

# Tidy Towns Competition 2021

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bray - Bré** Ref: **256**  
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **337**  
Category: **H** Date(s): **22/08/2021**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2021</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	53
Streetscape & Public Places	60	47
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	48
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	35
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	24
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	39
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	36
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>337</b>

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

Fáilte Chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu 2021. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn. Go raibh maith agaibh as ucht bhur dtacaíocht le linn na paidéime. Lean leis an dea-obair. Welcome to the 2021 SuperValu TidyTowns competition. Thank you for your entry and for your commitment to your place in these difficult times. Keep up the great work. You've gathered a great following for your facebook page and this has no doubt proved a community lifeline during the difficult times we've all come through since the last TidyTowns competition. You have a long list of local groups and businesses that you are working with and it's terrific to hear that you worked with no less than seven Gaisce students. Best of all, three have opted to continue volunteering with Bray TidyTowns. This is great to hear and so important for the future. Bray is a large town with many schools but it sounds like you have plenty of projects ideal for working with young people so we would very much encourage interaction between Bray TidyTowns and schools – you clearly have so much to contribute to each other. Many teachers don't realise the wide spectrum of activities carried out by TidyTowns groups and how many complement the current school curriculum.

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

Great to hear you attended the Placemaking training course. This sounds like such a worthwhile course for TidyTowns groups who do so much placemaking work already all over Ireland. Great to see so many benches getting a 'facelift'. It's a nice idea to use the one colour all around the town – it gives a nice sense of cohesion. Your 2019 adjudication mentioned your plans for painting utility boxes so it's good to see you've made a start on this. There are some wonderful examples from around the country where something that was an ugly structure on the street can become a beautiful feature and centrepiece. You mention that there is a design of a bee with a fuchsia flower – just a small cautious note that unfortunately fuchsias are not recommended by the All Ireland Pollinator Plan (which we know you support and follow!) as they are considered invasive. The painting of these utility boxes can be used by yourselves to help spread awareness of certain issues so it would be an ideal opportunity to use a pollinator-friendly plant in the image. Well done on your work with different shopping areas in the town like the Vevay and your plans for Goldsmith Terrace sound very interesting.

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

Well done on your work at the Ravenswell Road, it was visited by the 2019 adjudicator. We're delighted to hear of your sustainably sourcing plants with local gardeners. Lovely to hear of the huge amount of bulbs planted but with no physical adjudication visit this year, we are wondering what bulb species did you plant? The Fairy Door project must certainly have added a great touch of magic at a much needed time to the town. Just a note of caution when setting up the doors to please not nail or screw them into living trees as this can damage trees and introduce

disease. Anything that doesn't break through the bark of a living tree is fine. That said your care and maintenance for the many trees planted in Bray in recent years is wonderful to hear. Perhaps the tree experts you worked with on tree maintenance may be able to advise you on the optimum way to hang your beautiful, cheery fairy doors. You have gathered many new helpers to look after the various planted beds around Bray – this is brilliant and is a reflection of how much the locals appreciate these pockets of colour. Well done to Bray on achieving Blue Flag status for 5 years in a row.

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

Your new information board about the shingle beach habitat looks great. It is so important to highlight habitats such as these which often go under the radar of the general public and great to hear that you can call on the expertise of the eminent botanist Dr Tom Curtis. This is also seen in your Red valerian control project – it is vital that you have expert advice guiding you on such projects. Your Facebook page was noted to feature plenty of shares to helpful biodiversity advice and guidance – a really useful role that the local TidyTowns groups can do for their localities. Well done on following up on the herbicide points of your 2019 adjudication – furthering awareness is key here too. It sounds like things are definitely changing on this front and hopefully the new foam machine will really help to bring about a whole new regime. A similar machine is being successfully used in your neighbouring county by Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Co. Co. Your Pollinator Initiatives and Swift box projects are great to hear about with the potential to provide interest and enhance Bray's local biodiversity for years to come. Your planned surveys of Bray Head and the Dargle River will be fantastic citizen science projects. With Bray Head being a Special Area of Conservation, there is plenty of information available about its biodiversity at [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)

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

The Sustainable gardening course is a terrific initiative and by training several people then the knowledge will in turn be passed onto more people. The knowledge you've gained is clearly being put to use with plant splitting and swapping – you will find this knowledge such a help into the future for Bray TidyTowns. We're delighted to hear of the Bray Community Seed Ark – what a brilliant scheme! It is so important that any wildflower seed you use is locally sourced from Bray's very own native wildflowers as we really don't know what exactly is in the wildflower seed packets that appear to be on sale all over the place these days. This was unfortunately demonstrated by recent Teagasc research which found the highly invasive Black grass present in several different wildflower seed packets. Bray TidyTowns are clearly acting on your new propagation skills with newspaper pots of seedlings being planted out locally – sustainability all round! Well done, this is very impressive! Great to see that you were able to old your Junior Art form Trash competition again – a clever way to ensure the sustainability message is passed on to Bray's younger citizens. Working with the 'Leave no Trace' campaign, successfully lobbying for drinking water fountains, championing a 'shop Local' campaign, sharing equipment with various local groups and continuing public awareness campaigns around sustainability issues are all really worthwhile endeavours that must be making a huge difference to the quality of life in Bray for all. You have several future projects in mind so it's clear Bray TidyTowns are ones to watch in this category!

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

Great to hear that you've turned your attention to the Village Arcade, your adjudicator remembers when it was a busy, lively spot. Using empty shop fronts to inform the public about fascinating local projects such as Medieval Bray is a great initiative ticking several boxes. The tidying of the Naylor's Cover area just shows how much can be achieved by dedicated volunteers – we hope they are enjoying the fruits of their wintertime efforts now in the summer months. It would be great to see the area being well used and enjoyed again. You have lots of ongoing maintenance projects and unwanted graffiti is problematic for many urban areas. Well done to all the Bray TidyTowns volunteers who have selflessly worked at clearing other people's rubbish – you are the embodiment of community spirit!

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

Bray has a large number of housing estates and Bray TidyTowns are clearly involved with many of them as evidence by your photographs in your entry form. Lots has been done over the pandemic, it's very heartening to see. Well done to Bray's Community Gardeners – their work must have put smiles on so many people's faces over the pandemic. The bed of Muscari in Fassaroe look lovely and they should continue to bloom each year – just make sure to dead head them and feed them annually – as your sustainable gardeners probably know! All your planned future projects in this category sound interesting and we look forward to hearing about them in the future.

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

A large town like Bray has many approach roads but you have many photos of different projects – you have been minding them with lots of colourful planters and flowerbeds which make such a cheery entrance to a town. Well done on your hard work at Springfield, the results are beautiful with lots of great pollinator-friendly planting. Well done on the Verdun Cottage project – such a clever use of this space to highlight a fascinating piece of history that is of such local pertinence. TidyTowns groups can have such a great role to play in ensuring local heritage is minded for future generations and not lost as nearly happened with Sunnybanks!

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Well done Bray, you have achieved so much over what has been such a difficult time. You are working on so many different projects and have many more in the pipeline – we look forward to hearing about them in future

competitions. Keep up your great work and loving where you live!