



Blessington Tidy Towns Plan 2019-2022



 *Blessington*
Tidy Towns





INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Blessington Tidy Towns 3-Year Plan!

This plan is to be used the guide the work of Blessington Tidy Towns for the next 3 years. The plan was drawn up following consultation with members of the Tidy Towns group, action items open from our last plan and following surveys undertaken in the Blessington Community during 2018 and early 2019.

The plan does not set out to include all of the work that will carried out by Blessington Tidy Towns but to provide direction for the group over the next few years. First of all we set out the Key Projects - major projects that will have greatest impact on Blessington. Then we have a yearly schedule of tasks that will address the different Tidy Towns categories.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Blessington Tidy Towns would like to thank all who support their work. Business, Resident Associations and Community Groups. Thanks to Wicklow County Council, particularly Mr. Callery in the Environment Dept. of WCC for his ongoing supports, and belief in our town and our project. Thanks to the local tidy towns group, who prefer to remain anonymous for help and ideas on the structure and format of this plan. Special thanks to all of our volunteers who work so selflessly for the benefit of our town and all its residents. This plan is dedicated to you.

KEY PROJECTS

These are the Key Projects for Blessington Tidy Towns for 2019-2022. These are the projects we believe will have the greatest impact on the town, its landscape and natural environment over this time. They are also the projects that will demand the greatest time and resources of Blessington Tidy Towns and its supporters.

KEY PROJECT 1: GREEN SPACES & LANDSCAPING

Blessington e-GREENWAY

This will be BTT's biggest project ever and will see the extension of the existing 8Km greenway to around the lake side. The new e-Greenway will be fully accessible, have charging points along the route for electronic devices from phones to e-bikes. We believe it will be one of Ireland's top tourist attractions and amenities. With support from Wicklow County Council, the ESB and Irish Water, we believe this project will succeed.

Project Period: 2019-2022



KEY PROJECT 2: SUSTAINABILITY - DOING MORE WITH LESS



EV CHARGING POINTS

BTT is seeking to have a number of Electric Vehicle Charging stations added in our town. These EV Stations will be located at prime locations in the town, to include Blessington Square, Supervalu, and the Primary Care Centre. The project should be a joint effort of BTT, WCC and local businesses.

Project Period: 2020-2022

KEY PROJECT 3: COMMUNITY - YOUR PLANNING & INVOLVEMENT



TIDY TOWNS NETWORK SEMINAR

BTT are lucky to have been in a position to be able to attend previous national tidy towns conferences and we see a gap for something similar in Wicklow. We propose to organise our own mini tidy towns conference, with speakers on key areas of interest and to open it to groups in Wicklow and Kildare.



KEY PROJECT 4: NATURE & BIODIVERSITY IN YOUR LOCALITY

NEIGHBOURHOOD WOOD

BTT would like to develop a small woodland on an area of waste ground near Carrig Glen estate. This land is in County Council ownership. This is an ideal site for management for biodiversity. This project will include access (from the proposed greenway), interpretation panels on biodiversity and potential for creation of additional habitat areas. Funding will be sought for this project in 2022/23.



KEY PROJECT 5: STREETScape & PUBLIC PLACES

THE DOWNSHIRE MONUMENT RESTORATION AND CLEANING

It is proposed that BTT will take on a project to arrange for the prominent Downshire Monument in the Blessington Town Square to be cleaned, and restored to its former glory, and to act as a focal point in the town once more.

Project Period: 2021



OUR PLAN: PROJECTS PLANNED FOR YEAR ONE (2019-20)

PROJECT	CATEGORY
Sensory Garden will be developed near the playground area with the support of BTT & Disability Access Group	Green Spaces & Landscaping
LED Street Lighting - BTT to enter into discussions with Blessington Town Team and WCC to fast-track the street lighting upgrade to LEDs	Sustainability - Doing More with Less
Air Quality - In follow up to the Don't Fume Campaign run a project to measure and report air quality.	Sustainability - Doing More with Less
Bottle Refill - a public drinking water fountain will be located at the town center to reduce plastic waste. This project will be carried out with refill.ie	Sustainability - Doing More with Less
Bug Hotels - to be constructed and installed at the our local schools and wildlife areas.	Nature & Biodiversity in your locality
Dog Park - develop a dog park for the community in Blessington, site selection will be the biggest hurdle.	Tidiness and Litter Control
St. Josephs Park - work with the residents and WCC to develop the area for a park land.	Streetscape and Public Places
Tree-planting Industrial Estates - this will help to screen and soften the industrial areas of the town.	Approach Roads, Streets and Lanes
Hedgehog Hotel - will be constructed and installed where suitable.	Nature & Biodiversity in your locality / Sustainability - Doing More with Less
Tidy Towns Network Event - run a tidy towns seminar type event for local groups.	Community Involvement & Planning
Dogwood & Hawthorn - add both varieties along approach roads to screen fencing.	Approach Roads, Streets and Lanes

OUR PLAN: PROJECTS PLANNED FOR YEAR TWO (2020-21)



PROJECT	CATEGORY
Sensory Garden will be developed near the playground area with the support of BTT & Disability Access Group	Green Spaces & Landscaping
Car-Free School Days - work with the schools during 2019 and develop one or more car free days where students will walk or cycle to school instead.	Sustainability - Doing More with Less
Recycled Bicycles - will be made into sculptures and planted for visual effect on approach roads.	Sustainability - Doing More with Less
Flower Beds in Square - overhaul with perennial plants of value to pollinating insects.	Nature & Biodiversity in your locality
SEC - ensure the Blessington Sustainable Energy Community progresses and delivers to community.	Sustainability - Doing More with Less
Community Clean up - will be expanded to include the schools and clubs not already involved.	Tidiness and Litter Control
Irrigation System - add an irrigation system for the Main St. from Supervalu to Clarkes Store.	Sustainability - Doing More with Less
Native Gorse Planting - will be carried out in the area of Dempeys Lane.	Nature & Biodiversity in your locality
A Wildflower Strip - should be added in the vicinity of the skate park and playground.	Approach Roads, Streets and Lanes
Trees Will be Replaced - along the Main St.	Residential Streets and Housing Areas
Recycling Area - should be overhauled to improve the overall appearance of the location.	Tidiness and Litter Control
Green Area Opposite Oak Drive - to be redone with improved planting scheme.	Green Spaces and Landscaping



OUR PLAN: PROJECTS PLANNED FOR YEAR THREE (2021-22)

PROJECT	CATEGORY
<p>Permanent Air Quality Monitoring Station - will be set up in the town. Transition Year students will assist and, possibly to consider as a Young Scientist project</p>	<p>Sustainability - Doing More with Less</p>
<p>Underground Cabling - seek the underground of the cabling to improve the appearance of Blessington Main Street and also remove any redundant poles.</p>	<p>Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality / Sustainability - Doing More with Less</p>
<p>Town Park - seek the development of the proposed town park off the inner relief road.</p>	<p>Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality</p>
<p>Company Tree-planting - all companies in the area will be invited to support tree-planting.</p>	<p>Green Spaces and Landscaping</p>
<p>Renewable Energy Watering Systems - to be proposed for the main street, and sourced from the lake.</p>	<p>Sustainability - Doing More with Less</p>
<p>A Major Sculpture - will be sought as part of the redevelopment of The Blessington Square.</p>	<p>Green Spaces and Landscaping / Sustainability - Doing More with Less</p>
<p>A Footpath Cleaning Machine - will be purchased by BTT, Blessington Town Team and the WCC Municipal District.</p>	<p>Tidiness and Litter Control</p>
<p>Excessive Signage Removal - all excess signage should removed from Blessington junctions.</p>	<p>Streetscape and Public Places</p>

ANNUAL & ONGOING PROJECTS

These are the projects that are either multi-annual or are ongoing

PROJECT	CATEGORY
School Visits - we will continue to carry out school visits each year.	Community - Your Planning and Involvement
Graffiti Survey - to be carried out every year and reported back.	Tidiness and Litter Control
Community Clean Up - is an annual event and is the largest participatory event in our calendar.	Tidiness and Litter Control
Wildflower Meadows - continue to develop wild flower areas in our community.	Nature & Biodiversity in your Locality
SEC - to develop the SEC and ensure it works on new projects each year.	Sustainability - Doing More with Less / Nature and Biodiversity in Your Locality
Approach Roads - continue with the current verge maintenance approach to grass cutting.	Approach Roads, Streets and Lanes



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