

Arklow TidyTowns – Additional Prize



An additional prize was given in 2019 under this special award. Arklow TidyTowns carried out a renewal of a green space in the town. The redesign was carried out using xeriscape principles – the process of landscaping that reduces or eliminates the need for irrigation.

The aim was to show that such a garden could still be pleasing to the eye - a beautiful and quiet oasis. The redesign involved eliminating the turf lawn, installing a large rainwater collection butt, extensive use of mulch and gravel, added organic matter to better retain moisture, the use of drought friendly plants while also keeping some of the original shrubs. Rainwater from the tank is fed directly to the roots of the plants via a drip feed hose laid below the soil surface and run at a very low setting.

Some of the advantages of xeriscape gardens that Arklow TidyTowns highlight include:

- Little or no lawn mowing – saves on energy and time.
- Less time and maintenance needed.
- Takes full advantage of rainfall.
- When climate dictates water restriction policy, xeriscape gardens are unaffected.
- Once the design principles are initiated, it provides garden enthusiasts with many options whilst respecting water conservation

