



## Geashill Tidy Towns 2021 Roundup



What a year it has been! Whilst we continue to work together and move through undoubtedly difficult times we were delighted to accept the award for Ireland's Tidiest Village at the SuperValu Tidy Towns Awards ceremony on November 12th, This award is a testament to the work carried out by tidy towns groups and volunteers in Geashill over many years. Thank you to everyone who helped us in anyway, we appreciate everything you do. We also acknowledge that we don't always get it right, and continue to make changes where needed

### Pig Fair Sculpture



Our newest WeldArt Sculpture, created by Luke Carson was installed in late October at the site of our Pig Fair Weighing Scales. This sculpture was funded through Creative Ireland and made using old tools and implements donated by people in and around Geashill. Thank you to all who helped with this project, and to Offaly County Council and Creative Ireland.

### Keeping our Pollinator Promise



We continued to keep our Pollinator Promise in 2021 with the creation of new perennial planted areas, planting over 900 spring bulbs, creating habitat and more. We are currently cutting back our perennial planting but leaving anything with flowers or seed heads for birds or any brave bees that might venture out in this milder weather. We will continue to make the provision of food and shelter for pollinating insects one of our main priorities.

## New Street Furniture



We were delighted to receive a grant through Town and Village (Covid) fund for the provision of new seating for Geashill. This grant enabled us to order new Heritage style bench seating for the Glebe & Picnic area as well as new Picnic Benches in the Green. Particular thanks here to Offaly County Council team for their help in installing the benches and cobble bases. New Heritage Bins were also installed. Finally we are delighted to see the first 2 phases of the undergrounding of the ESB wires in the village complete. The wire free landscape and new LED streetlights are a fantastic addition to the village.

## Book Exchange



in 2019 our volunteers restored an original Telefón Box which was installed adjacent to Hamiltons Pub on an original site. We installed a Book Exchange into the Telephone box in early 2020 and this has been in constant use since. One of our volunteers maintains and replenishes the stock of books periodically. It has also become home to the artwork of the children of Geashill National School

## Dog Fouling Initiatives



Overall are delighted with the reduction in fouling that we have seen over 2020 and 2021. Our Poowatch and Scooperheros Campaigns have all helped but we will continue with new initiatives in 2022. In particular we will target areas such as the layby past the GAA where we are noticing repeated problems. Thanks in particular to Offaly County Council for their support in this area in 2021 and to the pupils for Geashill N.S for their great anti dog fouling posters on display in the Telephone Box

## Mowing and Maintaining



All of the common areas, footpaths, walkways and green spaces as well as approximately 250m of hedging are maintained by the CE Workers and volunteers of Geashill Tidy Towns. This is a huge and at times daunting task. In 2021 we estimate that over 40 acres of grass were mowed and at least 25km of footpaths were swept, weeded, de-mossed and swept again. We are incredibly grateful to our CE workers, Declan Paul and Jason and to our volunteers especially Eddie who undertakes most of the mowing and to Richard Dunne who has been a great help collecting grass and weeds and doing any other number of small jobs. In 2022 we hope more people can join us in this task as its so important to keep our village looking tidy and well maintained.

## Christmas Tree



Our Christmas Tree shone brightly throughout December 2021. This is a big project every year and we rely so much on our volunteers to help us. Thanks to the children of Geashill National School who took part in lighting the tree and sang some great carols. We also owe huge thanks to Mick, Eddie, Richard, Anthony and to Raheen GAA team for their help with the both the tree and Crib. Over the coming year we will be fundraising to add extra lighting and help cover maintenance of the existing tree and lights

## Tackling the litter lingers!



Keeping our village litter free is an ongoing task particularly on a busy road with lots of through traffic. Our CE Workers empty our litter bins weekly and litter pick daily. Our new Heritage Bins installed in 2020 are a great addition to the village. We also have some great volunteers such as Brid who do regular litter picks on not in the village but also on approach roads. Our thanks to them for their ongoing efforts to keep Geashill Litter Free. We encourage people to bring their litter home and recycle where possible.

## Working together



The staff and pupils of Geashill National School have been a fantastic partners for many years now and 2021 was no exception. The pupils and staff supported our Scooperheros campaign by providing anti dog fouling posters to display in our Telephone box, they helped us light the Christmas Tree and supported in countless other ways. They also did a fantastic job supporting each other through Covid restrictions. Huge thanks to Micheál Hyland, staff and pupils

## Geashill 5 Year Development Plan



We were delighted to be part of the Geashill 5 year development plan, working with all of the community groups in Geashill and in partnership with Offaly Local Development

This has been a really positive process which has brought together community groups in the village with the common goal of creating a series of actions to improve our community, taking feedback from residents and businesses to help shape the future of Geashill.

Residents were surveyed in October 2021 and results of the survey along with suggested next steps will be shared in early 2022

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# Ongoing/Future Projects

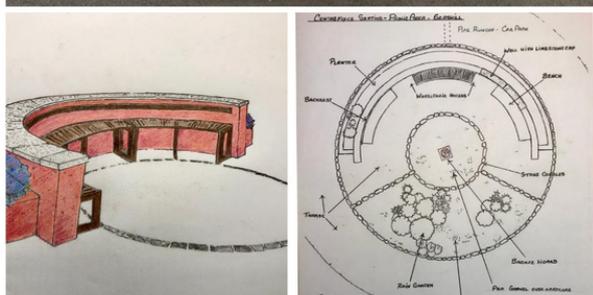
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## Reimagining the Picnic Area



We were delighted to receive funding through the Community Water Development Fund for the creation of a Raingarden and Wetland SuDS (sustainable underground drainage) system in the Picnic Area. The new Raingarden is located close to our newly constructed circular seating area and will take the existing run off from the carpark and filter it through the raingarden to remove pollutants. The water will then feed our newly formed Wetland ponds which will be planted in early spring. This new amenity should be visually attractive and provide a welcome habitat for birds, mammals and insects. We hope to complete this project by late Spring 2022

We are also working to complete a new central seating area which was funded through Town & Village (Covid) funding. This area will have bench and wheelchair accessible seating. Once all these projects are completed we hope to have an even to reopen and with your help rename our park which is now much more than a Picnic Area. Keep an eye on our website and social media for more information.



## Sensory Path



Our Sensory Path is located close to our Pig Fair sculpture at the end of the Green and was made possible through Community Development funding from Offaly County Council. We are using all natural materials to create a path that engages all the senses. It is designed to have a variety of textures and shapes using wood, stone, rope and planting. This path will be completed in early 2022

## School Garden



The Sensory Garden in Geashill N.S was completed in 2018 and we maintain this area with the help of the pupils. In 2021 an overgrown area adjacent to the sensory garden was cleared and over the coming months we will be working with the school to extend our existing garden and create new spaces for composting as well as a permanent vegetable patch. We are really excited about this project which will create educational but also fun outdoor activities and projects for the school.

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