



# Street Feast Case Studies

Street Feasts range from small groups of neighbours across driveways, in cul de sacs and in front gardens, to larger community celebrations in parks, nursing home gardens, church grounds, and sports fields.

There is some crossover between these groups, as they frequently have the same volunteer organisers, and share similar goals - to involve people in the community, to encourage civic pride and responsibility, to improve the neighbourhood, and to share common interest and have fun.

These local groups are already active within the community, but as volunteer groups, they are always keen to find ways to reach out and involve more residents and recruit new volunteers.

Street Feast fits in with Tidy Towns assessments from June - August, and many Residents Associations have a summer party as part of their annual events, Street Feast gives the benefit of resources, planning framework, publicity, and promotional materials.

Several hosts schedule a neighbourhood clean up or tidy up over the weekend of Street Feast, with the Neighbourly lunch seen as a celebration and reward for taking pride in the area and maintaining it for the benefit of everyone in the community



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## **Structure for each case study**

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- 2. Location
- 3. Host
- 4. Motivation
- 5. What happened
- 6. Feedback
- 7. Outcomes
- 8. Host's advice



# 1. Tidy Towns

**Street Feast Name:** Victoria Road Feast Again

**Location:** Victoria Road, Clontarf, Dublin

**Host:** Donna Cooney, Clontarf Tidy Towns

Attendees: approx 200

## Motivation

“We have one of the widest Streets in the city but we don't like that to decide us, we like to get together and put out the tables and chairs to sit and share good food together. We have older people that have

lived their whole lives on this road and new people that have moved in. So many more stories to hear!

We also have our new arrivals from Ukraine who are already connecting with our community by helping with our weekly local Clontarf Tidy Towns. All through covid we have been working outdoors connecting by helping each other and improving our neighbourhood now we need to celebrate and feast together.



## What they did

- The group publicised the event through their social media (whatsapp and facebook), and Street Feast posters were put up around the neighbourhood.
- The Tidy Towns group publicised it on the ground on their weekly clean-ups
- Insurance covered by the Residents Association.
- Liaised with the Community Garda, who called in to the event
- On the day, around 200 people attended and brought food.
- The Ukrainian refugees who had joined the Tidy Towns weekly clean ups made connections with the wider community and Ukrainian refugee families from a local repurposed nursing home were invited (approx 30-40 families)

## Feedback

“The community groups on our area work to make the neighbourhood a better place. Street Feast pulls together all of our efforts - it brings people together in a fun celebration. Connections are made. People understand each other better and help each other. We have already made plans for an Easter Egg Hunt to include the 63 children in the refugee centre in the neighbourhood.”

## Outcomes

- Greater participation on neighbourhood clean ups
- Plans for future community events
- Greater participation in community initiatives
- Integration of refugees from local centre.



- Community has pulled together to help them - with clothes, access to musical instruments, help with language etc.
- Key people within the refugee centre have been identified as liaison with local community groups.

**Donna's Advice:**

“Street Feast is a fun event. You get people bringing a plate of food who you would not normally get to volunteer for things, but Street Feast makes it easy to join in. We get more volunteers taking part in the clean ups, and we were really happy to get that regular contact with some of the lovely Ukrainians. Make a plan for the weather, as you never know...”



## 2. Residents Association:

**Street Feast Name:** Street Feast Swanbrook

**Location:** Swanbrook Estate, Meath

**Host:** Joanne Byrne

**Participants:** 30 - 40 families

### Motivation

"It's a great community event. We've recently formed a Resident's Association and it's a great time to plan another event like this with the official committee now in place"

### What they did

- Family fun day
- Picnic on local Green
- printed extra Street Feast posters and invitations from the digital pack
- publicised the event through whatsapp group and Facebook & newsletter.
- liaised with the Community Garda, who was happy to attend the Street Feast and join in the fun.
- Outdoor games for children and adults were organised using the Street Feast Playbox.



### Feedback

"We hosted our first Street Feast in 2019 and it has honestly been life changing for our estate. We met so many neighbours interested in being involved in the estate that it kicked started the creation of a Resident's Association.

Many of the kids made new friends that they have continued to play with. Street Feast is a very simple idea, which doesn't necessarily put too much on one or two people to organise. People don't bond any better than how they bond over food and chats!"



### Outcomes

The Residents Association made plans for an open air movie night towards the end of summer, Christmas plans and an Easter Egg hunt.

Local children are playing out together on the green.

Greater involvement in community events and neighbourhood clean-ups

### Joanne's Advice:

"Street Feast is easy to do but so effective. Make sure you bring a few people to plan it, say yes to every offer of help, talk to your Community Garda, and enjoy it! We are looking forward to Street Feast 2023."

Other examples of Residents associations Street Feasts







## Local Businesses

**Street Feast:** Lennox Street Feast

**Business:** Lennox Street Grocer

**Host:** Christopher Arnold

### Motivation:

*“We wanted to build on successful street feasts run in the area before by hosting a bigger party on one of the main streets in our neighbourhood to continue building a sense of community in our area.”*



### What they did:

- As a local business owner, resident and member of the local Tidy Towns group, Christopher Arnold brought together a group of people to host the Lennox Street Feast.
- The Lennox Street Grocery was a hub for the Street Feast, with members of the organising group taking responsibility for different items: games, entertainment, food tables and BBQ etc.
- A local band played music
- Community Garda was involved early in plans, attended the Street Feast at various intervals, and advised on timing for bringing the event to a close.
- At the last minute, someone else provided a gazebo “so the BBQ wasn’t a wash out”



- Put up posters in shops and elsewhere in locality and on social media, and through Tidy Towns

#### Feedback:

"It came together really well - someone knew a band, and someone else provided the speaker and another person gathered outdoor games. There was a great atmosphere that kept going after Street Feast.

#### Outcomes:

- The local community and Tidy Towns groups got a boost.
- Plans to make Street Feast an annual event
- Local businesses benefited from being more involved in the community

Christopher's advice: *"It helps to have a good group to organise and plan a few things in advance, We had a couple of meetings with the Community Garda a few weeks before, and had a good idea of what we wanted. If you start organising, people will step up and help. It was a great atmosphere, and a great vehicle for other community projects."*

#### Other feasts hosted by businesses:

##### **DublinFood Coop Street Feast**

**Host: Jonas Poulson, Dublin Food Co-op**

As a hub in our local community, we have been successful in hosting street parties for both our neighbours and our members. We see it as an important element to our membership led organisation to bring both our members and our neighbours in our local community, together for social gatherings.



##### **D-Light Studios Street Feast**

**Host: Agata Stoinska, D-Light Studios, Dublin 1**

Our goal at D-Light Studios is to be a hub for the creative and local community. By hosting a street feast it was a way to meet our neighbours, get to know them in a relaxed and welcoming environment. We began to work together to provide a programme that serves them and the wider community.



\*We hope to include more case studies from around the country, and in more rural settings in the next edition of our case studies!





## 4 Sports Clubs

**Street Feast Name:** Kiltrustan Street Feast and Sports day

**Location:** Kiltrustan, Co Roscommon

**Host:** Margaret Kelly

### What they did:

- Family fun day
- Picnic
- Family games, races and activities
- Bouncy castle
- Celebrating sporting achievement
- Publicised on Facebook and through local sports clubs
- bbq
- 40-50 families - approx 300 people



### Street Feast motivation

“We hold an annual fun sports day for all ages including adults. with the emphasis on fun as opposed to serious competition,

By encouraging people to bring picnic food, Street Feast adds to the really great atmosphere and gives people an opportunity to chat and mingle”

### Feedback:

“As our street feast was incorporated into our annual sports day, we had between 250 and 300 people. There was a huge sense of community as the sports and races are more about taking part as opposed to being competitive, all small children got a treat after running etc. Our sports field is in a very rural area and not affiliated to any groups so anything in it is very much for community.”

### Outcomes

The Sports club welcomed new members and plans to hold more events during the year.

Plans for an event at Halloween as a thank you to the many volunteers who helped the committee on Sunday. As some of them are new to the area, a smaller gathering will help to get to know them better.

### Margaret’s Advice:

“You need to work out how Street Feast can be integrated into a Sports Day - we had a BBQ and a picnic area set aside. The timing is also important, as if Roscommon is in the GAA final, we will hold our Sports Day/Street Feast on another day.”



## 5 Community Gardens

**Street Feast Name:** St Luke's Community Garden Street Feast

**Location:** St Luke's, Cork City

**Host:** Ronan Leonard

What they did:

- Community picnic lunch with home grown vegetables and salads
- Local scouts group provided tables and helped set up
- Publicised through local community groups and posters.
- 50 - 60 families attended
- People brought cakes and bakes

### Motivation

"We started a community garden last year. Street Feast is a great addition to our calendar. We know from other community gardens that it brings a community together in a myriad of ways and helps us to interact better with neighbours and the wider community"



### Feedback

"We must win the prize for shortest distance salad travelled from the ground to the plate!"

### Outcomes:

Although the above prize doesn't exist, St Luke's Community Garden benefitted through

- greater community awareness,
- more recruits
- involvement from families and children.
- Future plans include a Harvest festival, Culture Night and Street Feast 2023.

### Other Examples of Street Feasts hosted by Community Gardens:

"It was suggested to us by our local Residents Association and we thought it was a brilliant idea! We never hosted any Street Feast before so it is going to be an experimental experience for us :)"

Top of the City Garden



Top of the City Community Garden, Waterford

## 6. Recreational Group 1

**Street Feast:** Tarbatt Sea Swimmers Feast

**Location:** Tarbatt

**Host** Micheal Lanigan

**Number of Attendees:** 20

**Motivation:** “I would like to celebrate the fact that we have an active sea swimming group and also it is my birthday.”

### What they did

- Group went for a sea swim
- Warm drinks and swim robes
- Beach BBQ

**Feedback:** “The weather wasn’t great, but the water was fine. A great celebration of our group of Sea Swimmers”



### More Sea Swimmer Groups:

#### Bettystown Sea Swimmers Feast

“We are a group of swimmers who get together on the beach. In this group there are a lot of women who had breast cancer, women going through menopause, abuse, etc. We are a fun group and think positive and always for a party. Always look on the bright side of life 🤗🤗🤗🤗🤗🤗 “



## 6. Recreational Group 2

**Street Feast:** The FAB Street Feast

**Location:** Ardee Bog, Louth

**Host:** Katie Holten

**Number of attendees:** 20

**Motivation:**

*Our community group is called Friends of Ardee Bog. We want to bring the beauty and peculiarity of the bog to people in the town. We think Street Feast could be a wonderful way to do it! We're thinking a BOG BBQ will bring people together and help us share the love.*



**What they did:**

- Bog Walk
- Picnic
- Bog BBQ
- Publicised through Facebook/whatsapp and community groups

**Feedback:** "Friends of Ardee Bog (FAB) had a FABulous street feast!The weather didn't stop us at all. Sure we're used to it. (Although we had hoped to have a Bog BBQ, so sadly that didn't quite happen!) It was beautiful and nourishing - food for the soul! We got in a beautiful bog walk and forest walk before feasting."



## 7 Inclusion/Refugee

**Street Feast Name:** Solidarity Street Feast

**Location:** Letterkenny

**Host:** Thoiba Ahmed

**Attended by:** 300-400 local residents, refugees and people from the international community

### Motivation:

“I love the idea of Street Feast so much!

I've been involved in community work in Letterkenny for 6 years and have close connections with my neighbours and also with the asylum seekers at the direct provision centre. They would love a picnic or something like it and the Ukrainians in particular said that they missed their traditional food. We will bring together 6 local asylum seeker groups with friends in the community. We are looking forward to this honour, and being part of this Street Feast national event.



### What they did:

- The Sudanese Donegal Community brought together over several asylum seeker groups and organisations in Donegal in a Solidarity Street Feast at IPAS to in Letterkenny.
- Team comprised over 20 people from all over the world.
- Invited 200 Ukrainian refugees who were living in a local hotel
- Involved local Syrian refugee group.
- Chefs from Ukraine, Nigeria and South Africa, cooked for those without cooking facilities or budget.
- Each chef cooked approx 50 meals to show their cultural dishes to each other and the local community in Letterkenny, to help each other and to enjoy the day themselves.
- The local community was invited along with 3 county councillors,
- Donegal news covering the event and 2 professional photographers gave their time
- Most importantly, asylum seekers were invited from outside Letterkenny too.

### Feedback:

“We came together to celebrate Inclusion, equality, and community. Everyone, including families and young children, came together to organise the Solidarity Street Feast with us. Street Feast was important for people's sense of achievement. Everyone took part feeling they were doing meaningful work “

### Outcome:

- The Solidarity Street Feast won the Street Feast 2022 Most Memorable Munch prize!
- Coverage in the Donegal Democrat and Donegal News
- Greater understanding of these communities in Letterkenny
- Greater sense of community and belonging in amongst attendees

### Thoiba's advice:

We had many volunteers, and some great chefs and cooks among them, but funding is always barrier for us. Finding a venue was not easy. We would like help to run our Street Feast in a town park next year, as the weather did not permit this year.





## 8 Retirement Homes

**Street Feast:** Fun with Residents Feast

**Location:** Ballykilmore, Co Westmeath

**Host :** Audrey Hogan

### **Motivation:**

“I work in a large nursing home and would like to bring all the residents together for some fun as they have suffered a lot over covid... we are inviting the whole community as we all want to hear the sound of children’s laughter again”

### **What they did:**

- Hosted a Street Feast for the residents of the home and the local community.
- Set out a picnic on the lawn
- Held Street Feast over a few hours of the day to spread out entertainment
- Included over 50 residents in the Street Feast
- Entertainment came from the families of residents and local community
- Singalongs with residents
- Games on the lawn using Street Feast Play Box
- Live band included the grandson of a resident
- Dance displays from a local group including several grandchildren



### **Feedback**

“We are a larger nursing home with around 90 residents. Street Feast was a wonderful event for us. It was outdoors, in our grounds, and it gathered together family and friends of our residents and people from the local community. We plan to do it again!”

### **Outcome:**

- The nursing home is more integrated within the community
- The residents spirits were lifted and more residents could take part as it was in the nursing home grounds.
- A number of people from the locality have become regular visitors.
- The residents benefited from greater involvement with the community

### **Audrey’s advice:**

“Play to your strengths: the fact that Street Feast is outdoors works well for our residents who still need to be careful of Covid, and we have lovely gardens and a courtyard.

Families - particularly grandchildren of residents love to get involved - we had dancing and music all provided by family and friends. The best part of Street Feast was that it brought the party to us”

### **More Street Feasts in Nursing Homes:**

“Covid19 has had a huge effect on the residents of Castlemanor village/ nursing home. We have been through lockdowns leaving the residents feeling isolated, lonely and apprehensive about getting involved with their community again. I want to host a street fest as a step out into the community again.”

Mary McEvoy, Host Castlemanor Retirement Home



## 9 Churches

Portland Row Street Feast

Location: Dublin 1

Host: Brenda McLoughlin

Street Feast attended by: 100-150 people

### Motivation:

“We are a community based church and would like to integrate more with the local neighbours”

### What they did:

- Open invitation to the community
- Publicised through parish newsletter
- Displayed posters and decorated the church
- Church volunteers organised BBQ in grounds of the church

### Feedback

“We are on the street, so people walk by every day. From the time we put up the posters, people were stopping by. On the day, lots of local people came by to find out what we were doing.

Street Feast is such a great way to interact with the local community. Food is a brilliant way to integrate, as people really connect with each other when they eat together.”

### Brenda's Advice:

“Get out there and do it - you won't be disappointed. A free BBQ is a great way to connect with people! Make sure you let as many local people know about it as possible, and watch out for other events. We were affected by a big GAA match in Croke Park, but we still had a great day!”

