

KEY DISCUSSION NOTES FROM SESSION 4 – LONG-TERM PLANNING AND WORKING ACROSS YOUR COMMUNITY

Ideas for next talks:

Strengthening the tidy towns network in Sligo

SDGs.

Notable points:

Sligo PPN can help out any member groups who might want to develop a simple local community survey

PR - Getting your names out there is so important. It is very easy for people to attribute all works in the public realm to Local Authorities.

Sligo PPN put out a quarterly newsletter - we could incorporate a Tidy Towns feature if we got enough content in for each edition. Articles drafted for the PPN newsletter could also be sent to the TT Unit for their newsletter

Good idea- pitch stuff to Kids! Most people's reading ability is age 12. So write for a 12 year old.

What people like about their areas?

Covid restrictions have presented a really good opportunity for people to explore their local areas. A nice survey question might be around what in your local area brought a smile to your face /lifted your mood under restrictions?

Age-friendly planting

There are actually great guides to create age friendly planting, dementia planting etc - easy to implement and great to include local nursing homes/carers etc

<https://www.sensorytrust.org.uk/resources/guidance/designing-age-friendly-landscapes>.

- Mobility – provision seats, wheelchair friendly, even surfaces, reducing gradients.
- Reach - have plants at level where no bending is required.
- Visually Impaired – good contrast at steps, choice of colours.
- Shelter – covered areas if windy, wet.

Community/Education Links

ITSligo are also working hard to create community connections and also less formal youth groups such as Foroige and Comhairle na nOg Community Connections platform at IT Sligo to be re-launched shortly.

IDEAS FOR RESIDENT ASSOCIATIONS:

If possible try to have a rep from each on the TidyTowns Committee, highlighting the benefits of working together. .

Encourage co-operative working on ideas for estates

- Eg. Connectivity, walkability audit, bulb planting
- Street parties – Street Feast. <http://streetfeast.ie/>
- Age-friendly considerations – planting, seats.
- Purchase of communal tools for sharing between estates.
- WEEE collections and vans to visit each estate in turn.

<https://www.nationaltransport.ie/the-universal-design-walkability-audit-tool/>

Generate some fun competition between estates for prizes. Prizes could be:

- Native trees or perennial shrubs
- Wildflower seeds
- Easter eggs
- Logo'd bibs
- Water butt for local planters
- Ice cream van post litter with free ice cream to all litter pickers.

Competition could be for the:

- Best wildlife friendly garden
- Most litter collected
- Best pollinator-friendly estate.

LINK TO ALL RECORDINGS AND RESOURCE FROM THIS TRAINING:

<https://www.sligoppn.com/hub/resources/ppn-training-programmes/tidy-towns-support-programme/>