antonelli's / Leavy's / Municipal Office). Area Engineer to be approached again later in year to bring bins on Elphin Street up to same standard.</p>	Jonathan Mark	
34-a	Explore erection of Church Street/Bawn Street promotional 'teardrop' lamppost flags.	A, B, H	31/12/22	<p>2022 Initial conversations with Planning, RosCoCo – they have stated, due to positioning being adjacent to N5, that permission would not be granted (risk of diverting driver attention). This decision has no basis as similar flags are used every year, on N4, by Boyle Arts Festival (also under jurisdiction of RosCoCo).</p> <p>This will be pursued in 2023.</p>	Jonathan Mark	
34-b	Explore erection of Church Street/Bawn Street promotional 'teardrop' lamppost flags.	A, B, H	31/12/23	<p>2023 27/03/23: Proposal up for further discussion. RosCoCo have previously said NO due to apparent concerns over vehicular distraction - this is not consistent with their decision to sanction similar flags used to promote annual Boyle Arts Festival (placed alongside N4 in full vehicular view).</p>	Jonathan Mark	
35-a	Uncover Church Street well (Rachel's Well?).	B	31/12/22	<p>2022 03/10/22: Discussed at September Town Team meeting – may be adopted by them.</p> <p>08/11/22: Not adopted by Town Team – will form part of 2023 Tidy Towns plans.</p>	Mark	
35-b	Uncover Church Street well (Rachel's Well?).	B	31/12/23	<p>2023 02/02/23: proposal mentioned again at Town Team meeting.</p> <p>27/03/23: this has again been discussed at Town Team meetings and it appears that proposal will be adopted by them.</p>	Mark	
36-a	Liaise with Caseys to obtain free fruit trees for distribution around community.	A, B, C, D, E, G, H	31/12/22	<p>2022 03/10/22: Trees are being made available to community groups across Roscommon. Jonathan has spoken with Jim McCausland (Casey's contact).</p> <p>08/11/22: Awaiting further info from provider. Jonathan has been informed that we have good chance of receiving a number of trees.</p>	Jonathan	
36-b	Liaise with Caseys to obtain free fruit trees for distribution around community.	A, B, C, D, E, G, H	31/12/23	<p>2023 04/02/22: tree planting demonstration held at The Maples. Further trees now planted at Lisnaree.</p>	Jonathan	



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				27/03/23: further trees planted at Vesnoy. 20 additional fruit trees donated by Jim McCausland.	
37-a	Introduce a Community Champion Award – locals submit entries stating who is doing outstanding community Tidy Towns-style work (describing what they've done). Hold quarterly FB draw and award.	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/22	2022 08/09/22: Jonathan suggests prize to be in form of shopping voucher for SuperValu. 03/10/22: SuperValu management will be approached as integral part of organising Community Champion scheme. 08/11/22: This will be pursued in early 2023.	Jonathan Mark Martina
37-b	Introduce a Community Champion Award – locals submit entries stating who is doing outstanding community Tidy Towns-style work (describing what they've done). Hold quarterly FB draw and award.	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/23	2023 04/04/23: Mark has designed an Awards process which will be rolled out via FB and website.	Jonathan Mark Martina
38-a	Reintroduce weekly Weekend Litter-picks.	A, B, C, D, F, G, H	31/12/22	2022 20/10/22: Following a well-attended Core Group meeting, Maureen stated that she thought weekend litter-picking should be restarted. After being asked by Mark she agreed to restart these – Eileen, Catherine, Bev & Julia stated they would also take part. All residents welcome on a 'drop-in' basis. 08/11/22: Promotion of weekly sessions to be undertaken in early 2023.	Maureen Eileen Catherine
38-b	Reintroduce weekly Weekend Litter-picks.	A, B, C, D, F, G, H	31/12/23	2023 Greater focus required to ensure greater regularity of weekend events. 27/03/23: this needs to become a formalised, more regularly visible event. Perhaps liaise with Maureen Hanly for her to hold tidying equipment (bags, grabbers, gloves) instore for any residents to use on Saturday mornings?	Maureen Eileen Catherine
39-a	Establish a programme of 'estate-based' litter tidying events. On a structured schedule focus physical resources on one estate at a time.	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/23	2023 27/03/23: Get Residents' Associations to hold visible tidy-up sessions which can be publicised across community.	Jonathan Mark Martina Estates



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40-a	Identify a suitable central HUB for Tidy Towns use (to hold equipment / provide workers with dry meeting point).	A	31/12/23	<p>2023 27/03/23: brief discussions held with Brothers of Charity re: using land at rear of Café - NOT POSSIBLE</p> <p>Discussions at early stage with Martin's Guesthouse to locate a wooden shed at rear of their property (good access, good community links, working closely with Men's Shed).</p>	Mark Jonathan	
41-a	Scoop the Poop: work with community to raise awareness of dog fouling.	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H	31/12/23	<p>Agreement made with Laura's Canine Academy & Isle of Dogs proposing a 3-way project to increase awareness:</p> <p>i) Laura's Canine Academy: hits dog training/boarding audience; ii) Isle of Dogs: hits owners of groomed dogs; iii) Tidy Towns: run a central awareness programme.</p>	Mark Jonathan	



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SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form 2023

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 2023 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@dracd.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@dracd.gov.ie

Best of Luck!



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