



ANNACOTTY TIDY TOWN

FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN 2021-2025



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnigh
Limerick City
& County Council



Funded by the Department
of Rural and Community
Development

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all the Tidy Towns Group members and volunteers who have worked very hard to help make Annacotty a lovely place to live. Thanks also to Limerick City and County Council, Ballyhoura Development CLG, and all the other organisations, businesses, and community groups for all their support.

Chairperson
Annacotty Tidy Towns

Contents

- 1. Background to the Ballyhoura Development Tidy Towns Planning Project
- 2. Annacotty Tidy Towns Group
- 3. Achievements
- 4. Information used to inform the Five-Year Plan
- 5. Annacotty Five-Year Action Plan
- 6. Appendices

1. Introduction

In 2019, Ballyhoura Development CLG appointed Dr Frances Giaquinto to work with Ballyhoura Development in supporting 31 Tidy Towns Groups across the Ballyhoura area of east Limerick and North Cork with the development of their five-year Tidy Towns Action Plans.

The Tidy Towns Planning Project was funded under the LEADER Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

As demonstrated over many years, in their roles as community leaders, Tidy Towns Groups are well placed to inspire and to spearhead actions, which positively contribute to local communities and the environment.

The focus of Tidy Towns Groups continues to evolve with an increasing awareness of the importance of protecting biodiversity, mitigating climate change and educating residents and visitors about the local environment. In undertaking actions focused on the environment, Tidy Towns groups are making a major contribution towards meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 15 (SDG15), which aims to protect natural habitats and prevent the loss of biodiversity. Please see Appendix 1 for more information on the SDG's.

The Ballyhoura Tidy Towns Planning Project aimed to work with Tidy Towns Groups to raise awareness, improve knowledge and increase the number and quality of biodiversity and sustainability actions into Tidy Towns work plans and delivery. There is an urgency to encouraging community led biodiversity and sustainability actions. Biodiversity is being lost in Ireland at an unprecedented rate because of climate change, habitat loss, and invasive species. The National Tidy Towns Competition awards communities which encourage biodiversity and sustainability actions within their communities and which facilitate a move away from the traditional, intensively maintained approaches of the past.

Tidy Towns groups are uniquely positioned to locally lead environmental and sustainability actions and to protect local biodiversity and halt further habitat loss. The Ballyhoura Tidy Towns Planning Project will help guide future Tidy Towns actions through improved understanding and appreciation of the local environment. These categories areas have consistently been identified by the Tidy Towns National Competition judges as areas where further improvements can be made. Importantly the plans provide Tidy Towns Groups with a document upon which they can later reflect, realise their achievements, and build again for the future.

2. Annacotty Tidy Towns Group

Annacotty is a small community situated on the Mulcair River, seven kilometres from Limerick City. Over the past 30 years, the rapidly growing Limerick suburb of Castletroy has started to surround Annacotty. However, Annacotty has a unique history that helps it to maintain its own distinct identity. The Irish translation of Annacotty is Áth a Choite, meaning “ford of the angling cotts”. The term cott refers to the wooden boats that fished on the Shannon. Annacotty used to be an agricultural centre, with grain mills that were powered by the Mulcair River, and Annacotty creamery was making butter up until the 1960s.

Today, Annacotty is a popular area to live in because of its access to the University of Limerick, major transport routes, and the beauty of the river and surrounding countryside. Annacotty faces challenges in that it does not have a local school - children attend four different schools. Although Annacotty does not have a community centre, Aisling Annacotty Sports Club is now in a position to provide a meeting space that the community can use. This is a very welcome development for the whole community.

Annacotty Tidy Towns Group has a very dedicated and well-organised committee with members having a wealth of experience in different areas such as the environment and horticulture. Annacotty Tidy Towns group can call on a wide range of volunteers when needed. Annacotty strength lies in its people – locals are heavily involved in voluntary initiatives, particularly sport. People feel a strong connection with the river and with nature.

3. Achievements of Annacotty Tidy Towns Group

Some of the recent achievements of the Annacotty Tidy Town Group are shown in Table 1.

TIDY TOWN CATEGORY	ACHIEVEMENTS
Community involvement & planning	» A collaboration with the Gaelscoil has enabled community gardening and environmental education.
Streetscape and public places	» The bridge over the river Mulcair, and the mural, have been maintained to a high standard.
Green spaces and landscaping	» The Tidy Towns Group and Johnson & Johnson Ireland cooperate well together.
Nature and biodiversity in your locality	» The Tidy Towns Group liaise with Limerick County Council to facilitate managed grass-cutting for wildlife.
Sustainability, doing more with less	» The lack of recycling facilities has been highlighted to the appropriate authorities.
Tidiness and Litter Control	» A large number of volunteers participated in the Team Limerick Clean-up.
Residential Streets and Housing Areas	» Residents have been inspired to maintain their properties to a very high standard.
Approach Roads, Streets and Lanes	» The Annacotty Tidy Towns Group created a wildflower area on the approach roads.

4. Information used to inform the five-year plan

The following information sources were used to inform the development of the five-year Tidy Towns Plan.

4.1 Mapping Resources

Aerial maps, taken from Google Earth, Bing aerial, and the maps provided by the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) were studied to identify ecological features of Annacotty and surrounding areas, which support biodiversity (Fig. 1).

Figure 1. Bing aerial view of Annacotty

The image shows the River Mulcair with its wooded riparian margin, green spaces and gardens, and interconnecting hedgerows and tree lines. All these features are beneficial for wildlife.



Figure 2. Aerial view of Annacotty showing 2 km national grids square.

The image shows R65N and R65I, the national 2 km grid square in which Annacotty lies. The small fields with many interconnecting hedgerows indicate that this area is not farmed intensively, which is good for wildlife.



Taken from <https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/>

Plant and animal records from National Biodiversity Data Centre were obtained for R65I and R65N, the 2 km national grid square in which most of Annacotty Tidy Towns Group lies (Fig. 2). This was done to identify if there are species or groups of species which are special to the area and worthy of protection or management.

4.2 Community Resources and Plans

Annacotty Tidy Towns Group’s 2019 application for the National Tidy Towns Competition was reviewed. Relevant heritage information on the community of Annacotty has also been included. There has been a historic graveyard survey conducted in the community for Killonan graveyard. The information is available online to view here: <https://historicgraves.com/graveyard/killonan/li-kiln>.

4.3 National Tidy Towns Adjudicator Reports

The National Tidy Towns Competition Adjudicator Reports for the last number of years were reviewed to identify and highlight Annacotty Tidy Towns Group strengths and weaknesses within each category.

Adjudicator comments made in the years 2015 to 2019 are listed in Table 2. The list of comments highlights what the Tidy Towns Group has already achieved and helps to identify areas that the adjudicators repeatedly comment on.

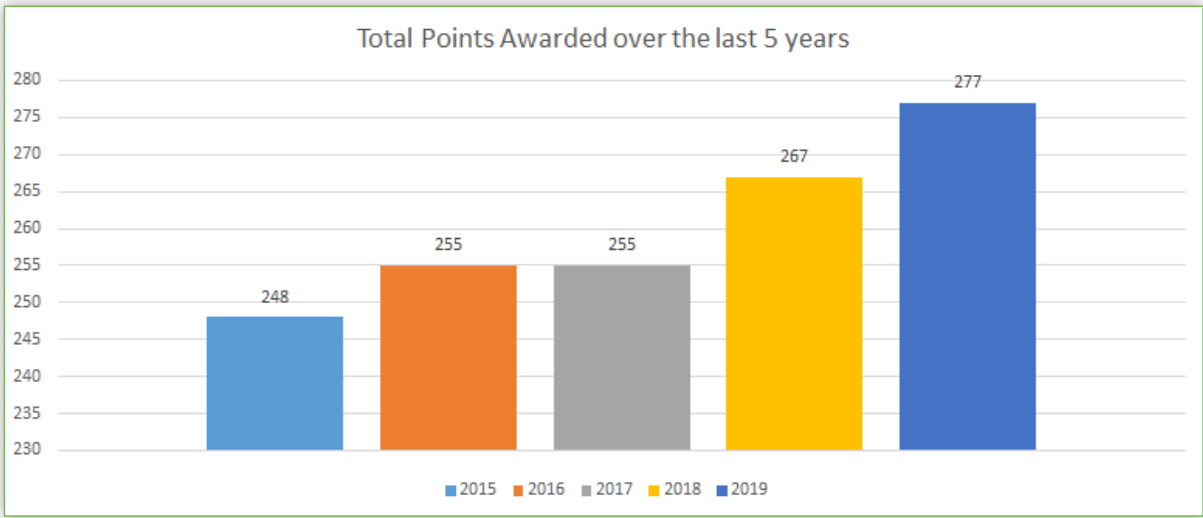
The analysis also helps to identify and create new actions over the next 5 years and to monitor and communicate to the adjudicators progress within certain identified actions that Annacotty Tidy Towns Group is either working on, developing a response to, or has no jurisdiction over.

Table 2: Tidy Towns Adjudicator Comments, 2015 to 2019

TIDY TOWN CATEGORY	ACHIEVEMENTS
Streetscape and public places	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Repaint the rendered wall under the R445 annually.» Audit existing signage and plan for future signage.» Work with business owners to develop appropriate window dressing to give Annacotty a village feel.» Where possible, discourage the use of roller security shutters on the inside of windows as they can diminish the visual amenity of the streetscape.» Work with business owners to reduce the use of window stickers and posters.» Work with the Council and property owners to ensure that the derelict buildings are presented as best as possible.
Green spaces and landscaping	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Plant some climbing plants on the pergola in the park beside the River Mulcair.» Investigate how trailing lobelia can be used in containers.» Coordinate planters by using a similar material or colour.» Increase the size of the flower bed near the welcome sign and redistribute planters.» Highlight the tree audit that was done, consider repeating it.» Paint the street bollards and lamps in a similar colour.
Nature and biodiversity in your locality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Use native Irish Wildflower seeds.» Ensure that invasive species are being removed safely.
Sustainability, doing more with less	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Work on developing new projects in this category.» Consider developing rain water harvesting projects in the community.
Tidiness and Litter Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Stencil messages about dog fouling on the pavement.» Clean the litter, weed growth, and litter from the steps by the river.» Encourage residents to stop using herbicide.» Encourage the wide community to get involved in litter control.» Freshen up seats and signage by the river.» Highlight the problem of litter and weeds in carpark.» Audit the community for redundant poles and ask for them to be removed.
Residential Streets and Housing Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Address fly tipping in the community.» Consider creating a best kept estate award.» Ensure that all streets and housing areas have name plates.
Approach Roads, Streets and Lanes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Paint the kerbstone on the bridge.

4.4 National Tidy Towns Competition Marks

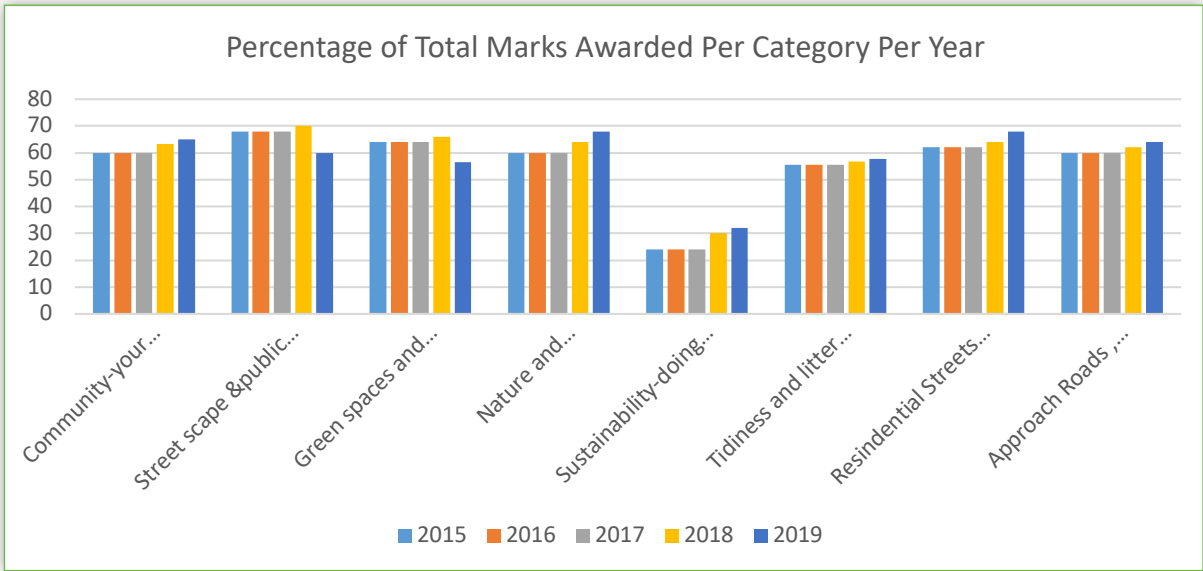
An analysis of Annacotty Tidy Towns Group Competition Marks highlighted that Annacotty has entered the Tidy Towns Competition for the last five years. The following graph tracks their overall points, which have increased by 29 points since 2015.



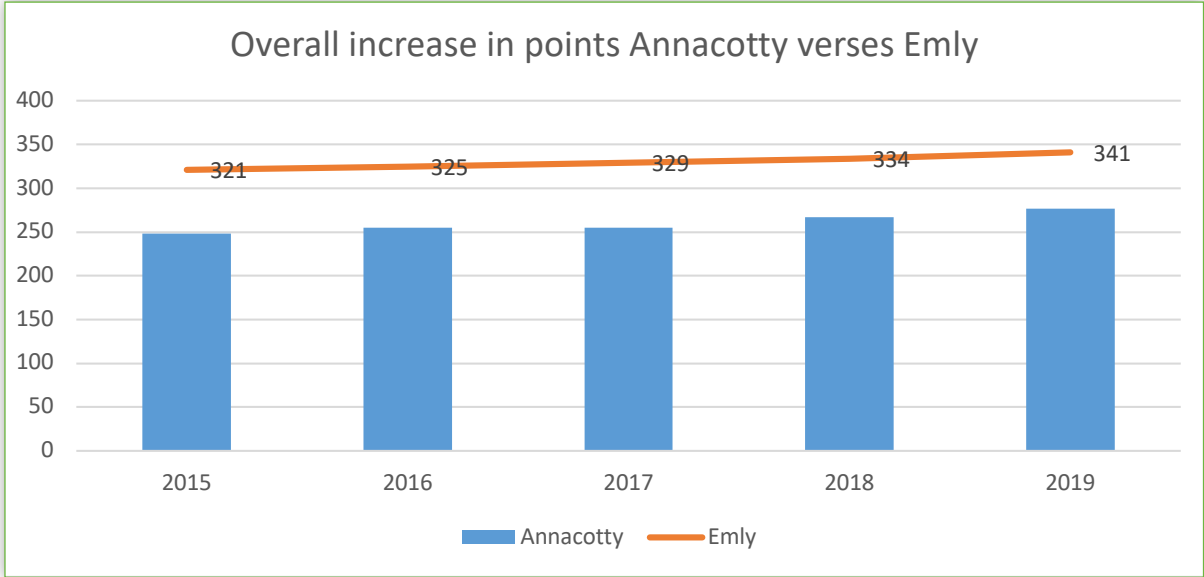
The percentage of total marks awarded by category was calculated for the five years between 2015-2019. This was done to highlight the categories in which Annacotty has had least success.

From the graph below it can be seen that the lowest percentage of marks awarded have been in the following categories: Nature and Biodiversity, and Sustainability - Doing more with Less.

The Tidy Towns plan will focus on these categories as areas where Annacotty can make significant improvements over the next 5 years.



It is also useful to examine how Annacotty Tidy Towns Group has performed in the Tidy Towns Competitions when judged against the performance of the Tidy Towns award of the local gold medal winner, Emly. Emly was selected for bench marking due to its proximity to the Ballyhoura region, and the fact that many Tidy Towns groups are already familiar with Emly and its achievements.



4.5 Annacotty Biodiversity Review

- » From a biodiversity perspective, Annacotty is very special in the fact that the River Mulcair, which is designated by Europe as a Special Area of Conservation, runs through the town. The town has the potential to become a flourishing area for biodiversity, with many educational opportunities for raising awareness of the wildlife which lives in the river and along the riparian margins and associated meadows, fields, and hedgerows. Annacotty Tidy Towns group is encouraged to engage with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Limerick City and County Council, and the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) to develop projects and actions that are sympathetic to this precious local environment.
- » Traditional planting schemes using shrubs and ornamental plants are contrary to the conservation objectives of the river bank area. As far as possible, Annacotty Tidy Towns Group is encouraged to engage with experts who can help devise management regimes and planting plans which support native species and local wildlife and, at the same time, meet the needs of the community. It is perfectly possible to have biodiversity-rich areas composed of native species which look beautiful in amenity spaces.
- » The other main challenge for Annacotty is its proximity to Limerick city and major transport routes. Nine species of bats have been recorded in the Annacotty area, and the National Biodiversity Data Centre highlights Annacotty and surrounds as a beneficial area for bat populations. However, increasing development and extended lighting schemes will risk harm to bat populations. This provides an opportunity for Annacotty Tidy Towns to engage with Limerick City and County Council and conservation experts to find the best compromise.
- » The River Mulcair is a tributary of River Shannon, and both are Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), a designation given by Europe to provide special protection to areas of huge ecological value. Annacotty is a unique community as the oldest part of the town is situated within the SAC of River Mulcair. This means that protection of wildlife habitats in this area is important, and Annacotty Tidy Towns group is encouraged to engage with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and other agencies to identify which specific actions can be taken to support the overall conservation goals of the area.

- » The skylark was recorded in Annacotty in 1991 and Tidy Towns group members may remember this lovely songbird being common when they were children. It will be well worthwhile to ask a local bird expert to advice on what can be done to encourage skylarks back to the area. Barn owls and Long-eared Owl are still present- any action that Annacotty Tidy Towns group can take to protect these mysterious and increasingly rare birds will make a valuable contribution towards safeguarding Ireland’s natural value. Swifts and swallows are also still present in the village; the Tidy Towns group have spotted them nesting under the old bridge. These birds fly thousands of miles each spring to rear their young in Ireland before making the arduous journey back to the African continent in September. The combination of climate change, farming practices, and the loss of nesting spaces mean they are seriously threatened, along with swifts and sand martins. It would be valuable to link with the local bird expert, the National Biodiversity Data Centre, and the school to implement a citizen science project to monitor the arrival of swallows and house martins to the village, and record if there is an increase in the number, which leave in September. A substantial increase means that they have successfully reared their families.
- » Red squirrels may still be present; they were recorded in 2012. Seriously threatened by the arrival of the grey squirrel, it will make a valuable contribution to Europe’s sustainable development goal 15 to take actions to protect and enhance its nesting and foraging sites. One action will be to plant hazel (*Corylus avellana*) which is native to the area and the nuts are much loved by squirrels. One of Ireland’s rarest mammals, the elusive nocturnal pine martin has been recorded in Annacotty. A possible project for Annacotty Tidy Towns Group could be to find out more information about the Pine Martin and record any further sightings on the website www.pinemarten.ie.
- » As a community on a busy road, Annacotty is vulnerable to the arrival of invasive species, particularly winter heliotrope, Indian balsam, and Japanese knotweed. A number of these have already been recorded in the community. It will be beneficial if Annacotty Tidy Towns members can learn how to identify these species and regularly monitor for their arrival. Prevention and early intervention are the best approaches to keeping a village free of invasive species.

5.The Annacotty Tidy Towns Five-Year Action Plan

5.1 Annacotty Tidy Towns Group vision

The Annacotty Tidy Towns group vision is:
 “To provide a shared focus, building community, and tackling present and future environmental issues.”

5.2 Annacotty Tidy Towns Group Aims:

- The four main aims of Annacotty Tidy Towns Group are:
- » Implement actions which support the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goal 15 to protect habitats and biodiversity.
 - » Become a herbicide & pesticide free community and start to implement the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.
 - » Identify areas that have potential to be developed into potential community garden area e.g., underutilised green areas in the community.
 - » Increase involvement of the community in Tidy Towns activities & increase membership of committee.

5.3 Strengths, Challenges and Opportunities Analysis

The following is the Strengths, Challenges and Opportunities identified by Annacotty Tidy Towns Group.

Table 3: Annacotty Tidy Towns Group Strength, Challenges and Opportunities Analysis.

STRENGTHS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The committee is well established and enthusiastic, and the Tidy Towns Group manages a small, concise area. » Annacotty is a picturesque village. » Annacotty Tidy Towns is well known in the community and has a strong social media presence. » The Tidy Towns Group has an excellent relationship with the local authority.
CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Annacotty is rich in natural and built heritage, and there are opportunities to develop the river areas and to increase biodiversity protection. » There is room and scope for more people and sectors within the community to become involved in the Tidy Towns Group’s work, particularly schools and colleges.
OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The lack of centralised community space (e.g., a community centre) is a challenge, particularly given that Annacotty is not a traditional village as there is no church or school. » It can be hard to define where Annacotty begins and ends due to suburban sprawl. » Engaging with the wider community can be a challenge. » Covid19 has severely restricted in-person activities in 2020.

5.4 Five-year Action Plan

The following Tables list the identified actions for Annacotty Tidy Towns Group for the next 5 years, 2021 to 2025.

The actions listed in the tables below do not necessarily form an exhaustive list, and new ideas and projects will arise during the implementation of this plan. Essentially, the action plan will be a living document, subject to refinement, adaptation, and alteration.

That being said, this plan does give a very strong baseline from which the Tidy Towns group can continue the valuable work undertaken by the group. Concrete actions that have a projected timeline help to guide the Tidy Towns Group in their work, harness their motivation, and sustain their momentum. On top of this, every effort has been made to incorporate a sustainable and biodiversity friendly ethos into each category.

Legend to actions

Green (M)	Previous projects that you have completed or maintained
Red (FP)	Future projects you are proposing

5.4.1 Community involvement and planning

Action	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Collaborators
Review and update the 5-year plan each year.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Include the 5-year plan with each Tidy Town entry.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Start to prepare Tidy Town application from April onwards.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Provide a clear map with town boundaries with Tidy Towns' entry documentation and numbers.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Provide relevant back up material, such as category-specific photo records. Before and after photos are always valuable for the adjudicators.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Hold regular Tidy Town meetings and increase as necessary before adjudicator's visit.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Continue to plan a project for the Going for Gold competition.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Promote Annacotty Tidy Towns Group at the monthly public meeting in the Black Swan and use notices, email and the local press to promote and celebrate the group's activities.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Engage with Limerick City and County Council and county engineer etc. to address derelict buildings and traffic issues.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LCCC
Build on the good relationships with Resident Associations in the town.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Local Schools
Build on the good relationship with the School Liaison Officers to support biodiversity and sustainability projects in the schools.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Strengthen links with the University of Limerick Green Campus Committee.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	UL
Develop a project each year to encourage inclusivity for all residents. This might be age-friendly benches, improving access to green spaces for people with buggies, canes, or wheelchairs, or making special efforts to welcome new arrivals to the town.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Consult the Ballyhoura Community Inclusion Toolkit, which provides templates and support to help with volunteer recruitment, management and development.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Ballyhoura Development
Engage with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) to identify projects that can be delivered by Annacotty Tidy Towns to support the River Mulcair Special Area of Conservation.		✓				NPWS
Develop a new project in this category each year.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

5.4.2 Streetscape and public places

Action	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Collaborators
Maintain and freshly paint street furniture around the town.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Work with owners of unoccupied properties and county engineers, with the aim of improving at least one derelict property each year.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Maintain stone walls to support its biodiversity. Do not clean or use herbicide near it. Remove ivy carefully by hand if required.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Use hanging baskets and containers to enhance the streetscape and public places Use pollinator-friendly perennials wherever possible or mix pollinator friendly perennials with bedding plants.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Maintain the mural area (grass cutting).	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Work with tenants of the shop units and buildings to improve the appearance of Annacotty.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Paint the street bollards and lamps in a similar colour.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Regularly repaint the rendered wall under the R445.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Maintain the annual Christmas tree and lighting.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Refer to Signage Audit and check all signage, removing those that are redundant.		✓		✓		
Work with business owners to develop appropriate window dressing to give Annacotty a village feel.				✓	✓	
Where possible, discourage the use of roller security shutters on the inside of windows as they can diminish the visual amenity of the streetscape. These should only be used where necessary e.g., for a doctor's surgery, where security is paramount.				✓	✓	
Engage with business owners to reduce the use of window stickers and posters.				✓	✓	
Communicate with residents regularly on actions that the Tidy Towns group takes to improve the appearance of the streetscape.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Install a sign at the Mill outlining its history as a paper mill, and a sign at the bridge detailing the history of the crossing.			✓			
Erect a plaque near the bridge to commemorate the Mulcair fishermen.			✓			
Develop a new project in this category each year.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

5.4.3 Green spaces and landscaping

Action	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Collaborators
Plant for year-round texture and colour, incorporating native perennials.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Maintain the existing planting schemes, using the combination of colours and plant types which work in Annacotty.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Ensure year-round colour for flowerbeds and planters. Use native snowdrops, bluebells and traditional daffodils (Narcissus pseudonarcissus) to ensure they are pollinator friendly and help to maintain Ireland's unique genetic diversity.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Audit all planters and hanging baskets to make sure they do not look cluttered. Coordinate the planters and hanging baskets so they are made of a similar material or colour.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Continue to maintain all green spaces in the town. Ensure that all contractors who mow/strim clean their equipment before they arrive at a site and before they leave the site. This is essential to help prevent machinery bringing in invasive species.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Maintain the new flowerbed with rocks and the heron sculpture. Try to make this a native species bed as far as possible because of its location near to the river.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Maintain the area around the Jackie Power monument keeping to pollinator friendly perennials wherever possible.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Maintain the planting scheme around the Annacotty sign. Change to pollinator friendly perennials rather than winter, spring and summer bedding plants.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Seek advice about the treatment of Himalayan balsam at Ashroe. Please note that herbicide treatment is not appropriate for this invasive species			✓	✓	✓	
Audit the Heritage Trail with an ecologist who can advise on creating an ecological corridor in parallel with the heritage trail.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Increase the size of the flower bed near the welcome sign and re-distribute planters.		✓				
Highlight the tree audit and discuss the possibility of repeating the project.			✓			
Check out the resources on https://pollinators.ie/resources/ and develop a new project for green spaces each year.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Download the free 'Management for Wildlife' signage from https://pollinators.ie/resources/ and erect in green spaces that are being changed to a more pollinator-friendly management regime. Have some on a wildflower bank.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Continue the survey of green spaces and grassy verges in the village to identify which are suitable for wildlife management.	✓	✓				
Survey all planting beside the river and consider a new approach which ensures the riparian margin is protected and enhanced, and all planting uses native species, appropriate to the riverbank habitats.				✓	✓	
Consider planting climbers on the pergola in the park beside the River Mulcair.			✓			
Develop a new project in this category each year.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

5.4.4 Nature and biodiversity in your locality

Actions	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Collaborators
Observe the annual hedge cutting ban to protect wildlife.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Incorporate the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan into all relevant projects.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Commission a survey of all the stone walls and buildings in the town to identify the biodiversity associated with them. Based on the findings, develop a new project to help maintain biodiversity. Use signage to alert residents and visitors to the high biodiversity value of stone structures.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Engage the National Parks and Wildlife Services to advise on the most appropriate steps to help protect the special conservation status of the River Mulcair where it flows through the town. Commit to using only appropriate native species in green spaces adjacent to the river.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NPWS
Engage the National Parks and Wildlife Services and an ecologist to protect and enhance the natural ecological corridors of the River Mulcair, its riparian margins and surrounding meadows, tree lines and hedgerows.			✓	✓	✓	NPWS
Ask an invasive species specialist to survey invasive species in the town and along the stretch of the river in Annacotty, and prepare a detailed management plan to advise how best to control the different invasive species.			✓	✓	✓	
Invite an ecologist to support the biodiversity and habitat mapping plan to create a biodiversity action plan which supports native species and reflects the special conservation status of the R. Mulcair and Annacotty area.		✓	✓	✓		
Record biodiversity actions taken on www.pollinators.ie .	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Develop a new project in this category each year.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

5.4.5 Sustainability, doing more with less

Actions	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Collaborators
Source products locally and reuse/recycle local materials wherever possible.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Buy durable planters and other materials which can be repaired as required.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Operate as paperless as possible and encourage others to do so.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Segregate waste as much as possible and encourage others to do so.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Keep an equipment register and share litter-picking supplies with Resident Associations.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
School Liaison Officers on Annacotty Tidy Towns committee to continue to engage with the local schools, particularly to support their biodiversity and sustainability actions.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Local Schools
Continue to participate in Limerick City and County Council seminars and projects to help us develop meaningful sustainability actions.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LCCC
Update the recycling map annually and continue to add new links to useful guidance, advice, and facilities.	✓	✓				
Encourage Annacotty Tidy Towns group members and residents to install water butts to provide water for their gardens. Consider buying water butts in bulk to get a discount and selling them to residents at cost.			✓			
Invite a speaker to talk about water conservation, the importance of protecting water quality, and what we can do as individuals and communities to save our water.					✓	
Source pollinator-friendly perennials from suppliers who ensure that plants are not previously treated with chemicals that are fatal to pollinating insects.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Source trees for planting schemes from suppliers that can guarantee stock is grown from seed in Ireland. Imported 'native' species come with an unacceptably high risk of deadly invasive tree diseases.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Engage with Limerick City and County Council to plan a project to improve lighting throughout the town and make it more sustainable.	✓					LCCC
Encourage local shops and businesses to make changes towards improved sustainability, particularly encouraging reduced use of plastic.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Commit to no herbicide use except where absolutely necessary and encourage others to do the same.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Develop a new project in this category.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

5.4.6 Tidiness and Litter Control

Actions	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Collaborators
Continue with the commitment to zero tolerance to campaign posters and inappropriate advertising.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Engage with Resident Associations and groups to discourage graffiti.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Continue to enter the Limerick Team Clean-up. Record the number of bags collected for annual comparison.	✓		✓		✓	
Continue monthly litter picks and encourage the scouts to stay involved.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Monitor illegal dumping in the town and within the SAC river habitats. Engage with Limerick City and County Council if it occurs and request signage and dummy CCTV (e.g., River bank estate and ringfort).	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LCCC
Monitor dog fouling and raise awareness of its health implications, particularly for children playing in green spaces where there is dog waste.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Supply mutt mitt stations and supplies of bags and scoops.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Freshen up seats and signage by the river.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Hoe or scrape with a spade weeds in road kerbs in spring. Do not use herbicide unless necessary. Never use herbicide around trees, it kills them. Encourage residents to stop using herbicide.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Stencil messages about dog fouling on the pavement.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Check for clutter around the town, particularly planters/temporary planters, signage and redundant poles.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Clean the litter, weed growth, and litter from the steps by the river.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Encourage the wider community to get involved in litter control.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Develop a new project in this category each year.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

5.4.7 Residential Streets and Housing Areas

Actions	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Collaborators
Engage with Resident Associations, business owners and other property owners to maintain their properties and front gardens to a high standard, particularly before the adjudicator’s visit.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Commit to no herbicide use throughout the town. It leads to long term environmental problems which will make Annacotty Tidy Towns maintenance work increasingly challenging.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Encourage a shared focus with all members of the community supporting each other and exchanging ideas.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Develop the signage project with local Resident Associations.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Consider a ‘best estate for biodiversity’ award to raise awareness about biodiversity and the critical need to protect it.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Address fly tipping in the community.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Ensure that all streets and housing areas have name plates.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Develop a new project in this category every year.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

5.4.8 Approach Roads, Streets and Lanes

Actions	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Collaborators
Engage with Limerick City and County Council to refresh road marking as required.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LCCC
Consult with Limerick City and County Council about repairing road surfaces and pavements if required.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LCCC
Maintain the approach roads, always emphasising native species planting and grassy verge maintenance for wildlife at the town perimeter.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Engage with Limerick City and County Council to see if pedestrian footpaths between estates can be created.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LCCC
Erect wildlife management signs where you change management regimes of grassy spaces.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Consider painting the kerb to make the pedestrian path across the bridge safer.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Develop a new project under this category every year.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

5.4.9 Special awards

Action	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Collaborators
Consider a Tidy Towns special award		✓			✓	

Appendices

- 1. Europe’s Sustainable Development Goals
- 2. National Biodiversity Data Centre species records
- 3. Ballyhoura Development Inclusion Toolkit
- 4. Guidance for good biodiversity management
- 5. List of resources
- 6. Litter control: tips and suggestions
- 7. Wildway Design. Hanging baskets using pollinator friendly perennials. Tips and ideas
- 8. Streetscapes: tips and suggestions

Tidy Towns and their Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

At a global level, world leaders have adopted a new sustainable development framework: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which has at its core the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals cover the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic growth, social inclusion, and the protection of the environment. The SDG's are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future by addressing global challenges related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace, and justice.

In Ireland, the framework for Sustainable Development sets out the challenges as well as the opportunities to ensure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained. Translating these goals starts with each individual in the community taking the first step. Many people are already contributing to a sustainable future in their day-to-day lives, while many others only need to make small adjustments to everyday actions to meaningfully contribute to the SDG's. Tidy Towns committees can play a leading role in educating their communities about the SDG's. Small actions at a local level can play a part in making a more sustainable global future for all.

For several years, Tidy Towns Committees have contributed to the SDG's by focusing on the environment, biodiversity, education, and inclusion within the community. Particularly for Tidy Towns, the SDG's provide a unique opportunity to elevate communication on sustainability and its relevance to communities. Tidy Towns can demonstrate their commitment to the SDG's by aligning activities and projects to one or more of the SDG's.

The SDG's can be directly linked into Tidy Towns plans and application forms. They can be integrated into categories such as: Community- Your Planning and Involvement; Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality; and Sustainability- Doing More with Less. Several special awards directly relate to the SDGs, including the "Community Climate Action Award", the 'Sustainable Development Award' and the "Waters and Community Award". Specific projects to target these awards could be developed by Tidy Towns groups.

The 17 SDG's are listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms	Goal 7: Energy	Goal 13: Climate Change
Goal 2: Zero Hunger	Goal 8: Economic Growth	Goal 14: Oceans
Goal 3: Health	Goal 9: Infrastructure, industrialization	Goal 15: Biodiversity, forests, desertification
Goal 4: Education	Goal 10: Inequality	Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions
Goal 5: Gender equality and women's empowerment	Goal 11: Cities	Goal 17: Partnerships
	Goal 12: Sustainable consumption and production	

Goal 6: Water and Sanitation		
------------------------------	--	--

The SDGs are interconnected; actions which contribute to one of the goals are likely to also have an impact on another goal. Below are some examples of the Goals that are particularly relevant to the work of Tidy Towns groups. Many of the projects that have been developed by Tidy Towns groups can also link directly or indirectly into the other goals.

Tidy Towns Demonstrating Commitment to the SDG's

SDG Target 1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters	E.g.: Relevant Tidy Towns actions to help achieve this target: Understanding the impact of Tidy Towns activities and projects on climate change, and engaging in mediation measures such as developing projects that have a low carbon footprint, waste reduction and educating people about climate change.
---	--

SDG Target 2.5 Target 2.5. By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at	E.g.: Relevant Tidy Towns actions to help achieve this target: Tidy Towns should use a diverse range of plants in their communities. They can focus on using native plants, pollinator friendly plants and where possible, learn how to save seeds. Tidy Towns groups can record their actions on pollinators.ie, to become part of the national movement towards protecting pollinators. Actions taken by Tidy Towns committees to address invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed are also relevant to this target, as invasive species outcompete native species, reducing the biodiversity of the area.
--	--

the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed	
---	--

SDG Target 3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being	E.g.: Relevant Tidy Towns actions to help achieve this target: Tidy Towns can promote good mental health and wellbeing throughout their communities by promoting inclusion and developing projects that promote rest and relaxation. For example, developing safe community walking routes or green/blue spaces can encourage individuals to participate in regular exercise.
---	---

SDG Target 4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and nonviolence, global citizenship	E.g.: Relevant Tidy Towns actions to help achieve this target: Tidy Towns can promote this target by running accessible workshops on topics relevant to sustainable development, hosting community or cultural events, or organising challenges such as the Stop Food Waste challenge. These activities will help to disseminate knowledge and skills to the wider community.
--	---

and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development	
---	--

SDG Target 6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes	E.g.: Relevant Tidy Towns actions to help achieve this target: Understanding the impact of Tidy Towns operational activities, projects and products used on biodiversity and water ecosystems and taking mediation measures based on this information such as habitat protection and restoration and monitoring impacts on biodiversity, sourcing of eco-friendly materials, reusing rainwater and working in partnership with other local groups and local government to protect and restore water-related systems.
--	--

APPENDIX

SDG 1: No poverty

- Target 1.1. By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day
- Target 1.2. By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
- Target 1.3. Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable 2
- Target 1.4. By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance
- Target 1.5. By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

SDG 2: Zero hunger

- Target 2.1. By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round
- Target 2.2. By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons
- Target 2.3. By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment
- Target 2.4. By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality
- Target 2.5. By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed

SDG 3: Good health and Well-being

- Target 3.1. By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
- Target 3.2. By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births
- Target 3.3. By 2030, end the epidemics of aids, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases
- Target 3.4. By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
- Target 3.5. Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol
- Target 3.6. By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents
- Target 3.7. By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programs
- Target 3.8. Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

- Target 3.9. By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

SDG 4: Quality education

- Target 4.1. By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
- Target 4.2. By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education
- Target 4.3. By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university
- Target 4.4. By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
- Target 4.5. By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations
- Target 4.6. By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy
- Target 4.7. By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and nonviolence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

SDG 5: Gender equality

- Target 5.1. End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- Target 5.2. Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- Target 5.3. Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- Target 5.4. Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
- Target 5.5. Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
- Target 5.6. Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the programme of action of the international conference on population and development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation

- Target 6.1. By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- Target 6.2. By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
- Target 6.3. By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
- Target 6.4. By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity
- Target 6.5. By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
- Target 6.6. By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy

- Target 7.1. By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
- Target 7.2. By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix
- Target 7.3. By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency

SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth

- Target 8.1. Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least seven per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries
- Target 8.2. Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labour-intensive sectors
- Target 8.3. Promote development oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
- Target 8.4. Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead
- Target 8.5. By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

- Target 8.6. By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training
- Target 8.7. Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms
- Target 8.8. Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment
- Target 8.9. By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
- Target 8.10. Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all

SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure

- Target 9.1. Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all
- Target 9.2. Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries
- Target 9.3. Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets
- Target 9.4. By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities
- Target 9.5. Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

- Target 10.1. By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average
- Target 10.2. By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
- Target 10.3. Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

- Target 10.4. Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality
- Target 10.5. Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations
- Target 10.6. Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions
- Target 10.7. Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well managed migration policies

SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities

- Target 11.1. By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
- Target 11.2. By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
- Target 11.3. By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
- Target 11.4. Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage
- Target 11.5. By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
- Target 11.6. By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
- Target 11.7. By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production

- Target 12.1. Implement the 10year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries
- Target 12.2. By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
- Target 12.3. By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses

- Target 12.4. By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their lifecycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
- Target 12.5. By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
- target 12.6. Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle
- Target 12.7. Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities 146 target 12.8. By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature

SDG 13: Climate action

- Target 13.1. Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
- Target 13.2. Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning 1
- Target 13.3. Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

SDG 14: Life below water

- Target 14.1. By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution
- Target 14.2. By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans
- Target 14.3. Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels
- Target 14.4. By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics
- Target 14.5. By 2020, conserve at least ten per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information
- Target 14.6. By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and

differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the world trade organization fisheries subsidies negotiation

- Target 14.7. By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing states and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism
- SDG 15: Life on land
- Target 15.1. By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements
- Target 15.2. By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally
- Target 15.3. By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world
- Target 15.4. By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development
- Target 15.5. Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species
- Target 15.6. Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed
- Target 15.7. Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products
- Target 15.8. By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species
- Target 15.9. By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts

SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions

- Target 16.1. Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
- Target 16.2. End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- Target 16.3. Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
- Target 16.4. By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime
- Target 16.5. Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

- Target 16.6. Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
- Target 16.7. Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- Target 16.8. Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
- Target 16.9. By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration
- Target 16.10. Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals

- Target 17.1. Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection
- Target 17.2. Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (oda/gni) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of oda/gni to least developed countries; oda providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of oda/gni to least developed countries
- Target 17.3. Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources
- Target 17.4. Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress
- Target 17.5. Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries
- Target 17.6. Enhance north-south, south-south and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the united nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism
- Target 17.7. Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed
- Target 17.8. Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology
- Target 17.9. Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through north-south, south-south and triangular cooperation
- Target 17.10. Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the world trade organization,

including through the conclusion of negotiations under its doha development agenda

- Target 17.11. Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020
- Target 17.12. Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with world trade organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access
- Target 17.13. Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence
- Target 17.14. Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development
- Target 17.15. Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development
- target 17.16. Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
- Target 17.17. Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships
- Target 17.18. By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing states, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts
- Target 17.19. By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries

Species group	Species name	Date of last record	Designation
amphibian	Common Frog (<i>Rana temporaria</i>)	31/03/1972	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex V Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
bird	Barn Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	31/12/2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
bird	Black-billed Magpie (<i>Pica pica</i>)	12/02/2016	
bird	Blackcap (<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>)	12/02/2016	
bird	Black-headed Gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>)	08/01/2017	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List
bird	Blue Tit (<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>)	12/02/2016	
bird	Bohemian Waxwing (<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>)	31/12/2011	
bird	Chaffinch (<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>)	12/02/2016	
bird	Coal Tit (<i>Parus ater</i>)	12/02/2016	
bird	Common Blackbird (<i>Turdus merula</i>)	12/02/2016	
bird	Common Bullfinch (<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>)	31/12/2011	
bird	Common Buzzard (<i>Buteo buteo</i>)	31/12/2011	
bird	Common Chiffchaff (<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>)	31/12/2011	
bird	Common Grasshopper Warbler (<i>Locustella naevia</i>)	31/12/2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
bird	Common Kestrel (<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>)	31/12/2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List

bird	Common Linnet (<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>)	31/07/1991	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
bird	Common Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)	12/02/2016	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
bird	Common Swift (<i>Apus apus</i>)	31/12/2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
bird	Common Wood Pigeon (<i>Columba palumbus</i>)	31/12/2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Protected Species: EU Birds Directive Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section I Bird Species
bird	Eurasian Collared Dove (<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>)	12/02/2016	
bird	Eurasian Jackdaw (<i>Corvus monedula</i>)	12/02/2016	
bird	Eurasian Treecreeper (<i>Certhia familiaris</i>)	31/12/2011	
bird	European Goldfinch (<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>)	12/02/2016	
bird	European Greenfinch (<i>Carduelis chloris</i>)	12/02/2016	
bird	European Robin (<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>)	12/02/2016	
bird	Fieldfare (<i>Turdus pilaris</i>)	31/12/2011	
bird	Goldcrest (<i>Regulus regulus</i>)	31/12/2011	
bird	Great Tit (<i>Parus major</i>)	12/02/2016	
bird	Hedge Accentor (<i>Prunella modularis</i>)	31/12/2011	
bird	Hooded Crow (<i>Corvus cornix</i>)	12/02/2016	
bird	Hoopoe (<i>Upupa epops</i>)	31/12/2011	

bird	House Martin (<i>Delichon urbicum</i>)	31/12/2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
bird	House Sparrow (<i>Passer domesticus</i>)	12/02/2016	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
bird	Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>)	31/12/2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
bird	Lesser Redpoll (<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>)	31/12/2011	
bird	Long-tailed Tit (<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>)	12/02/2016	
bird	Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)	31/07/1991	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Protected Species: EU Birds Directive Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section I Bird Species
bird	Meadow Pipit (<i>Anthus pratensis</i>)	31/12/2011	
bird	Mistle Thrush (<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>)	31/12/2011	
bird	Northern Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>)	31/07/1991	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
bird	Pied Wagtail (<i>Motacilla alba</i> subsp. <i>yarrellii</i>)	12/02/2016	
bird	Redwing (<i>Turdus iliacus</i>)	31/12/2011	
bird	Rock Pigeon (<i>Columba livia</i>)	31/07/1991	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Protected Species: EU Birds Directive Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species

bird	Rook (<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>)	12/02/2016	
bird	Sand Martin (<i>Riparia riparia</i>)	31/07/1991	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
bird	Sky Lark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>)	31/07/1991	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
bird	Song Thrush (<i>Turdus philomelos</i>)	31/12/2011	
bird	Spotted Flycatcher (<i>Muscicapa striata</i>)	31/07/1991	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
bird	Stonechat (<i>Saxicola torquata</i>)	31/12/2011	
bird	White Wagtail (<i>Motacilla alba</i>)	31/12/2011	
bird	Willow Warbler (<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>)	31/12/2011	
bird	Winter Wren (<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>)	12/02/2016	
fern	Hart's-tongue (<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>)	23/03/2019	
fern	Maidenhair Spleenwort (<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>)	23/01/2018	
fern	Polypody (<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>)	27/02/2018	
fern	Rustyback (<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>)	02/05/2020	
fern	Wall-rue (<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>)	02/05/2020	
flowering plant	American Willowherb (<i>Epilobium ciliatum</i>)	19/06/2018	
flowering plant	Bee Orchid (<i>Ophrys apifera</i>)	03/06/2020	
flowering plant	Black Medick (<i>Medicago lupulina</i>)	11/04/2020	
flowering plant	Blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>)	22/02/2019	
flowering plant	Bush Vetch (<i>Vicia sepium</i>)	03/05/2020	
flowering plant	Butterfly-bush (<i>Buddleja davidii</i>)	14/02/2020	Invasive Species: Invasive Species Invasive Species: Invasive Species >>

			Medium Impact Invasive Species
flowering plant	Charlock (<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>)	05/01/2020	
flowering plant	Coltsfoot (<i>Tussilago farfara</i>)	11/04/2020	
flowering plant	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>)	01/06/2020	
flowering plant	Common Comfrey (<i>Symphytum officinale</i>)	19/06/2018	
flowering plant	Common Cornsalad (<i>Valerianella locusta</i>)	02/05/2020	
flowering plant	Common Field-speedwell (<i>Veronica persica</i>)	05/01/2020	
flowering plant	Common Figwort (<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>)	03/06/2020	
flowering plant	Common Knapweed (<i>Centaurea nigra</i>)	03/06/2020	
flowering plant	Common Marsh-bedstraw (<i>Galium palustre</i> subsp. <i>palustre</i>)	03/06/2017	
flowering plant	Common Mouse-ear (<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>)	14/05/2016	
flowering plant	Common Poppy (<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>)	25/06/2020	
flowering plant	Common Ragwort (<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>)	03/05/2020	
flowering plant	Common Ramping-fumitory (<i>Fumaria muralis</i>)	02/05/2020	
flowering plant	Common Sorrel (<i>Rumex acetosa</i>)	03/06/2020	
flowering plant	Cow Parsley (<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>)	02/05/2020	
flowering plant	Cowslip (<i>Primula veris</i>)	03/05/2020	
flowering plant	Creeping Buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>)	02/05/2020	
flowering plant	Creeping Thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)	25/06/2020	
flowering plant	Cuckooflower (<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>)	02/05/2020	
flowering plant	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill (<i>Geranium dissectum</i>)	03/05/2020	
flowering plant	Daisy (<i>Bellis perennis</i>)	02/05/2020	
flowering plant	Dog-rose (<i>Rosa canina</i>)	19/06/2018	
flowering plant	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill (<i>Geranium molle</i>)	24/04/2020	
flowering plant	Field Forget-me-not (<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>)	02/05/2020	
flowering plant	Field Wood-rush (<i>Luzula campestris</i>)	13/04/2020	
flowering plant	Germander Speedwell (<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>)	03/05/2020	
flowering plant	Gorse (<i>Ulex europaeus</i>)	03/05/2020	

flowering plant	Great Willowherb (<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>)	19/06/2017	
flowering plant	Greater Plantain (<i>Plantago major</i>)	25/06/2020	
flowering plant	Ground-ivy (<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>)	03/05/2020	
flowering plant	Groundsel (<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>)	02/05/2020	
flowering plant	Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>)	02/04/2020	
flowering plant	Hedge Mustard (<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>)	25/06/2020	
flowering plant	Hyacinthoides non-scripta x hispanica = H. x massartiana	03/05/2020	
flowering plant	Japanese Knotweed (<i>Fallopia japonica</i>)	19/09/2017	Invasive Species: Invasive Species Invasive Species: Invasive Species >> High Impact Invasive Species Invasive Species: Invasive Species >> Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
flowering plant	<i>Lamium album</i> subsp. <i>argenteum</i>	02/04/2020	
flowering plant	Lesser Celandine (<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>)	14/02/2020	
flowering plant	Lesser Stitchwort (<i>Stellaria graminea</i>)	03/06/2020	
flowering plant	Lesser Trefoil (<i>Trifolium dubium</i>)	03/06/2017	
flowering plant	Marsh Thistle (<i>Cirsium palustre</i>)	03/06/2017	
flowering plant	Meadow Buttercup (<i>Ranunculus acris</i>)	03/05/2020	
flowering plant	Meadow Vetchling (<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>)	23/06/2019	
flowering plant	Meadowsweet (<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>)	01/06/2020	
flowering plant	Nipplewort (<i>Lapsana communis</i>)	23/04/2020	
flowering plant	Oxeye Daisy (<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>)	03/05/2020	
flowering plant	Papaver dubium	03/06/2020	
flowering plant	Pineappleweed (<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>)	03/05/2020	
flowering plant	Primrose (<i>Primula vulgaris</i>)	11/04/2020	
flowering plant	Purple-loosestrife (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>)	25/06/2020	
flowering plant	Ragged-Robin (<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>)	01/06/2020	
flowering plant	Red Clover (<i>Trifolium pratense</i>)	02/05/2020	
flowering plant	Red Dead-nettle (<i>Lamium purpureum</i>)	10/01/2020	
flowering plant	Red Valerian (<i>Centranthus ruber</i>)	27/04/2020	

flowering plant	Ribwort Plantain (<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>)	03/05/2020	
flowering plant	Rosa canina agg.	01/06/2020	
flowering plant	Rue-leaved Saxifrage (<i>Saxifraga tridactylites</i>)	11/04/2020	
flowering plant	Selfheal (<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>)	01/06/2020	
flowering plant	Shepherd's-purse (<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>)	02/05/2020	
flowering plant	Shining Crane's-bill (<i>Geranium lucidum</i>)	02/05/2020	
flowering plant	Silverweed (<i>Potentilla anserina</i>)	11/04/2020	
flowering plant	<i>Sinapis alba</i> subsp. <i>Alba</i>	31/12/1929	
flowering plant	Smooth Hawk's-beard (<i>Crepis capillaris</i>)	03/05/2020	
flowering plant	Smooth Sow-thistle (<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>)	02/05/2020	
flowering plant	Spear Thistle (<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>)	03/06/2020	
flowering plant	Sticky Mouse-ear (<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>)	05/01/2020	
flowering plant	Three-cornered Garlic (<i>Allium triquetrum</i>)	27/04/2020	Invasive Species: Invasive Species Invasive Species: Invasive Species >> Medium Impact Invasive Species Invasive Species: Invasive Species >> Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
flowering plant	Thyme-leaved Speedwell (<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>)	11/04/2020	
flowering plant	Tormentil (<i>Potentilla erecta</i>)	19/06/2018	
flowering plant	Tufted Vetch (<i>Vicia cracca</i>)	25/06/2020	
flowering plant	Turnip (<i>Brassica rapa</i>)	25/06/2020	
flowering plant	Wavy Bitter-cress (<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>)	02/05/2020	
flowering plant	White Clover (<i>Trifolium repens</i>)	23/06/2019	
flowering plant	White Mustard (<i>Sinapis alba</i>)	31/12/1929	
flowering plant	Winter Heliotrope (<i>Petasites fragrans</i>)	03/05/2020	
flowering plant	Wood Avens (<i>Geum urbanum</i>)	03/05/2020	
flowering plant	Yarrow (<i>Achillea millefolium</i>)	25/06/2020	
flowering plant	Yellow Iris (<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>)	03/06/2017	
horsetail	Field Horsetail (<i>Equisetum arvense</i>)	03/05/2020	
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	14-spot Ladybird (<i>Propylea quatuordecimpunctata</i>)	15/08/2015	
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	2-spot Ladybird (<i>Adalia bipunctata</i>)	17/07/2017	

insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	7-spot Ladybird (Coccinella septempunctata)	07/07/2018	
insect - butterfly	Speckled Wood (Pararge aegeria)	08/09/2019	
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Azure Damselfly (Coenagrion puella)	19/06/1983	
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Blue-tailed Damselfly (Ischnura elegans)	19/06/1983	
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Common Darter (Sympetrum striolatum)	19/06/1983	
insect - hymenopteran	Bombus (Bombus) lucorum	24/04/2020	
insect - hymenopteran	Bombus (Bombus) terrestris	11/04/2020	
insect - hymenopteran	Common Carder Bee (Bombus (Thoracombus) pascuorum)	23/04/2020	
insect - hymenopteran	Early Bumble Bee (Bombus (Pyrobombus) pratorum)	12/05/2020	
insect - hymenopteran	Large Red Tailed Bumble Bee (Bombus (Melanobombus) lapidarius)	12/05/2020	Threatened Species: Near threatened
insect - moth	Death's-head Hawk-moth (Acherontia atropos)	28/10/2009	
insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	Hawthorn Shieldbug (Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale)	08/09/2017	
insect - true fly (Diptera)	Chromatomyia horticola	24/05/2017	
insect - true fly (Diptera)	Phytomyza chaerophylli	15/05/2016	
terrestrial mammal	Eastern Grey Squirrel (Sciurus carolinensis)	03/07/2012	Invasive Species: Invasive Species Invasive Species: Invasive Species >> High Impact Invasive Species Invasive Species: Invasive Species >> EU Regulation No. 1143/2014 Invasive Species: Invasive Species >> Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
terrestrial mammal	Eurasian Badger (Meles meles)	16/05/2013	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
terrestrial mammal	Eurasian Pygmy Shrew (Sorex minutus)	20/03/2013	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
terrestrial mammal	European Rabbit (Oryctolagus cuniculus)	24/02/2017	Invasive Species: Invasive Species Invasive Species: Invasive Species >> Medium Impact Invasive Species
terrestrial mammal	West European Hedgehog (Erinaceus europaeus)	09/08/2018	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts

The National Biodiversity data centre for square R65N

Species group	Species name	Date of last record	Designation
bird	Barn Owl (Tyto alba)	31/12/2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List
bird	Black-billed Magpie (Pica pica)	31/12/2011	
bird	Blackcap (Sylvia atricapilla)	31/12/2011	
bird	Common Blackbird (Turdus merula)	31/12/2011	
bird	Common Coot (Fulica atra)	31/12/2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Protected Species: EU Birds Directive Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex II, Section I Bird Species Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex III, Section II Bird Species Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
bird	Common Cuckoo (Cuculus canorus)	31/12/2011	
bird	Common Kestrel (Falco tinnunculus)	31/12/2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
bird	Common Kingfisher (Alcedo atthis)	31/12/2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Protected Species: EU Birds Directive Protected Species: EU Birds Directive >> Annex I Bird Species Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
bird	Common Raven (Corvus corax)	31/12/2011	
bird	Eurasian Jay (Garrulus glandarius)	31/12/2011	

bird	Eurasian Sparrowhawk (Accipiter nisus)	31/12/2011	
bird	Great Tit (Parus major)	31/12/2011	
bird	Grey Heron (Ardea cinerea)	31/12/2011	
bird	Long-eared Owl (Asio otus)	31/12/2011	
bird	Mute Swan (Cygnus olor)	31/12/2011	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern >> Birds of Conservation Concern - Amber List
bird	Rook (Corvus frugilegus)	31/12/2011	
bird	White-throated Dipper (Cinclus cinclus)	31/12/2011	
bony fish (Actinopterygii)	Dace (Leuciscus leuciscus)	31/12/2004	Invasive Species: Invasive Species Invasive Species: Invasive Species >> Medium Impact Invasive Species Invasive Species: Invasive Species >> Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
crustacean	Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes)	26/08/2015	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex II Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex V Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
flowering plant	Alder (Alnus glutinosa)	15/07/1991	
flowering plant	Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)	02/10/2008	
flowering plant	Common Valerian (Valeriana officinalis)	15/07/1991	
flowering plant	Germander Speedwell (Veronica chamaedrys)	31/03/2019	
flowering plant	Giant Hogweed (Heracleum mantegazzianum)	26/07/2018	Invasive Species: Invasive Species Invasive Species: Invasive Species >> High Impact Invasive Species Invasive Species: Invasive Species >> Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
flowering plant	Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna)	15/07/1991	
flowering plant	Hazel (Corylus avellana)	15/07/1991	
flowering plant	Hemlock Water-dropwort (Oenanthe crocata)	15/07/1991	
flowering plant	Herb-Robert (Geranium robertianum)	15/07/1991	

flowering plant	Indian Balsam (Impatiens glandulifera)	27/08/2017	Invasive Species: Invasive Species Invasive Species: Invasive Species >> High Impact Invasive Species Invasive Species: Invasive Species >> Regulation S.I. 477 (Ireland)
flowering plant	Ivy-leaved Toadflax (Cymbalaria muralis)	31/03/2019	
flowering plant	Lesser Water-parsnip (Berula erecta)	15/07/1991	
flowering plant	Marsh-bedstraw (Galium palustre)	15/07/1991	
flowering plant	Marsh-marigold (Caltha palustris)	15/07/1991	
flowering plant	Meadowsweet (Filipendula ulmaria)	15/07/1991	
flowering plant	Montbretia (Crocasmia pottsii x aurea = C. x crocosmiiflora)	18/08/2019	
flowering plant	Reed Canary-grass (Phalaris arundinacea)	02/10/2008	
flowering plant	Rusty Willow (Salix cinerea subsp. oleifolia)	15/07/1991	
flowering plant	Silver Birch (Betula pendula)	02/10/2008	
flowering plant	Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)	15/07/1991	Invasive Species: Invasive Species Invasive Species: Invasive Species >> Medium Impact Invasive Species
flowering plant	Tufted Forget-me-not (Myosotis laxa)	15/07/1991	
flowering plant	Water Mint (Mentha aquatica)	15/07/1991	
flowering plant	Wild Angelica (Angelica sylvestris)	15/07/1991	
flowering plant	Winter Heliotrope (Petasites fragrans)	20/02/2017	
flowering plant	Yellow Iris (Iris pseudacorus)	15/07/1991	
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	Elmis aenea	02/10/2008	
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	Limnius volckmari	02/10/2008	
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Azure Damselfly (Coenagrion puella)	13/05/2000	
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Banded Demoiselle (Calopteryx splendens)	13/07/2019	
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Blue-tailed Damselfly (Ischnura elegans)	13/05/2000	
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Common Darter (Sympetrum striolatum)	11/09/2003	
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	Large Red Damselfly (Pyrrhosoma nymphula)	13/05/2000	
insect - mayfly (Ephemeroptera)	Baetis rhodani	02/10/2008	

The Ballyhoura Development Community Inclusion Toolkit

Ballyhoura Development has created a community inclusion toolkit to be used as a practical guide for community groups to increase volunteerism in their localities. The toolkit can be used to increase community buy-in, raise participation levels, and ensure that all members of the community have equal opportunities to engage with their communities. The main points of the toolkit are summarised below, and the full community tool kit can be accessed on the Ballyhoura Development website.

Community inclusion is important because it gives all individuals an opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to their community. This is particularly relevant to Tidy Towns groups as they seek to enhance the social, aesthetic, and environmental profile of their communities to the advantage of all its inhabitants. A fully inclusive Tidy Towns group benefits from a diverse range of perspectives that help to inspire future actions that benefit the community at large.

The five most important guidelines for community inclusion include the following:

1. **Keep people informed.** This means letting the community know who the Tidy Towns group is, and what they do. Tidy Towns groups should emphasise that they welcome all offers of help, and that there is a space for volunteers to contribute their own ideas. This can be achieved by:
 - regularly sharing information on their work
 - highlighting new volunteer opportunities
 - Finding new ways to communicate using a range of methods e.g., WhatsApp, Instagram, texts, local notes, parish newspapers and often the most successful: word of mouth

A diverse range of communication methods ensures that the group's message is broadcast to a wider audience. If a Tidy Towns group is unsure about how to use social media, it could be an ideal role for which to recruit new volunteers.
2. **Getting people's views.** Tidy Towns groups should regularly try to get opinions from all groups in the locality. Community members should be encouraged to attend meetings where they are able to express their concerns and new ideas. Suggestion boxes and questionnaires are good alternative methods to get people's views in an anonymous way.
3. **Helping to get more people involved.** The benefits of this include a more equitable division of the workload across the group, the development of a diverse range of skill sets within the group, and the increased longevity of the group. Getting more people involved can often be a big challenge. Some suggestions that may help include:
 - Enhancing the social side of projects e.g., litter picks could be followed by tea and the chance to chat
 - Finding areas where the whole family can safely be involved in a task
 - Reaching out to new arrivals into the community
 - Seeking volunteers who are willing to take on defined tasks for a set period
 - Encouraging the formation of subgroups responsible for a specific area of interest, such as liaising with the schools/youth, or biodiversity and sustainability
4. **Building relationships with other groups in the community.** It is important to develop strong working relationships through mutual respect, communication and cooperation. Other groups

insect - mayfly (Ephemeroptera)	Ecdyonurus insignis	31/12/1996	
insect - mayfly (Ephemeroptera)	Ecdyonurus venosus	31/12/1996	
insect - mayfly (Ephemeroptera)	Heptagenia sulphurea	31/12/1996	
insect - mayfly (Ephemeroptera)	Serratella ignita	02/10/2008	
insect - stonefly (Plecoptera)	Perla bipunctata	12/06/2006	
mollusc	Ancylus fluviatilis	02/10/2008	
mollusc	Freshwater Nerite (Theodoxus (Theodoxus) fluviatilis)	02/10/2008	
moss	Smaller Lattice-moss (Cinclidotus fontinaloides)	02/10/2008	Threatened Species: Least concern
terrestrial mammal	Daubenton's Bat (Myotis daubentonii)	27/08/2013	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
terrestrial mammal	Eurasian Badger (Meles meles)	31/12/2014	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
terrestrial mammal	Eurasian Red Squirrel (Sciurus vulgaris)	31/12/2012	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
terrestrial mammal	Irish Stoat (Mustela erminea subsp. hibernica)	04/06/2012	
terrestrial mammal	Lesser Horseshoe Bat (Rhinolophus hipposideros)	01/09/2008	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex II Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
terrestrial mammal	Lesser Noctule (Nyctalus leisleri)	01/09/2008	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
terrestrial mammal	Pine Marten (Martes martes)	31/12/2012	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex V Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
terrestrial mammal	Pipistrelle (Pipistrellus pipistrellus sensu lato)	01/09/2008	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
terrestrial mammal	Soprano Pipistrelle (Pipistrellus pygmaeus)	19/09/2008	Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive Protected Species: EU Habitats Directive >> Annex IV Protected Species: Wildlife Acts
terrestrial mammal	West European Hedgehog (Erinaceus europaeus)	29/08/2013	Protected Species: Wildlife Acts

in a community may be doing projects that could complement the work of the Tidy Towns group, thus adding value to the competition entry form.

5. **Measuring Success.** Measuring and recognising successes has an important positive impact on sustaining a group's motivation over the years. It is important to take time to reflect on what has been achieved, as often groups focus too intensively on the work that is still yet to be done. A suggested activity could be to hold a regular/annual celebratory event. It is also important to highlight achievements on social media and in the local press, in order to keep the community informed and thus encourage further participation and support.

The Ballyhoura community inclusion toolkit contains a number of templates to support groups in developing their own inclusion strategy. Examples of such templates include:

- A community inclusion charter that can be signed by a Tidy Towns group chairperson
- A community 'health check list for community groups', which allows groups to examine their level of inclusivity

The collaborative ethos of the Tidy Towns competition encourages people to work together to make their communities an attractive place to live and work. The Community Inclusion Toolkit can be a valuable support in translating this ethos into reality. Tidy Towns Groups are encouraged to access the full toolkit on the Ballyhoura Development website.

Appendix 4 Tips for good biodiversity management

Stone walls

Stone walls provide an important habitat for a wide range of plants and invertebrates (insects and other creepy crawlies) which, in turn, provide food for birds and small mammals. The stone walls and structures in Ballyhoura Country are often very rich in their biodiversity and offer many opportunities for raising awareness about the incredible variety of life that can be found in our local natural environments.

If you have stone walls, stone bridges and other old stone structures, please try to protect them. This is an important biodiversity action, which will gain you points in the competition.

Here are some tips for good practice:

- Never clean or power wash, allow the lichens and mosses to develop.
- Never use herbicide at the base of a stone structure; this is very harmful to the wildlife that lives in the stone and will lead to worse weed problems in the future.
- Some ivy is OK on a wall, but do not allow it to encroach as the roots can penetrate between stones and lead to instability. The best way to remove it is to cut it back manually to its stumps (where it is growing out of the wall). Do not try to pull it out as this may lead to further instability.
Paint a small layer of herbicide on the stump (a glyphosate containing herbicide is the safest) and, if there are a few stumps only, wrap a plastic bag around the stump, leaving air within the bag, and tie with an elastic band. This will protect pollinating insects from being harmed.
This is best done in autumn, on a calm, dry, and cloudy day. Avoid using herbicide on a sunny day as the vapours can be harmful.
- Sometimes, other damaging plants can become established in stone structures. Examples are elder, buddleia (butterfly bush), briars, sycamore seedlings, and the invasive red valerian (*Centranthus ruber*). Treat these as you would ivy.
- Learn to identify the native flowers and ferns that grow on stone walls, some of them are delicate and very pretty. Consider involving the local school to monitor the species present, erect signage to help others learn to identify the different species, and raise awareness of this important habitat for biodiversity.

Hedgerows

Ninety percent of Ireland's biodiversity occurs in the hedgerows, yet they are much maligned and abused by careless management. A healthy hedgerow provides an incredible ecological corridor for many animal and bird species, allowing them safe passage as they move from one area to another, with ample food and shelter along the way, and a safe place to rear their young. A healthy hedgerow reaps many benefits for the landowner, providing shelter for grazing animals, protection from soil erosion, drought and flooding, and acting as a protective agent against crop diseases.

To protect hedgerows, Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976 (amended in 2000) states that it is an offence to cut, grub, burn or otherwise destroy hedgerows during the nesting season from March 1 to August 31st. This Act is in place to protect nesting birds and other wildlife. Many parent birds will not leave their nests in the face of danger and mechanical hedge cutters cause many catastrophic injuries. Please make a Tidy Town commitment to protect hedgerows during the nesting season as far as you are able, except where road visibility is an issue.

There are many resources online which advise on good hedgerow management, including heritagecouncil.ie, teagasc.ie, biodiversityireland.ie, and Hedgelink.org.uk.

Ecological corridors

Hedgerows, stone walls, rivers, river banks, ditches, earth banks and grassy road verges all provide ecological corridors for wildlife. Maintaining existing ecological corridors and creating new ones are two of the most valuable actions for biodiversity that a Tidy Town can take.

All species, be it birds, bats, animals or insects, need to constantly move from one area to another in order to find food, shelter, and a place to rear their young. Our towns and villages can create a barrier of concrete and man made structures which provide no food or shelter, and it can be impossible for some species to safely move from one side of an urban area to another.

We can create an ecological corridor through our towns and villages which ensures that pollinating insects can find safe passage across. This can be done by connecting green spaces, hedgerows, trees, gardens, road verges and planting schemes together. Create a resting place for bees by using planters and hanging baskets filled with pollinator perennials to fill in the gaps. A bee can fly for 40 metres before it has to rest and find food. Monaghan TT planted apple trees throughout the town creating an ecological corridor with spring nectar and pollen for bees and apples for thrushes and blackbirds in the autumn. Bruff has created an ecological corridor through the town using planting schemes, trees and existing corridors such as the Morning star river. Creating an ecological corridor provides many opportunities to involve residents who may wish to contribute by planting pollinator friendly perennials and native wild flowers in their gardens, thus making it ever easier for wildlife to make the journey across.

Invasive species

Invasive species are an ever-growing problem in Ireland and elsewhere, and they are regarded as one of the key drivers of biodiversity loss. If we want to halt biodiversity loss, we must attend to the control of invasive species.

All TT communities can benefit from an invasive species survey which identifies those species which are controlled by legislation (e.g., Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed); those which are very problematic but without legislative control measures in place (e.g., butterfly bush, winter heliotrope), garden escapes, and the dreaded invasive alien tree diseases.

A survey can help you identify which species are problematic in your community and how best to control them in a way that is effective, inexpensive, long lasting, and causes minimum environmental harm.

Invasive species can be easily removed if they are caught in time, early intervention is always best.

Always seek advice before attempting an invasive species control programme yourselves. Doing the wrong thing can make things a whole load worse and can lead to unnecessary additional costs.

Appendix 5: List of resources

Bat Conservation Ireland is an all-Ireland charity that promotes the conservation of bats and their habitats. It provides information about Irish bats, their conservation and how to carry out bat surveys.

<https://www.batconservationireland.org/>

Biodiversity Ireland has maps and records of species distribution and has a portal for recording biodiversity.

www.biodiversityireland.ie

Bird Watch Ireland is a charity for the conservation of Irish birds. Their website has information on how to identify birds, as well as various surveys that Tidy Towns groups can get involved in.

<https://birdwatchireland.ie/>

Conscious Cup is a campaign which aims to reduce and eventually eliminate single use cups in Ireland by encouraging customers to bring their own reusable cups.

<https://consciouscup.ie/>

EPA Citizens provides information on citizen science initiatives as well as general education resources for learning more about the environment.

<https://www.epa.ie/irelandsenvironment/getinvolved/citizenscience/epacitizenscience/initiatives/>

Free water refill stations in your town. Join the tap map www.refill.ie

Farm Plastics collection scheme, Bring Centres and Farmyard Collections

<https://www.farmplastics.ie/>

Free Trade Ireland is where unwanted items (both domestic and business) can be swapped around

<https://www.freetradeireland.ie/>

Grow It Yourself is a not-for-profit organisation that helps people grow food at home, at work, and in their communities.

<https://giy.ie/>

Green Your Festival provides information on how to run more environmentally friendly festivals.

<https://greenyourfestival.ie/>

Green Schools is student led, whole school initiative for the environment. The website provides resources such as seminars on Litter & Waste, Biodiversity, Water, Travel, etc

<https://greenschoolsireland.org/>

Invasive Species Ireland provides information on how to identify and prevent the spread of invasive species

www.invasivespeciesireland.com

Leave no trace is an outdoors ethics program aimed towards the responsible, sustainable use and enjoyment of the natural environment. The project provides multiple toolkits for communities to use to this end.

<https://www.leavenotraceireland.org/resources/educational-resources/community-resources-tidy-towns/>

Live Green is the national sustainability portal for householders, containing information on energy efficiency, water conservation and waste prevention

<https://www.epa.ie/livegreen/>

The Local Authority Prevention Network has lots of information about waste prevention and green living

<https://localprevention.ie/tidy-categories/homes/>

The Local Authority Water Program is a state agency to develop and implement the River Basin Management Plan. Community Water Officers are available to support initiatives to protect and develop local water bodies.

<http://watersandcommunities.ie/>

My Waste is Irelands official guide to waste management. It contains guides on recycling, waste services and tips on managing food waste

www.mywaste.ie

National Park and Wildlife Service is a state agency which provides information on nature reserves, SACs, SPAs, publications on wildlife, biodiversity, etc

www.npws.ie

Notice Nature is Ireland's public awareness campaign on biodiversity. The aim of the campaign is to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity and to encourage everyone to play their part in its protection. The website provides guidance on individual and community actions.

<http://www.noticenature.ie> www.antisce.org

National Spring Clean is an online resource for Irelands nationwide anti-litter campaign

www.nationalspringclean.org

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan gives guidance to community groups and business on how they can help to protect pollinators

<https://pollinators.ie/>

Poster Free Elections co-ordinate with political candidates to introduce voluntary poster bans and poster free zones.

<https://www.posterfree.ie/>

Dublin City provide advice on maintenance and safety considerations for the installation of rain water harvesting devices

<http://www.dublincity.ie/main-menu-services-water-waste-and-environment-your-drinking-water-rainwater-harvesting/rainwater>

Limerick City provide information on the reuse and repair of items such as computers, mobiles, clothing, shoes, furniture, appliances, bicycles, musical instruments etc

<https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/environment/reuse-and-repair-guide>

Repak is an environmental non-profit organization who advocate for a shift towards the circular economy. They run campaigns, provide advice on recycling and reducing packaging, and provide plenty of resources for schools through their “Team Green”.

<https://repak.ie/news-room/our-campaigns/>

See it Say it is an Environmental Protection Agency app to report litter and illegal dumping to local authorities. The app can be downloaded through the Google Play Store

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=net.fusio.necl&hl=en_IE

Seed Savers work to preserve heirloom and heritage food crop varieties. They also host workshops on growing food, food security, and saving seeds. They sell heritage and heirloom seeds that are not available commercially

<http://www.irishseedsavers.ie/>

Sharing Waste Bins with a neighbour is a great way to manage your waste while saving money, and is acceptable under the new household waste Bye-Laws

<https://www.mywaste.ie/my-household-waste-bye-laws/>

Stop Food Waste has information and resources to help individuals, businesses, and communities to reduce the amount of food they waste

<https://www.stopfoodwaste.ie>

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) works with homeowners, business and communities to enable a transition to a greener economy and smarter energy use.

<https://www.seai.ie/>

SDGS For All provides information on the Sustainability of clothes and textiles

<http://sdgsforall.ie/wardrobe-change/>

Team Limerick Clean up is an online resource for Limerick's clean-up campaign.

<http://www.nationalspringclean.org/>

Terracycle offers a range of free programmes funded by conscientious companies, as well as recycling solutions available for purchase for almost every form of waste.

<https://www.terracycle.com/en-IE>

Think Before You Flush Campaign has information on how to keep your local water bodies in good condition by being aware of what can and cannot be flushed down a toilet

<https://thinkbeforeyouflush.org/>

Vincent Wildlife Trust gives an overview of Irish mammals and how to survey for them

www.vincentwildlife.ie

We Share is a gift economy for sharing items, skills and knowledge

<https://www.weshare.ie/>

A litter free and clean environment contributes towards the socio-economic wellbeing of a community. Tidy Town adjudicators will assess a community on the absence of litter and dumping as well as evidence of a litter control strategy which includes regular litter patrols, segregation of collected litter during clean-ups, and the promotion of anti-litter awareness throughout community.

The first step in developing a litter control strategy is to survey the community to identify the types/sources of litter, and the location of any litter black spots. Once these have been identified, a targeted litter control strategy can then be developed.

Below is a table of some of the common types of litter and some suggestions of possible solutions.

Litter Type	Proposed Solutions
Dog Fouling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Stencil messages on the ground rather than using traditional signageRaise awareness of the negative health effects of dog fouling
Posters and cable ties	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop a policy wherein all posters are taken down within a set time from their respective eventsConsider becoming a poster free community during elections - visit www.posterfree.ie for more informationLiaise with election campaigners to ensure that they remove cable ties as well as postersPromote the use of environmentally friendly reusable alternatives to cable ties, such as Velcro straps
Localised littering	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Create a regular litter-picking rota and where possible, segregate the waste. Ensure that you provide information on this in your application formCollaborate with local authorities to ensure that municipal bins are regularly emptiedInform the local authorities municipal bins are being used to dispose of household wasteInvestigate the feasibility of becoming a no-bin townEncourage business owners to keep the surrounding areas outside their business litter-free and tidy.Develop collaborative projects with your local litter warden
Fly tipping and litter blackspots	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify the main litter black spots within the communityWork with the local authority to use CCTV to monitor locations with known litter issuesRaise awareness of the hazards that litter can cause for humans and wildlifeReport any litter on the Environmental Protection Agency app See-it, Say-it.Find an alternative use for a site that is a litter black spot. There has been a recent campaign in Galway to turn litter black spots into pocket gardens

Introduction

Hanging baskets have a bad reputation when it comes to biodiversity. The traditional bedding plants – begonias, geraniums, busy Lizzy, petunias and polyanthus have virtually no pollen and nectar and are of little value to pollinators. They are expensive as the plants need to be purchased each year. The plastic waste involved is considerable as the pots cannot be recycled (though they can be reused). And they require a huge amount of energy - watering, dead-heading and feeding through the summer months. However, there are some spots where hanging baskets provide a great blast of colour and give people a lift. If you think outside the box a little the chosen plants can also provide food for our pollinators. Many perennials work very well in hanging baskets and these can be reused each year or planted out into the ground at the end of summer. Many annuals can be very easily raised from seed – such as cosmos and calendula, just start them off in March indoors and they'll be ready for the summer season.

How to design a plater

When making your selection include upright and hanging plants. To avoid a fussy look try and limit the colour selection to two or three shades. Working with contrasting colours can work very well e.g. yellow and purple or blue and orange. Think about contrasting leaf shades and textures too and not just the flowers. Add some perennial plants and consider the more unusual varieties such as sedums which are very drought tolerant. Strawberries and cherry tomatoes are great in hanging baskets. Herbs such as lavender, thyme and oregano can work really well too as these are all drought tolerant. Some people think of the Thriller, Filler, Spiller, when designing their hanging baskets or planters. The thriller being the tall start of the show (e.g. Salvia nemorosa cosmos). Fillers add some bulks so there is no empty space (e.g. ivy, ladies mantle). Spillers fall over the edge (e.g. erigeron, nasturtiums, aubrieta, bacopa).

Below you'll find some suggestions for your hanging baskets and planters. There is a list of plants at the bottom and these are good options too.

1. Hanging basket, 30-45cm diameter – annual plants

- Tropaeolum nanum Nasturtium 'Alaska Mixed', marbled leaves, yellow/orange, 20 x 50cm * 2
- Bacopa purple, May-Sept, 10x 45cm * 2

Creeping thyme or Oregano Origanum vulgare 'Aureum' Golden Marjoram would also work well here for more greenery - filler



2. Hanging basket, 30-45cm diameter – perennial plants

- Erigeron karvinskianus/ mexican fleabane, white/flushed pink, May-Sep, 40x40cm * 2
- Sedum spurium 'Fuldaglut', rich, bronze-red foliage, yellow flowers Jul/Aug, 10x50cm * 1
- Geranium Dilys, pink flowers, Jul-Nov 20*60cm * 1



3. Large round planter, 50cm diameter – annual plants

- Salvia nemorosa 'Caradonna', sage, purple flowers, Jun-Oct, 50x 30cm (perennial) * 1
- Limnanthes douglasii/ Poached egg plant, white and yellow flowers, May-July, 15x15cm * 3
- Bidens ferulifolia, bright yellow, Jun-Aug, 60cm x 45cm * 3



4. Large round planter, 50cm diameter - perennial plants

- Erysimum bicolor bowle's mauve – evergreen, purple, 45cm x 50cm (short lived perennial) * 1
- Iberis sempervirens/ candytuft, white, Apr-Sept, 30 x 45cm * 3
- Aubrieta 'Purple Cascade', purple, Mar-May, 10 x 45cm * 3



5. Large planter, 1m x 1.5m – perennial plants

- Verbena rigida, purple, 60 x 45cm, Jun-Oct * 3
- Coreopsis moon beam, pale yellow, Jun-Sept, 30 x 30cm * 2
- Geranium Rozanne, pale blue, Jun-Sept, 30 x 60cm x 3
- Sedum spathulifolium Cape Blanco, grey green foliage EG, yellow flower, 10cm x 30cm * 4
- Briza media, flowering grass, 60cm x 50cm * 2



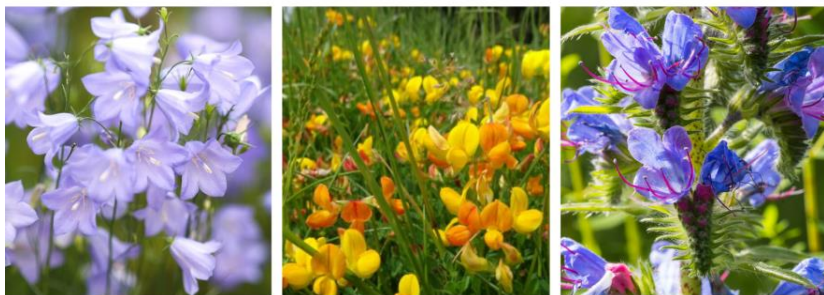
6. Large planter, 1m x 1.5m – annual plants

- Calendula officinalis 'Indian Prince' orange/yellow, May-Oct, 75 x 45cm * 3
- Cosmos bipinnatus 'Cosimo Red-white', pink/white, Jun-Oct 60 x 40cm * 3
- Bacopa pink, pink, May-Sept, 10x 45cm * 4



7. Native planter, 1m x 1.5m

- Viper's bugloss/ Echium vulgare, purple, Jun-Aug 75 x 30cm * 3
- Ox eye daisy/ Leucanthemum vulgare .5-1 x .1-.5m * 2
- Briza media/ Quaking grass 60 x 50cm * 3
- Field Scabious /Knautia arvensis, pink, Jul-Sep 1 x 1m * 2
- Native bellflower/harebell/ Campanula rotundifolia, blue, Jun-Aug, 50 x 50cm * 3
- Birds foot trefoil/ Lotus corniculatus, yellow, 10-40cm, Jun-Sep * 3
- Tufted Vetch/Vicia cracca, purple, 20-80cm high, Jun-Aug * 2



Other native species for planters include Red campion (silene dioica), dove’s foot cranesbill, selfheal (Prunella vulgaris), germander speed well (Veronica chaemadrys).

A largish planter for semi shade could include a combination of meadow sweet, valerian and purple loosestrife.

Plant latin name	Notes
Achillea millefolium pomegranate	Thriller
Achillea millefolium red velvet	Thriller
Alchemilla venosa	Filler/Spiller
Campanula portenschlagiana	Filler/Spiller
Campanula poscharskyana	Filler/Spiller
Coreopsis Christchurch	Thriller
Coreopsis full moon	Thriller
Coresopsis verticillate Zagreb	Thriller
Erysimum ‘Apricot Delight’	Thriller
Gaura lindheimeri, short form	Thriller
Geranium cinereum ‘Giuseppe’	Filler/Spiller
Geranium sanguineum var. striatum	Filler/Spiller
Iberis fairyland mixed	Filler/Spiller
Lavandula angustifolia 'Hidcote'Dwarf	
Lobularia maritima ‘Snowdrift’ and Easter bonnet series	Filler/Spiller
Matricaria maritima	Thriller
Origanum vulgare 'Aureum' Golden Marjoram	Filler/Spiller
Origanum vulgare, Oregano:	Filler/Spiller
Plant Latin name	Notes
Scabiosa pink perpetual flowering	Thriller
Sedum brevifolium	Filler/Spiller
Thyme Thymus x citriodorus	Filler/Spiller
Thymus x citriodorus 'Aureus'	Filler/Spiller
Thymus x citriodorus 'Bertram Anderson'	Filler/Spiller
Thymus x citriodorus 'Silver Queen'	Filler/Spiller
Tomatoes	
Strawberries	
Salad leaves	

Where to purchase plants

Caherhurley Nursery: www.caherhurleynursery.com. Slieve Berneagh, Co. Clare Tel: 087 906 2987. Certified organic nursery, all plants are home-grown, outside, on a cold and windy slope, in order to provide healthy hardy plants, suitable for the extremes of the Irish climate. They are free of bee-killing chemicals.

CELT: Native trees. Scariff, Co. Clare. Tel: 061-640765. www.celt.net.org is a great supplier of native bareroot trees, grown from seed collected in Ireland. It is a small nursery.

Future Forests (www.futureforests.ie) is a good source of perennials and shrubs. When you place an order, please ask them to ensure that the plants they are selling are guaranteed to be free of New Zealand flatworm which is becoming a menace. They also supply many native plants.

Design by nature www.wildflowers.ie is the best source for wildflower seeds. Often the packets that people buy contain seed that has not been saved in Ireland. This company save only Irish seed which is much better adapted to our climate and growing conditions and is of a high quality.

Buy plants in small pots. They are cheaper this way and will grow quickly.

When you purchase snowdrops, daffodils and bluebells, please obtain the native varieties if at all possible. Snowdrops and bluebells are fairly easily purchased from garden centres, but you may need to order in advance because stocks get sold very quickly. Native daffodils (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus* or *Narcissus obvallaris*) can be purchased from shiptonbulbs.co.uk. This is a lovely family run farm and the onl

Appendix 8: Streetscapes

A streetscape is typically defined as the visual elements of a street – the road, pathways, signage, street furniture, and so on. Streetscapes belong to the public realm, and should reflect a community's shared need to go about their business in a safe and attractive environment. They have the power to positively contribute to the liveability and attractiveness of a town by creating enticing areas in which to live, shop, eat, explore, or simply linger.

Altering streetscapes can often be challenging, as it requires the cooperation of residents, business owners, councils, and other bodies. These groups frequently have differing visions for what is ultimately a shared space. While it is often difficult for Tidy Towns groups to make immediate changes to their streetscapes, groups can have a profound impact on the development of their streetscape by effectively communicating and collaborating with different agencies.

Much of the work that is done to improve streetscapes can remain unseen. It is important to keep copies of correspondence relating to such work, and to put updates for the adjudicator into the entry form. The progress of multi-annual projects should be highlighted by creating a time line of before, during, and after pictures. This will show adjudicators the positive visual impact that would have otherwise gone unnoticed.

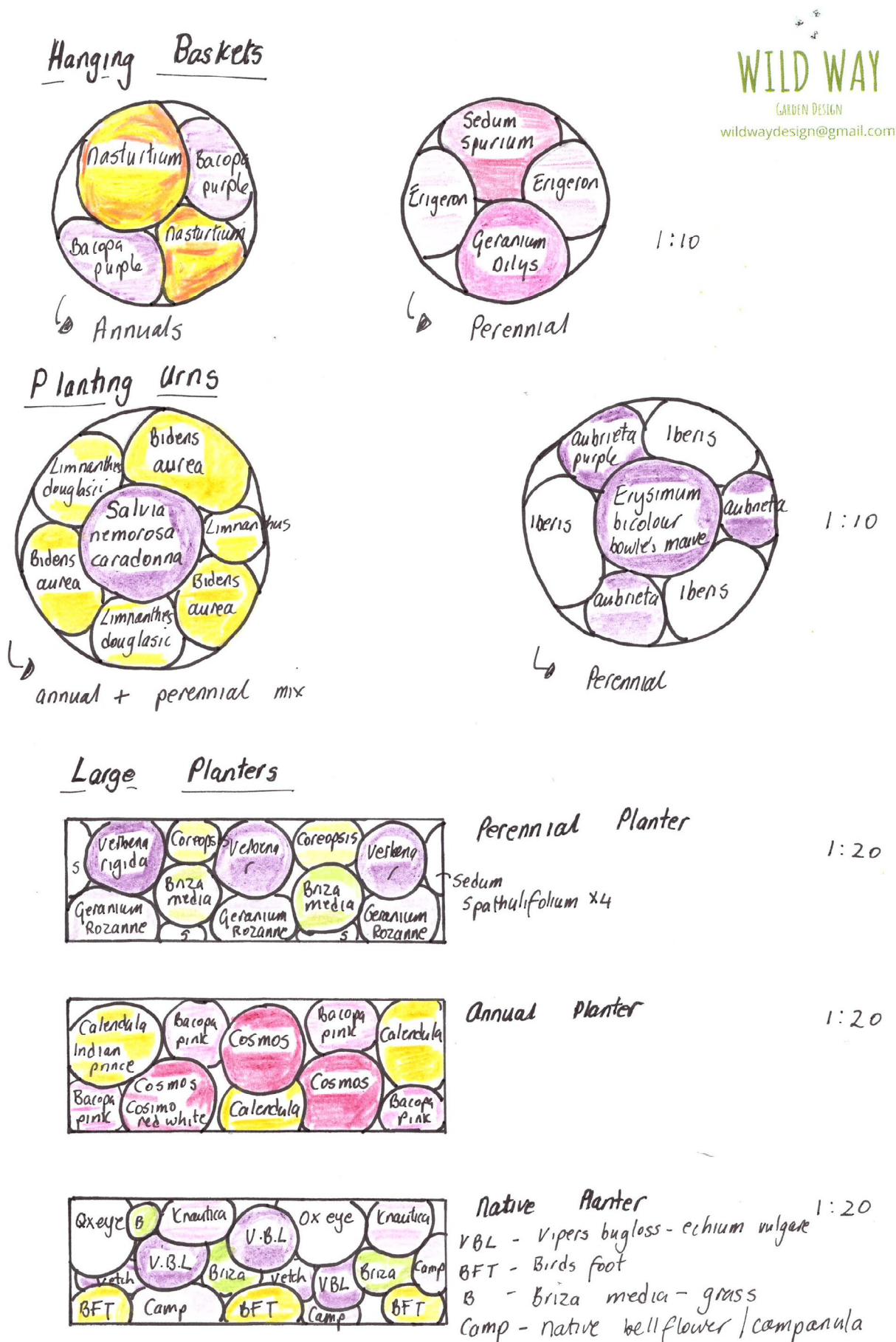
Below is a guide to some suggested areas and projects for Tidy Towns groups to focus on when working to enhance their streetscape.

Heritage

- **Conservation and presentation of historic buildings.** The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage contains a freely accessible online register of all historic buildings. This could be used to create a local heritage trail. Such a project also offers many opportunities for collaboration with the wider community.
- **Traditional Shopfronts.** Traditional shopfronts can be a defining characteristic of a streetscape. Some shopfronts date from as far back as the 19th century. These often add a strong sense of place to their community, as well as creating a physical link between the past, present, and future of a locality. Possible projects include recording the traditional shop fronts in your community, promoting their history and any local stories associated with them, and collaborating with businesses and state agencies to ensure the sympathetic restoration of the traditional shopfronts.

Dereliction

- This is a complex issue, requiring cooperation between many individuals and agencies. It is important to highlight the efforts made to address derelict sites



and unoccupied buildings in the competition entry form even if they are unsuccessful, as the adjudicator will note any efforts made. Possible projects for derelict buildings include placing painted boards behind windows and doors and creating decals that show the biodiversity and heritage. Derelict sites could be 'screened' from view by finding appropriate fencing or planting.

Accessibility

- New buildings, public places, and street furniture should always be designed with accessibility in mind. Universal access requires that physical, sensory, cognitive and language needs are accounted for. Possible projects include surveying the accessibility of the community, then publicising the results and highlighting any efforts that will need to be made to overcome the identified issues. The website www.universaldesign.ie provides a number of helpful checklists for use during a community accessibility audit.
- Make Way Day is a national campaign which highlights obstructions that prevent people from being easily able to navigate through a space – see www.makewayday.com for more information about how communities and individuals can get involved.
- Consider installing inclusive play equipment into playground. This equipment gives children of all abilities the opportunity to participate fully.

Visual Impact

- Community spaces such as squares and parks are an integral part of streetscapes. A sense of harmony can be created throughout a streetscape through the use of repeated design elements. This helps to link places together whilst retaining their unique characteristics.
- Having a variety of paving types in one area can create visual clutter, so a single type of paving should be used where possible. This is something to bear in mind during the design phase of new sites/sites under renovation.
- Audit the lighting on building facades and support owners to make positive changes. For example - dark sky initiatives are growing in popularity as a means to reduce light pollution. A common action within these initiatives is to install full cut off lighting. This benefits biodiversity by reducing light pollution, and reduces hazardous glare for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians. Businesses and local authorities should be encouraged to adopt this practice wherever possible.
- Encourage business owners to remove unnecessary signage and to maintain shopfronts in a manner that is characteristic of the town
- Collaborate with local authorities to have appropriately designed way-finding signage, brown signage, and nameplates. Signage should preferably be kept to a minimum, and be bilingual where possible.

- The installation of information panels relating to local history and wildlife should be carefully planned to ensure that the streetscape does not become overcrowded with signs.
- Attention should be given to the presentation of parking locations – surface quality, markings, and signage should be regularly checked and maintained.
- Encourage utility companies to move the wirescape underground.
- Consider developing a street planting plan that will enhance biodiversity, create ecological corridors, contribute to traffic calming, and decrease noise and air pollution.
- Installing public art elements helps to foster a sense of community. Engage local artists to create relevant local projects that will give a strong sense of place.

It is important to remember that streetscapes are shared places that cater to a multitude of users including pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, businesses, and the public. The needs of the most vulnerable users should be kept to the forefront of any development or project.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



The Social inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 is funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020.