



D.T.A. TULLOW TIDY TOWNS SURVEY

Summary Report August 2020

Over the months of July & August 2020, D.T.A Tullow Tidy Towns surveyed the community of Tullow in order to obtain community input and establish knowledge of areas of the town that the community loves and areas that would benefit from some attention. The survey sought input regarding the best and least favoured aspects of the town, as well as views on the Town and Thomas Traynor (Castledermot Road) Parks and sought suggestions for improvement. An overview of the findings of the survey have been outlined below. The full survey report which details the full responses is available on request (with personal information redacted, as appropriate).

Profile of Respondents

Question 1: Gender:

100 people answered the survey, 29 were male, 71 were female, 1 person did not respond.

Question 2: Age Range (N=100)

18 to 24 - 2%

25 to 34 - 18%

35 to 44 - 40%

45 to 54 - 22%

55 to 64 - 14%

65 to 74 - 4%

75 plus - 1%

Question 3: Are you a Resident of Tullow (N=100)

Residents – 84%

Non-residents – 16%

Tullow Town:

Question 4 – Best Feature of Tullow (N=97)

There were 34 phrases used to describe Tullow's best feature however when these were grouped into similar categories the following resulted as the top 3:

1. The Bridge and River Slaney = 45 respondents
2. Floral Displays = 15 respondents
3. Cleanliness = 7 respondents

Question 5 – Areas, buildings or features that should be improved (N=90)

There were 36 phrases used to describe **areas, buildings or features** of Tullow which should be improved however when these were grouped into similar categories the following resulted as the top 3:

1. Vacant / Derelict Buildings = 34
2. Tullow Town Park = 12
3. Overgrown River Banks = 4

Volunteering:

Question 6: Would you be willing to volunteer? (N=13)

13 respondents stated that they would be willing to volunteer.

Question 7: What days of the weeks would suit you best to volunteer? (N=24)

- Saturday – 58%
- Tuesday – 38%
- Monday – 29%
- Wednesday – 29%
- Thursday – 21%
- Friday - 21%

Question 8: What time of the day would suit you best to volunteer? (N = 25)

- Evening – 52%
- Morning – 40%
- Afternoon – 36%

Suggestions & Initiatives for Tullow Tidy Towns:

Question 9: Are you aware of any Schemes or Projects Tullow might participate in? (N = 38)

No useable information obtained.

Question 10: Have you any ideas for initiatives or projects? (N = 53)

There were 33 ideas for initiatives or projects were put forward by the respondents, when these were grouped into similar categories the following resulted as the top 3:

1. Involve Children in Tidy Towns work = 5
2. Provide Dog Litter Boxes = 5
3. Manage the Appearance of Vacant Buildings = 5

Question 11: Any other Tidy Towns suggestions? (N = 49)

There were 28 suggestions put forward by the respondents, when these were grouped into similar categories the following resulted as the top 3:

1. Get children involved = 5
2. River Clean Up & Walks = 5
3. Keep up the good work = 3

Tullow Town Park

Question 12: Best features of Tullow Town Park (N = 73)

There were 22 suggestions put forward by the respondents, when these were grouped into similar categories the following resulted as the top 4:

1. Exercise Equipment = 8
2. Tesco Wall Art = 7
3. Location = 5
4. Playground = 5

Question 13: When did you last use Tullow Town Park? (N = 83)

1. Last six months = 40
2. Last Year = 14
3. Never used it = 15

Question 14: What stops you visiting Tullow Town Park? (N = 72)

There were 22 reasons put forward by the respondents, when these were grouped into similar categories the following resulted as the top 4:

1. Teenagers = 19
2. Anti-social Behaviour = 13
3. No Kids = 7
4. Pandemic = 5

Question 15: Have you ever used the outdoor exercise equipment? (N = 98)

Yes – 50%

No – 50%

Question 16: If no, what prevents you from using it? (N = 39)

There were 21 reasons put forward by the respondents, when these were grouped into similar categories the following resulted as the top 3:

1. Work / Family / Baby = 5
2. Didn't know they existed = 4
3. No interest = 3

Question 17: What improvements would you like to see at Tullow Town Park? (N = 62)

There were 29 suggestions put forward by the respondents, when these were grouped into similar categories the following resulted as the top 3:

1. Supervision / Security / Cameras / Policing = 17
2. More playground facilities = 9
3. Pollinator / Planting = 6

Thomas Traynor (Castledermot Road) Park

Question 18: What are the Best Features of the Castledermot Road Park? (N = 66)

There were 13 suggestions put forward by the respondents, when these were grouped into similar categories the following resulted as the top 3:

1. Riverside = 12
2. River Walkway = 10
3. Seated Area = 9

Question 19: When did you last use the Castledermot Road Park? (N = 68)

- Never = 29
- Past Week = 11
- Today = 7
- Past Two Weeks = 7

Question 20: Any improvements you would like to see at the Castledermot Road Park? (N = 49)

There were 19 suggested improvements put forward by the respondents, when these were grouped into similar categories the following resulted as the top 4:

1. Increase biodiversity/flowers = 10
2. Extend the park = 3
3. Install bins = 3
4. Rails at river bank = 3

Question 21: Anything not covered by the survey you would like to tell us about? (N = 44)

29 suggestions were detailed under this question, however a large proportion of these had been previously stated in answer to other questions. However, the suggestions were grouped into similar categories and the following resulted as the top 3:

1. Improve the appearance of Derelict / Underused Buildings = 4
2. Repair Broken Footpaths = 2
3. Improve the 1798 Park = 2

Conclusion:

It can be concluded from the results of this survey that in the eyes of the respondents, it is the visual aspects of Tullow that are letting us down. A huge proportion of respondents commented on the appearance of derelict or disused buildings, while others commented on the appearance of approach roads and over grown river banks.

Our community clearly love our location with nearly half of respondents stating that the river Slaney and the Bridge are our best features. This can also be seen in the conclusion below in relation to the Thomas Traynor Park (Castledermot Road), and people's love for its riverside location.

The respondents clearly love when the town is in bloom. There was huge appreciation for the appearance of the floral displays and the work that Tidy Towns do. There were some suggestions that planting should be focused more on pollinators, and that this should be incorporated not only into the floral displays but also into the parks.

However, there are a surprising number of people who are not aware of the existence of either the 'Town Park', the 'Thomas Traynor Park', or both.

It is very clear that the vast majority of people who utilise (or don't due to fears) the Town Park have concerns in relation to anti-social behaviour and the number of teenagers attending the parks in large groups. While the exercise equipment is quite popular, it was felt that the park is badly situated. A high proportion of respondents felt that the park needed formal supervision, be that monitored CCTV, Garda presence, security, park warden etc.

Finally, those who were aware of the presence of Thomas Traynor Park and who frequent it, clearly love it for its tranquil nature, its peacefulness beside the river and the ability to sit beside the river, watch nature and ponder thoughts. If the Thomas Traynor Park is to be altered in any way, this should be to the foremost of the considerations. The people who use it, love it.