

# Letterkenny Tidy Towns

Action Plan 2023



# Letterkenny Tidy Towns

## Committee Members & Roles

<b>Joint Chair</b>	Gerard McCormick Brian McCormick
<b>Secretary</b>	Anne Condon
<b>Treasurer</b>	Eileen Sweeney
<b>PRO &amp; Social Media Co-ordinator</b>	Ann-Louise McClintock
<b>Built Environment</b>	Donnan Harvey
<b>Asst Treasurer</b>	Gerard McCormick
<b>Litter Co-ordinator</b>	Neil Blockley
<b>Helping Hands Co-ordinator</b>	Charlie Grant
<b>Residents Association</b>	Neily McDaid Neil Blockley Margaret Cullen Dorothy Toye Tom Crossan Donnan Harvey Charlie Grant Anne Marie Lockhart Sarah Lockhart Pat McDonagh
<b>Sustainability Projects</b>	Eilish Kennedy Ann Louise McClintock Gerard McCormick
<b>Helping Hands Gardening Team</b>	Neil Blockley Margaret Cullen Dorothy Toye

<b>Helping Hands Gardening Team</b>	Brian Hegarty Robert Holmes
<b>Litter Control</b>	Eoghan Megannety Brian Hegarty Catherine Lawler Margaret Cullen Dorothy Toye Robert Holmes Hamza Djabri Chaher Yassine Svitlana Babenko
<b>Cleaner Community Campaign</b>	Tom Crossan Neily McDaid Brian Hegarty
<b>Biodiversity Projects</b>	Anne Condon Ann Louise McClintock Gerard McCormick
<b>Summer Flower Project</b>	Brian Hegarty Gerard McCormick
<b>CES Development</b>	Gerard McCormick Brian McCormick
<b>Local Authority Coordinators</b>	Gerard McCormick Brian McCormick
<b>Committee Youth Officer</b>	Brian McCormick



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# About Us

## Mission

Letterkenny Tidy Towns Committee is a voluntary operation, whose mission is to help make Letterkenny a better town to live in and to enjoy.

## Vision

Letterkenny Tidy Towns has been active in the town for over 35 years and have a strong commitment to excellence, we work hard to make Letterkenny look great – a place where people want to live and visit.

### Our Vision

*“To greatly improve our sense of community, the quality of people’s lives & our local environment to become a thriving & sustainable town.”*



## Creating our Action Plan



**1 Vision**



**20 Dedicated Committee Members**



**8 Areas of Action**



**100+ Volunteers**



**72+ Actions**



**A Thriving Sustainable Letterkenny**



## Our Community

We are very proud to work with and receive support from a wide range of stakeholders in Letterkenny. We are always eager to build new relationships and collaborations where positive benefits for Letterkenny can be achieved.

### Education

- ATU University
- Loreto Convent Secondary School
- St Eunan's College Secondary School
- Colaiste Ailigh Secondary School
- Errigal College Secondary School
- Ballyraine National School
- Scoil Colmcille National School
- Scoil Mhuire Gan Smal National School
- Letterkenny Educate Together National School
- Woodlands National School
- St Patrick's National School
- St Bernadette's Special School



Mayor Donal "Mandy" Kelly presenting Scoil Mhuire Gan Smal with their prize at the Cleaner Community Campaign awards 2022



Committee Members with prize winners at Cleaner Community Campaign Awards 2022



### Spirituality

St Eunans Cathedral  
Church of the Irish Martyrs  
Conwal Parish Church  
Trinity Presbyterian Church



### Arts & Culture

An Grianan Theatre  
Fáilte Ireland  
Letterkenny Heritage Group  
Creative Corner  
Letterkenny Farmers Market  
Cathedral Quarter



### Environment & Heritage

Donegal County Council  
Cathedral Quarter  
Letterkenny Community Gardens  
Letterkenny Heritage Group  
An Taisce  
Donegal Historical Society  
Swilly Walk Initiative



### Employment

Community Employment Scheme  
Community Development Program  
National Learning Network  
Donegal Local Development Company



### Social



Cara House Family Resource Centre  
Men's Shed  
Active Retirement Group  
Residence Associations  
Donegal Volunteer Centre  
Direct Provision Group  
Letterkenny Youth Club  
Letterkenny Youth Service

### Business & Corporate



Letterkenny Municipal Authority  
Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce  
Failte Ireland  
Magees Chemist  
Brian McCormick Sports  
Optum  
Rotary Club  
Lions Club  
Alcorn's Garden Centre

### Sports & Recreation



Letterkenny Flower Club  
5th Donegal Scout Group  
Letterkenny Rovers FC  
St Eunan's GAA  
Letterkenny Golf Club  
Letterkenny Gaels GAA

## Ní neart go cur le chéile

Letterkenny is a large bustling town with a diverse range of community and sports groups as well as residents' associations and active retirement groups. These groups are a vital source of volunteers, ideas, and feedback for the improvement of our community and implementation of our TidyTown Action Plan.

TidyTown is not just a competition. It demonstrates everything good about our people – volunteerism, positivity, working together, community spirit, protecting our environment, that sense of pride in looking after the place you call home.

**Thank you for your continued support.**

# Sustainable Development

Sustainability is a key element of our vision. TidyTowns communities around Ireland are increasing awareness and engagement on the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

The Sustainable Development Goals are a call for action by all countries – poor, rich and middle-income – to promote prosperity while protecting the planet.

They recognise that ending poverty must go together with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.

Letterkenny TidyTowns have considered the SDGs in all our projects and this Action Plan sets out the goals applicable to our projects under each competition category.



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace, and justice.



End poverty in all its forms everywhere

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Reduce inequality within and among countries

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

# Community Planning & Involvement

## Objectives

The main overarching theme of this category is to further the Letterkenny Tidy Towns objective and work in the Tidy Towns competition for the benefit of the wider Letterkenny community by:

- **Maximising participation from the local community; and**
- **Engaging with relevant agencies, local groups, interested parties and stakeholders in Letterkenny.**

Planning, in this context, is taken to relate primarily to strategic planning and the planning and organising of Tidy Towns related projects. It also relates to on-going projects by other stakeholders that Tidy Towns can support and assist with.

## Priorities

Our priorities are to generate support for, and participation in, Tidy Towns efforts throughout Letterkenny, by the provision of information, increasing public awareness and engagement with relevant public agencies, notably Donegal County Council and all relevant stakeholders.

## What we do

Community involvement is about gaining support from a wide spectrum of the Letterkenny community. We want to engage with the residents, businesses, and the wider stakeholders in Letterkenny.



*Volunteer Appreciation Evening held in October 2022*

## Community Planning & Involvement – Our Actions

Themes	Actions	Status
Community Participation 	Hold a public forum or community consultation with all the stakeholders in the town to develop a new strategic and aspiring plan for Letterkenny Tidy Towns. Currently seeking out funding opportunities. Have approached a consultant to assist with process.	✓ Ongoing through 23 & into 24
	Continue to update our website and add content to our website launched in 2020	✓ Ongoing
	Encourage the public, local businesses, schools & community groups to participate in the “Donate an Hour a Year” initiative.	✓ Ongoing
	We initiated wider community surveys on various topics in April 2022 to inform our workplans. This turned out to be successful, so we are continuing with various forms of surveying, public consultation and public engagement on topics	✓ April 2022 ✓ April 2023
Working Together 	Continue to develop our working relationships with the Letterkenny community.	✓ Ongoing
	Encourage a sense of ownership amongst residents’ associations, community groups and sporting groups in their local area.	✓ Ongoing
	Continue to collaborate with Cathedral Quarter group.	✓ Ongoing
Celebrate Community Involvement 	Held the 37th Letterkenny Cleaner Community Awards Ceremony.	✓ November 2022
	Launched our 38th Letterkenny Cleaner Community Awards.	✓ April 2023
	Encourage participation in the Cleaner Community Awards.	✓ Annually
Growing our Social Media Presence 	Utilise social media as a means of increasing awareness and encouraging community involvement. Re-established our Twitter present in 2022. Target of 2,000 Facebook followers by Sept 2021 was achieved.	✓ Ongoing
	Increasing our online interactions year on year.	✓ Ongoing
	New target to increase followers on our Facebook page to 2,750 followers by end 2023	✓ Ongoing
	Established an Instagram account	✓ September 2022
	Engaging with other local social media influencers on a range of projects, trying ‘Power of One’ first.	✓ Planned

## SDG's that link to our actions



*Municipal Mayor Cllr Donal "Mandy" Kelly with Ukrainian volunteers and Tidy Town Members*



*Joint Chairpersons making presentation to Cllr Donal "Mandy" Kelly with members and CEO of Donegal County Council.*

# Streetscape & Public Places

## Objectives

Letterkenny has its own special character, with streetscapes, public open spaces, history, traditions and building styles that make up its unique identity. The objectives of this category are:

- Protect and improve the physical and environmental fabric and character of the town.
- Protect and enhance the streetscape.
- Conservation and presentation of heritage buildings and sites.
- Enhancing public amenities; and
- General presentation and quality of the area to include the presentation of buildings and shop fronts.

## Priorities

For Letterkenny key streetscapes include Port Road, Lower Main Street, Main Street, Upper Main Street, Church Lane, and the Market Square. A key priority for Letterkenny Tidy Towns is the enhancement of the main shopping streets by:

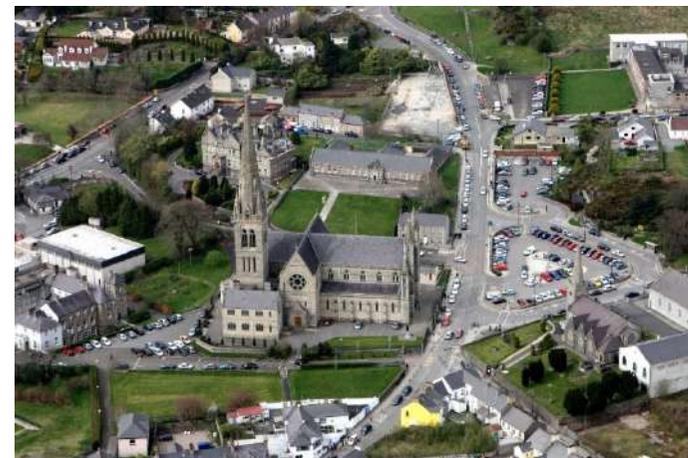
- De-cluttering the streetscape.
- Improving key sites and structures.
- Protecting the character of the area from inappropriate development, including poor signage.
- Supporting the restoration of heritage buildings.

- Lobbying for improvements on unsightly and derelict buildings in key areas of the town.
- Increasing awareness of and the access to information on the rich local history and built heritage of the area.
- Maximising the benefit of local amenities; and
- Improving pedestrian linkages between key sites and amenities.

## What we do

We work to ensure that the streets, buildings, and public spaces that encompass the physical spaces of Letterkenny are appropriate, well maintained, fit for purpose and accessible for all.

*Aerial View of the Cathedral Area*





*Aerial View of the Cathedral Area*



*Traditional Shop front of Speer's*



<b>Streetscape &amp; Public Places – Our actions</b>		
<b>Themes</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Status</b>
Addressing Dereliction  	Map the derelict sites in the town.	✓ Ongoing
	Seek to have derelict sites addressed by the relevant stakeholders (Donegal County Council, business owners, house owners, receivers etc.).	✓ Ongoing
	Enhance the presentation of derelict sites with decorative hoarding and murals, such as our new mural trail or colour scheme design by La Maison and painting by Letterkenny Tidy Towns	✓ Ongoing
	Organised a national conference entitled 'Dereliction in Donegal and Beyond' in July in conjunction with Letterkenny Cathedral Quarter	✓ July 2022
	Due to the success of the Dereliction conference we plan to hold a follow up conference in July 2023.	2023
Improving Visual Presentation  	Continue to improve visual presentation of Lower Main Street and key buildings in the town centre.	✓ Ongoing
	Continue with the strategic placing of murals.	✓ Ongoing
	Foster and develop relationships with local businesses to encourage their participation in the Clean Sweep Initiative.	✓ Ongoing
	Promote the Paint the Town Initiative by encouraging businesses to redecorate their premises in a colourful, coordinated manner.	✓ Ongoing
Educational Signage  	Build on the history and heritage of Letterkenny by supporting Letterkenny's Historical Society's campaign of erecting historical information plaques.	✓ Ongoing
	New plaque erected at the Hospital Roundabout this year	✓ September 2022
	Continue to promote the elimination of unsightly and illegal advertising hoardings within the town centre and on approach roads.	✓ Ongoing
Improved Accessibility  	In consultation with Donegal County Council, seek to enhance local signage, particularly signage that encourages pedestrian connections.	✓ Ongoing
	Both lobby and fund community infrastructure projects.	✓ Ongoing



## SDG's that link to our actions



The conference was opened by Minister of State for Local Government and Planning Peter Burke TD. It included contributions from: Colm Murray (Architectural Officer with the Heritage Council), Frank O'Connor and Jude Sherry (Anois Agency), Dr Karen Keaveney (Assistant Professor of Rural Development at UCD and a member of their Centre for Irish Towns), Joe Gallagher (Donegal County Heritage officer), Lee Gooch (Broadcaster), Kyle Thompson (New Gate Arts Centre), Donnan Harvey (Secretary of the Cathedral Quarter)



A dilapidated house on Church Lane before it was renovated and how it looks today. The area will be discussed, as well as the wider issue of dereliction, during a conference being held in Letterkenny next month.

### Conference to focus on dereliction in Donegal

Posted: 7:00 pm June 21, 2022

SHARE



THE issue of dereliction in Donegal is to be explored through a conference taking place in Letterkenny next month.

The event, taking place on Friday July 22, will be officially opened by Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Deputy Peter Burke.

Other key speakers include Frank O'Connor and Jude Sherry from the Anois Agency. They started the Derelict Ireland campaign and are credited with bringing the issue of dereliction to national attention.

While there are no official statistics on the number of derelict buildings in Donegal, according to the last census there were 23,000 vacant properties in the county.

An example of press coverage from our event



# Greenspaces & Landscaping

## Objectives

The objectives of this category are to enhance the appearance and environment of the area through appropriate landscaping and planting and to maximise the availability, quality, and amenity value of public open spaces. The importance of access to our green spaces and nature for physical and mental health has been starkly highlighted in recent times. Ensuring we have quality greenspaces and landscaped area to enjoy in Letterkenny is important to us.

## Priorities

Letterkenny has a wide range of open spaces to enjoy from lush green parks to wildflower verges. Key priorities are the maintenance and enhancement of our existing open spaces with include:

- **Bernard McGlinchey Park**
- **Ballymacool Park**
- **Ballyboe Park**
- **Famine Garden**
- **Linear Park**

We have an extensive programme of planting, undertake landscaping improvements of open spaces, maintain, and enhance key open green spaces in the town and develop additional public greenspaces, where possible. The presentation and maintenance of key roundabouts in the town is also important in this category.

## What we do

We do this through collaboration with Donegal County Council and other stakeholders and through participation in the Community Employment (CE) Scheme. Currently Letterkenny Tidy Towns has 15 CE Scheme workers and 2 DLDC TUS workers participating in Tidy Towns related work throughout the town. Tidy Towns volunteers also work to add value and enhance green spaces throughout Letterkenny.



*Bernard McGlinchey Park*



<b>Green Spaces &amp; Landscaping – Our actions</b>		
<b>Themes</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Status</b>
Parks & Green Spaces 	Continue to work with the Council to support the enhancement, care and upkeep of Bernard McGlinchey Park, Ballymacool Park, Ballyboe Park, and Linear Park.	✓Ongoing
	Continue supporting development of Mass Rock area.	✓Ongoing
	Continue supporting development of Sentry Hill area.	✓Ongoing
	Support the regeneration of the Market Square as led by Donegal County Council.	✓Ongoing
Year-Round Colour 	Improve the infrastructure and visual improvement of flower displays from the Port Road Bridge leading into the Main Street areas.	✓Ongoing
	Church Lane & TidyTowns provide and maintain the flowers on the buildings of Main Street.	✓Ongoing
	Tree planting continues around the town, with regular meeting with the Town Gardener to promote new planting in all areas of the town.	✓Ongoing
Roundabouts 	Support the excellent work carried out by the Donegal County Council on the maintenance of key roundabouts the Dry Arch, Polestar, Station, Hospital, Kiltyoy and Ballymacool roundabouts.	✓Ongoing
Pollinator Friendly Towns 	Map the pollination areas in the town and identify them by appropriate signage as “Biodiversity Friendly Areas”.	✓2019/20
	Biodiversity Map on website.	✓2020/21
	Upgraded and improved biodiversity signage in 6 areas of the town.	✓2020/21
	Enhanced understanding of planting for pollinators with Donegal County Council.	✓ January 2023
	Engagement with the Facilities Department of Letterkenny University Hospital in relation to increased biodiversity opportunities on their grounds	✓February 2023
Allotments & GIY 	Promote the care and upkeep of the town allotment on Lower Ard O Donnell.	✓Ongoing
	Continue to work on the St Conal's Community Garden with outdoor beds and Poly Tunnel for the growing of plants and vegetables.	✓Ongoing
	Creation of a pollinator bed within St. Conal's Community Garden.	✓August 2023



Biodiversity  
Garden in  
Ballymacool  
Park



Delivery of summer bedding plants to Cathedral Quarter



### SDG's that link to our actions

<p><b>3</b> GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p> 	<p><b>2</b> ZERO HUNGER</p> 	<p><b>4</b> QUALITY EDUCATION</p> 	<p><b>10</b> REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p> 
<p><b>11</b> SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p> 	<p><b>13</b> CLIMATE ACTION</p> 	<p><b>15</b> LIFE ON LAND</p> 	<p><b>17</b> PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p> 

# Nature & Biodiversity on Our Area

## Objectives

The objectives of this category are to ensure there is an understanding of the nature and biodiversity present in the local area, how it is protected and sensitively enhanced. TidyTown groups should demonstrate appreciation of the most ecologically valuable areas and ensure that any work carried out under the auspices of TidyTown will never have a negative impact on these. We also have an onus to share our knowledge and awareness of local nature and biodiversity with the wider community.

## Our Key Habitats

### Water habitats

These are among the most important and probably the most sensitive of habitat types in any area. Letterkenny is situated at the southern end of Lough Swilly, one of the longest inlets in Ireland. The River Swilly is another key habitat that we need to protect and enhance.

### Woodlands, Treelines and Hedgerows

Mature trees and especially woodlands are among the most valuable habitat types for nature in any area. Long-lived and stable wooded areas provide year-round food and shelter for a surprising range of species from plants, fungi and invertebrates to birds and mammals. Treelines and hedgerows are also valuable 'commuting' habitat for birds and bats.

### Buildings and Stone Walls

We have many examples of these habitats. Stonework can be home to a wide variety of lichens, ferns, and plants.

### Parks and Open Spaces with Pollinator Patches

We are fortunate to have a variety of parklands and amenity grassland in and around our town. We continue to support the All Ireland Pollinator Plan in relation to biodiversity enhancement through wildflower meadow creation.

## Our Key Priorities



**Knowing and understanding nature and biodiversity, habitats, and species in and around Letterkenny.**

**Actions for nature and biodiversity.**

**Awareness raising.**

## What we do

We incorporate wildlife and biodiversity considerations into our activities, such as planting and landscaping, undertaking relevant research, information, and promotional projects. We support relevant activities by other groups and schools in the town. We have created a habitat map that indicates the location and extent of the habitats and biodiversity areas in Letterkenny.

We have been supporting the All Ireland Pollinator Plan since 2020 and have developed a programme to increase our support year on year through the life of the Pollinator Plan till 2025. Over the past few years, we have embraced planting for pollinators and are bringing the Council and residents along with us on the transition.

## Yearly Actions

1. We facilitate visits of expert speakers to the schools to increase participation and awareness.
2. We hold wildlife observation competition with the local schools, feeding into the National Biodiversity Centre campaigns.
3. Promotion of Biodiversity Week – ‘Don’t mow let it grow’.
4. We promote the ‘Grow your own Pollinators’ programme to encourage the growing of pollinator friendly plants.
5. We run a Pollinator Tree “Buy one get one half price” promotion with Alcorn’s Garden Centre in October yearly.

## Biodiversity Action Plans

This year we seek to develop a comprehensive Biodiversity Action Plan for a variety of habitats within the town. To enhance biodiversity in any area, quite often what is needed is to examine what already exists, realise the local potential and quite literally, fill the gaps.

We have been working with locals to develop their biodiversity mapping skills over the past few years. We have identified three sites where Biodiversity Action Plans are required:

**Sentry Hill** has a mix of small grassland habitats with a shrub layer behind and borders a local school with their own habitat mix.

**Ballyraine Park** has several different trees, both native and non-native in a grassland habitat with much potential for enhancement.

**Roger’s Burn** is a small stream with associated riparian habitat which feeds in to the Swilly River and ultimately, Lough Swilly. Riparian habitats are an excellent example of natural corridors and can play an essential role in habitat connectivity.

By connecting existing habitats, decreasing the fragmentation that development can bring and delivering a series of affordable, practical and in a lot of cases, simple actions, the town and surrounding area could significantly increase the biodiversity that is already here. Quite often, the simplest thing to help biodiversity is to do less, manage less and leave room for nature to plug the gaps itself. However, a certain element of management is required in some cases.

## Letterkenny – A Pollinator Friendly Town

Actions	Status
Promotion of Biodiversity Week – ‘Don’t mow let it grow’.	✓ Ongoing
Further develop the Workhouse Garden as a pollinator friendly area by planting wildflowers and other suitable nectar rich plants.	✓ Ongoing
We have initiated an Urban Bee Keeping project – ‘Bringing the Buzz back to Letterkenny’	✓ Ongoing
Continue to support the community group working with landowners to try and progress the development of the Swilly Walk to utilise the river in our town.	✓ Ongoing
We ran a Pollinator Tree “Buy one get one half price” promotion with Alcorn’s Garden Centre in October. When the public bought their pollinator friendly trees, we asked for their Eircode so we can start a register of pollinator friendly trees in the town which we intend to map out in the future.	✓ October 2022
Wildlife Gardens Biodiversity Champion Project 2022-2025 in association with Aengus Kennedy	✓ Ongoing
All 50 wall mounted boxes on the Port Road area contain pollinator friendly plants	✓ July 2022
The ‘Flight of the Bee’ murals by artist Ciaran Dunlevy are all now fully completed. Last installation at The Quiet Moment on Speers Lane.	✓ July 2022
Procured and commissioned the development of three Biodiversity Action Plans for three sites in Letterkenny.	✓ February 2023
“Pollinator friendly planting in your garden” Talk by Joanne Butler	May 2023
“Garden Birds through the Seasons” Talk by Aengus Kennedy	April 2023
Biodiversity Action Plans will be conducted during Summer of 2023 which reports being delivered to the committee winter 2023 which will help inform our programme of work in this area moving forward.	Planned
50 wall mounted boxes are planned for Main Street	Planned- June 2023



*Biodiversity “Champion” training day in June 2022 with Aengus Kennedy*

We have a wealth of biodiversity resources on our website:

<https://www.letterkennytidytowns.com/biodiversity-in-letterkenny>



Street art mural



**FLIGHT OF THE BEE STREET ART TRAIL**

Join the Queen Bee on her journey around Letterkenny Old Town and New Town Centre as she does her valuable pollination work...

- Connects Old & New Town Centre
- Augmented reality experience to bring each mural to life
- Editable text, pictures, video & sound available for each point of interest

Letterkenny Tidy Towns

www.letterkennytidytowns.com



Letterkenny Tidy Towns Wildflower Garden at Sentry Hill

### SDG's that link to our actions

<b>3</b> GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	<b>4</b> QUALITY EDUCATION	<b>6</b> CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	<b>11</b> SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
<b>13</b> CLIMATE ACTION	<b>14</b> LIFE BELOW WATER	<b>15</b> LIFE ON LAND	<b>17</b> PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



## RECONNECT WITH NATURE

Spending time out and about in nature is so easy to do, and – even better – it's free. Here are some simple, rewarding things you can do to engage with the wild world on your doorstep.

**Find some grass and lie on it.** Whether it's your lawn or the park or a meadow, enjoy the feeling of being relaxed and grounded with the earth at your back.

While you're there, why not **cloud watch**? Slow your breathing, relax, and let your thoughts drift along with the clouds.

**Engage with your favourite tree.** Stroke the bark; hug it if you like. Think about the age and beauty of this incredible life-form, which grew from such small beginnings.

**Helping Out.** Letterkenny Tidy Towns could benefit from your time. Whether it's maintaining local green spaces or helping with our biodiversity projects, you can give Mother Nature a helping hand.



*Wildflower garden at Ballyraine*

# Sustainability, Doing More with Less

**Sustainability means meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.**

## Objectives

Sustainable communities are those that promote sustainable living to residents and aim to generate minimal environmental impact. This is beneficial to all, as sustainable communities are economically thriving, environmentally healthy and socially resilient.

## Priorities

Our priorities in this category are to:

- Encourage residents and businesses to give more thought to our daily behaviours including our waste generation, water consumption, energy usage, material usage etc.
- Support the Shop Local campaign run by the Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce.
- Reuse more, recycle more materials of higher quality and if we can't do that recovering energy from waste, in line with the waste hierarchy.
- Require and get more information on the products and services we buy.
- Consider how energy efficient or eco-efficient are our purchasing choices.

## What we do

We work with and collaborate with various organisations in the town in relation to various sustainability issues. For example, in September 2019 we launched the 'Go Green' environmental campaign in collaboration with the Letterkenny Chamber. Go Green will play its part in keeping Letterkenny tidy, encouraging customers to #GoGreen in their everyday lives and promotes Letterkenny as a greener retail destination. The launch of the campaign involved some exciting events, collaborations, and competitions.

We support the local authority Environmental Awareness Officer working together on local green initiatives.



*Reduce Waste Social Media Campaign Christmas 2022*

<b>Sustainability – Doing more with less</b>					
Themes	Actions	Status	Themes	Actions	Status
<b>Waste Reduction</b>  	Waste Minimisation Campaign with businesses.	Annual	<b>Reducing Poverty &amp; Inequalities</b>  	Support local charities by promoting their work.	Ongoing
	Waste not Week Campaign, focusing on prevention of food waste.	2023/34		Continue to encourage local support to Mary's Meals - they provide life-changing meals to some of the world's poorest children every day they attend school.	Ongoing
	Sustainable water bottle in conjunction with LK Chamber – linking to <a href="http://www.refill.ie">www.refill.ie</a> initiative	April 2023		Letterkenny Lions Club provided food donations for the Letterkenny food bank.	December 2022
	ATU - Promote their waste initiatives.	Ongoing		Support Letterkenny Rotary Club's "Bikes for Africa" initiative	Ongoing
	New Tote Reuse Shopper Bag with LK Chamber	2023/24			
	Encourage more local businesses to sign up to Refill.ie – Treble this number by 2023.	Ongoing			
<b>Awareness Raising</b>  	Develop an eye-catching bottle structure to raise awareness on single use plastics and plastic usage as part of Plastic Free July.	2023/24	<b>Support &amp; Well-Being</b>  	Men's Shed project – reusing materials to create products, furniture upcycling etc. Especially repurposed flower boxes for Cathedral Quarter.	Ongoing
	Organise public events on Sustainability 'Reuse and recycle clothes workshop' in Cultural Centre in conjunction with Donegal County Council	2023/34			
<b>Reuse</b>  	Support Reusable Cups Go-Green Campaigns.	2019/20	<b>Climate Action</b>  	In conjunction with a student, we have prepared a survey on attitudes to climate action, travel & transport, discussed with DCC and publicised the results online.	✓ May 2022
	Ran a Christmas Campaign promoting Charity Shops	✓ December 2022		Power of One Project	Ongoing
	Water Refill Station at Community Centre	Planning stages		Planning a climate action and carbon literacy awareness seminar for Autumn 2023	Ongoing
	Support and promote the free book exchange campaign by Donegal Youth Service.	Ongoing		We have 50 new sustainable self-watering wall mounted flower boxes using rainwater harvested water for Main Street	Planned 2023
	Fashion Project with SVP and AUL, repurpose clothes	✓ January 2023			
<b>Recycling</b>  	Recycling & waste segregation campaign.	Ongoing	<b>Sustainable Transport</b>  	Love 30 campaign – we support a campaign to get the speed limit reduced to 30km per hour in areas around schools.	Ongoing
	Encourage greater use and respect for Bring Bank facilities, reporting fly tipping as necessary.	Ongoing		Cycle stands have been erected at the Grianan Theatre and the County Museum	✓ August 2022



Sustainability Competition for ATU Fashion Design Students in conjunction with Letterkenny Tidy Towns, ATU and SVP Charity Shop January 2023

## SDG's that link to our actions



## Going Greener

There's so much you can do to declutter your lifestyle as well as your home. By consuming less you're contributing to the bigger picture, benefitting the world around you too. When you buy groceries and toiletries, think about choosing items that use minimal or sustainable packaging and don't forget to take your own shopping bags.

We can also learn from the Swedish principle of *Lagom*, which shows us that happiness comes from living a simpler life and having just enough of what we need rather than stockpiling large quantities of food and belongings.

*Keep a look out for our Power of One campaign...*



*Will you get involved...*

# Tidiness & Litter Control

## Objectives

This category carries the most emphasis in terms of scoring in the competition. It relates to the presentation of the town in terms of litter control, cleanliness, and tidiness.

## Cleanliness & Tidiness Priorities

In relation to cleanliness and tidiness key priorities we try to improve include:

- Excessive or inappropriate signage.
- Visual clutter from private operators.
- Excessive overhead wires.
- Graffiti.
- Traffic congestion and improper parking arrangements.
- Poor weed and plant control.
- Vacant / Derelict / Undeveloped Sites and Graveyards.
- Presentation of curtilage areas.
- Presentation of street furniture.
- Poor weed and plant control.
- Vacant / Derelict / Undeveloped Sites and Graveyards.
- Presentation of curtilage areas.
- Presentation of street furniture.

## Litter Control Priorities

In relation to litter control key priorities are:

- Absence of litter, fly-tipping and illegal dumping.
- Litter control strategies for the town
- Regular litter patrols.
- Participation in the National Spring Clean.
- Partnership and community involvement with litter control
- Engagement and awareness raising with schools and youth organisations in relation to litter control.
- Lowering the incidences of dog fouling.
- Presentation of bottle banks and litter bins.

## What we do

Our volunteers work hard to keep the town and its approach roads litter free. We devise projects to enhance the appearance areas and initiatives to enhance the appearance of the neglected and unkept prominent buildings in the town. We encourage the upkeep of buildings, premises, and features. We discourage street clutter and illegal signage.

## How We Do It

### Regular Litter Picks

- Our litter picks are invaluable.  
Thanks to:
  - Our Volunteers
  - CE Scheme

### Education & Awareness

- Education and awareness on litter and tidiness is via:
  - School liaison officer

### Reporting Illegal Dumping

- Donegal County Council is the first port of call for complaints from members of the public regarding littering & illegal dumping of waste through the Council's Call Centre (074) 91 53900.  
To make a complaint out of hours, use:  
EPA Hotline Dump the Dumpers **1850 365 121** or online at [www.fixyourstreet.ie](http://www.fixyourstreet.ie)

### Maintenance

- On-going maintenance is generally conducted by:
  - CE Scheme
  - Donegal County Council
  - Glenard Plant

Tidiness and Litter Control	
Actions	Status
✓ We have a team of volunteers who participate in our regular litter picks and litter management control plan.	✓ Ongoing
✓ We have a WhatsApp group co-ordinated by a volunteer from the Volunteer Centre linking in with the litter Warden in relation to our regular litter picks.	✓ Ongoing
✓ We continue to increase the number of litter pickers and volunteers by using social media and the website.	✓ Ongoing
✓ We regularly support national initiatives such as National Gum Litter Campaign and the National Spring Clean.	✓ Ongoing
✓ Regularly monitor the presentation of amenity and directional signs and report any defects to Donegal County Council	✓ Ongoing
✓ We conduct regular weed control along footpaths and public areas.	✓ Ongoing
✓ We run an annual Junior Litter Warrior Campaign	✓ Ongoing
✓ We regularly monitor and report fly-tipping and illegal dumping.	✓ Ongoing



**Letterkenny Tidy Towns Litter Warrior**  
**Junior Litter Warrior Competition**  
(For ages 4-10)  
**Win a €30 ShopLK Gift Card**  
Sponsored by ShopLK

(1) Get Out and Pick Some Litter  
(2) Post your photo to Facebook or Instagram and tag us OR email it to [ltkiddy@gmail.com](mailto:ltkiddy@gmail.com)  
(3) Winner for October & November will be notified by email or social media.

*Our annual Junior Litter Warrior Competition*



Sunday morning Volunteers with Volunteer Co-ordinator Neil Blockley

## SDG's that link to our actions



St Eunan's and Donegal GAA players helping on Sunday morning

# Residential Streets & Houses

## Objectives

The objectives of this category largely embrace those outlined in earlier categories, but with specific reference to residential areas. Private dwellings along approach roads, within residential estates and within the town centre are assessed on the presentation and maintenance of individual buildings including their gable walls, rear façades, roadside boundary walls / fencing, together with their private open space. Public open spaces within residential estates are also considered and include their range of functions as well as their maintenance and presentation.

## Priorities

Key priorities include the upkeep of opens spaces in housing areas, with particular emphasis on mobilising action through individual residents' associations.

## What we do

We work on projects related to litter and tidiness with emphasis on residential areas and opens spaces within housing areas. We place particular emphasis on mobilising action through individual residents' associations. We have strong support from several active residents'

associations in the town. We reward efforts in our annual Cleaner Community Awards.

## Some of our actions

- Cleaner Community Campaign.
- Support Residents Associations by encouraging participation in Cleaner Community Campaign Competition.
- Showcase residential projects.
- Continue to work closely with the Cathedral Quarter Committee to regenerate the historical Church Lane and to create a real hidden treasure for tourists in the heart of Letterkenny.
- Pollinator friendly trees – we worked with a local garden centre to offer a discount to anyone purchasing a tree so long as they provide their Eircode. We intend to map where these trees have been planted to feed into our biodiversity map of Letterkenny. This was a great success for us and therefore we intend to run it again in Autumn 2023.
- A rotation of Letterkenny Tidy Towns 'Helping Hand' teams to visit estates to be set up to carry out brief but regular and focused tasks in selected estates.



*Our Cleaner Community Launch and extended Award Categories*

LETTERKENNY TIDY TOWNS  
Caring for our environment

*National Tidy Towns Gold Medal Winners 2022*

**Letterkenny Tidy Towns Committee**  
**cordially invites you**

to join with  
**Cllr Donal "Mandy" Kelly**  
*Mayor of Letterkenny – Milford Municipal District*  
at the

**Launch of the 38th Annual  
Cleaner Community Campaign  
and our new Action Plan**

at An Grianán Theatre, Letterkenny  
on Tuesday 4th April, 2023 at 10.30am

RSVP: 086-2207229  
letterkennytidytowns@gmail.com

**Community Awards & Categories 2023**

1. Shop Front Award, Irish, English or Bilingual
2. Retail Outlet Award
3. Public House Award
4. Hotel, B&B, Guesthouse Award
5. Restaurant, Coffee Shop, Tearoom Award
6. Built Environment Award
7. Public Building Award
8. 3 Best Kept Areas
9. Best Kept Estate Entrance
10. Best Flower Display Award
11. Best Kept Apartment Balcony Flower Display Award
12. The Seán Higgins Memorial Award (Large Garden)
13. The Charles & Rose Devlin Memorial Award (Small Garden)
14. Wildlife-friendly Garden  
The May McClintock Memorial Award  
*Sponsored by An Taisce*
15. Young Environmentalist(s)  
of the year 2023  
The Jim Mc Cormick Memorial Award  
*Sponsored by Letterkenny Tidy Towns Committee*

Entries before 1st July 2023 to  
Secretary, Letterkenny Tidy Towns Committee,  
c/o Magees Chemist, 27 Upper Main Street, Letterkenny.



*Biodiversity Garden at Ashlawn*



*Breege Vaughan's garden in Wolfe Tone Place*

## SDG's that link to our actions



# Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes

## Objectives

This category considers all aspects of approach roads, streets, and lanes. First impressions of the town can be strongly influenced by the appearance and condition of its approach roads, therefore maintaining approach roads to a good standard is particularly important under this category. Furthermore, the road network in our towns facilitate the movement of cars, public transport vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians. As a result, the appearance, functionality, and the convenience that roads, streets, and lanes offer motorists, cyclists and pedestrians are primary considerations under this category.

## Priorities

Key priorities include litter management, addressing tidiness issues, the management of verges and open spaces on approach roads and engagement with the local authority and other stakeholders to address issues relating to approach roads and streets and lanes.

## What we do

We work with national and local authority to address issues relating to approach roads and streets.

## Some of our actions

- Monitor illegal signs and to lobby Donegal County Council to have a co-ordinated and consistent approach to signage on approach roads and within the town centre.
- Monitor vacant sites on approach roads for illegal dumping and graffiti.
- Encourage a balanced management of tidiness and protection of wildlife habitat protection to our approach roads.
- Participate in Donegal County Council Approach Road Scheme and Adopt a Road Scheme.



*Litter picking at the Polestar roundabout*



*Volunteer Appreciation Day*



*Entrance to Ballymacool Park on Glenties Road*

## SDG's that link to our actions



## Volunteer with Us

*This plan has been produced to better inform those in Letterkenny of the wide-ranging work conducted by Letterkenny Tidy Towns.*

The plan does not include all the work carried out by Letterkenny Tidy Towns but serves to highlight to you our key projects. Some of our actions cross-cut various Tidy Towns categories. This Action Plan is supplemented by a detailed three-year schedule of activities that address all aspects of the Tidy Towns Competition categories and provides us with a direction of travel over the next few years.

### ***VOLUNTEER:***

***Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.***

We hope this Action Plan gives you a better understanding of what we do – if you feel you could lend a hand with any of our projects in any way, big or small, or may have any ideas of future projects, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Email [lktidy@gmail.com](mailto:lktidy@gmail.com)

Phone Gerard at (074) 9121409

Brian at (074) 9127833

### Social Media Channels



Instagram



Find us on:  
**facebook®**

twitter 

### Website

[www.letterkennytidytowns.com](http://www.letterkennytidytowns.com)

# LETTERKENNY TIDY TOWNS COMMITTEE PAINT THE TOWN 2023

in association with 



Do you have a business in Letterkenny?  
Do you plan to redecorate your shop front  
or premises this year but don't know where to start?

## LETTERKENNY TIDY TOWNS & LA MAISON ARE HERE TO HELP!

### Why Apply?

1. Professional advice and assistance from a professional interior designer will be offered
  2. You can choose up to 3 color options
  3. Discounts will be offered from participating paint suppliers in Letterkenny
- You will be contributing to an improved attractive & colorful street scape.

### How will it work?

1. Letterkenny Tidy Towns will appoint La Maison to meet with you
2. The designer will return to you with up to 3 possible color schemes
3. You can then purchase your paint
4. Book your painter for a fresh look

If you are interested please fill in your details below and return to:  
Eileen Sweeney, Magee's Chemist, 27 Upper Main Street, Letterkenny. Tel: 074 91 21409

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_



## Let's Minimise Waste!

- ✓ End food waste  
1/3 of the food we buy ends up in the bin.  
This can cost the average household up to €1,000 a year  
See [stopfoodwaste.ie](http://stopfoodwaste.ie)
- ✓ Beware of clever marketing tricks.  
3 for the price of 2 offers often leads to unwanted waste especially if the waste is perishable.
- ✓ Leave your car at home.  
Use Town Bus!
- ✓ Avoid prepacked foods whenever possible. *eg. buy loose fruit & veg and not the packaged variety*
- ✓ Letterkenny Tidy Towns will advise on waste water collection.
- ✓ Avoid disposables such as cleaning wipes, paper nappies & aluminium foil
- ✓ Power of One - Turn off lights
- ✓ Eliminate junk mail.  
Contact the Irish Direct Marketing Association at 01 8304752 and make junk mail a thing of the past.
- ✓ Use brown bin kerbside collection
- ✓ Always make a shopping list. That way you are less likely to bring home food/packaging that ends up in the bin.
- ✓ Engage with Letterkenny Tidy Towns 'Waste not Week'



# Community Awards & Categories 2023

1.	Shop Front Award, Irish, English or Bilingual
2.	Retail Outlet Award
3.	Public House Award
4.	Hotel, B&B, Guesthouse Award
5.	Restaurant, Coffee Shop, Tearoom Award
6.	Built Environment Award
7.	Public Building Award
8.	3 Best Kept Areas
9.	Best Kept Estate Entrance
10.	Best Flower Display Award

11.	Best Kept Apartment Balcony Flower Display Award
12.	The Seán Higgins Memorial Award (Large Garden)
13.	The Charles & Rose Devlin Memorial Award (Small Garden)
14.	Wildlife-friendly Garden The May McClintock Memorial Award <i>Sponsored by An Taisce</i>
15.	Young Environmentalist(s) of the year 2023 The Jim Mc Cormick Memorial Award <i>Sponsored by Letterkenny Tidy Towns Committee</i>



## Entry Form for Garden Competitions

Name .....

Address .....

Tel: .....

**Type of Garden:** Large Residential:  Small Residential:  Wildlife-friendly:

The winner in each category receives a trophy and voucher for Alcorns Florist

### Entries before 1st July 2023 to

- lktidy@gmail.com
- or
- Letterkenny Tidy Towns Facebook page
- or
- Secretary, Letterkenny Tidy Towns Committee,  
c/o Magees Chemist, 27 Upper Main Street, Letterkenny.

This Action Plan was kindly supported by:



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

