

Case Study 15



**COMMUNITY
VIBRANCY**

RECOGNITION PROGRAMME

COMMUNITY VIBRANCY RECOGNITION PROGRAMME 2017-2019

NEWKD in partnership with Kerry Group are delighted to announce Listowel Tidy Towns Group as the 15th recipient of the Community Vibrancy Recognition Programme.

This is a three-year initiative (2017-2019) aimed at recognising the diversity and vibrancy of community work throughout the region. Every year NEWKD works with over 500 community groups, businesses and initiatives under our 4 Strategic Pillars:

- **Social Supports**
- **Employment Services**
- **Enterprise and Tourism**
- **Community, Environment & Rural Development**

The 'Community Vibrancy Recognition Programme' pays tribute to a number of recipients each year. Each project is selected for their uniqueness, vibrancy and responsiveness to addressing local need. Recipients are nominated locally through the NEWKD structures which operate in Tralee, Listowel, Castleisland and Dingle, and are exemplars of best practices and innovative solutions in social, economic and environmental development, while giving recognition to community leadership and entrepreneurs.

Previous recipients:

1. Glanageenty Walkways
2. The Kerry Food Hub, Furies
3. Ballybunion Men's Shed
4. Dingle New Music Choir and Orchestra
5. Baile Mhuire Day Care Centre
6. Ballybunion Senior Citizens Meals on Wheels
7. Mol Teic - Dingle Creativity and Innovation Hub
8. NEWKD's Local Area Advisory Councils (LAACs)
9. Castleisland Community Garden
10. Sliabh Luachra Boxing Club Castleisland
11. Áras Mhuire Nursing Home
12. Kerryhead/Ballyheigue Family Resource Centre
13. Community Café, Ballyduff
14. Sliabh Luachra Cultural & Heritage Centre

Listowel Tidy Towns Group

Listowel emerged as the overall winner of the National Tidy Towns competition in 2018, from a record 883 entries from towns and villages throughout the country.

Listowel also claimed the award of Ireland's tidiest small town at the 60th Supervalu Tidy Towns award ceremony. The judges said Listowel's victory was a tribute to all the people of the town and to the local authority. Listowel has won a gold medal every year since 2008 in the competition.

Initially working under the name T.A.B.L.E (Towards a Better Listowel Everybody), the group is now known as the Listowel Tidy Towns Group. With a working committee of 24 people the group hold meetings fortnightly. The groups objectives are to work with the whole community to present Listowel to its highest potential. Founded in 1993, the group is a community-based voluntary body set up in response to the need for improvements in the town.

Each year from May to September activities are held every Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7pm, meeting at the front of St. John's Theatre. Activities cover painting, litter patrols, weeding. With all equipment provided it is very accessible to get involved, and volunteers are always welcomed.

Central to continuous development of the committee and enhancement of the town is the support from local business, the people of the town, local National School's, Kerry County Council, NEWKD, the latter through capital support under the LEADER Programme and workers from both the Rural Social Scheme and Tús Community Work Placement Programme and supports through Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme. In recent years the involvement of young people has been increasing as a result of collaboration with the Green Schools Programme.

NEWKD

KERRY



Key Success to Date:

- Bronze Medal Winners 2004/2007
- Gold Medal Winners since 2008 - 11 awarded to date
- Winner Best Small Town 2015/2016
- Joint 2nd in Category Pride of Place 2015
- Achieved 5 Blooms in International Communities in Bloom Competition 2017
- National Tidy Towns winner 2018 - commemorative plaque unveiled by President Michael D. Higgins, May 2019
- Entrant in European Entente Florale Competition 2019

CONTACT DETAILS

Listowel Tidy Towns Group,
9 O'Connell's Avenue, Listowel, Co. Kerry.
Tel. 087 6270033, Email: maryehanlon@hotmail.com
www.facebook.com/listoweltidytowns/

SUPPORT FROM NEWKD

- RSS - Rural Social Scheme through work placements.
- Tus - Community Work Placement Programme through work placements.
- LEADER Programme - €6,435 approved for an Architectural Conservation Toolkit for the Heritage Town of Listowel; €18,750.00 in 2015 for Heritage Trail, €3,522.47 in 2013 for Ecological survey in Listowel Park; €2,798 in 2011 to develop a plan for Listowel; under previous LEADER Programmes £1,600 for Renewal Programme and £600.00 for a Planting Programme.

GOOD PRACTICE & LEARNING:

- Involvement in the Tidy Towns has been the foundation of many long-lasting friendships.
- Competition is good, constructive feedback and reports from National Tidy Town Judging are valuable to learn from.
- Important to share the success, and positivity with the whole community.
- Everyone is a winner from improvements in the town, there is an acknowledgment within Tidy Towns that 'all boats rise together', including social, economic and environmental well-being.
- Visiting other projects was key at the early stages and now hosting new groups is vital to passing on our learning and good practice.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



RECOGNITION PROGRAMME

NEWKD and Kerry Group wish to acknowledge and thank all those who have contributed to

LISTOWEL TIDY TOWNS GROUP

Presented in recognition of the valuable contribution the group makes to the:

- Community Vibrancy of the Listowel and surrounding area
- Social Supports in the enhancement of the town and active participation of local people through volunteerism
- Community, Environment and Rural Development Leadership

July 2019

