

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Ballinagh - Béal Átha na nEach	Ref: 905
County: Cavan	Mark: 262
Category: B	Date(s): 22/06/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	34	34
Streetscape & Public Places	80	32	33
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	33	34
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	25	26
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	15	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	51	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	33	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	34	35
TOTAL MARK	550	257	262

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Fáilte chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu don bhliain 2022. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Adh Mór...

The application provided a good introduction to the Ballinagh Tidy Towns Committee and its work in the last year.

The committee of large of 16 held 7 meetings in the past year and is assisted in its projects by 23 volunteers. No doubt these meetings are only part of the community involvement so do include more details in future applications. Local businesses, Cavan County Council, the GAA and Pobal are among the agencies and state bodies which support your work. Communications with the local community is via social media and print media. Worth noting is another novel form of communication, a Saint Patrick's Day float - a useful way of mustering support for work in the following months.

Regarding Junior Tidy Towns you have good relations with teachers in the local school. The participation of transition year students in your projects deserves mention as it includes young adults in your projects.

Ballinagh has been involved in the Tidy Towns awards for seven years and has obtained funding for several projects each of which will have benefitted the local community.

The map supplied was concise and highlighted the principal streets. A key or legend to the map would have been useful. The images from Facebook pages capture the activity and enjoyment of those participating in Tidy Town activities.

In future applications you could link where appropriate your projects with the Sustainable Development Goals, include before and after images of your completed projects and a copy of the 3 – 5 year Plan.

Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:

The original street line has been maintained with new premises in scale with existing buildings. The buildings are painted in attractive colours, one blending with the next. On Main Street steps with metal railings and a well-positioned noticeboard form part of the street furniture. Informative heritage signs have also been placed elsewhere in the village. The resurfacing of pavements on the Main Street and the new tarmac surfaces at the Community Centre and Market Square improve the appearance and ease of movement in those areas. The new playground by the community centre and the nearby riverside amenity area give opportunities for rest and recreation for young and older members of the community.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

On the Main Street and at road junctions, roses are providing evergreen groundcover and deep pink flowers in summer and autumn. While trees planted in four large planters and at street level provide shade and shelter. Well

filled hanging baskets hang from metal standards positioned at intervals along the street. As anticipated in the application they have made a welcome return to the village. Elsewhere in the village flower filled containers have been placed on railings, noticeable to those who pass by. Private individuals and businesses have also positioned hanging baskets and window boxes on their properties.

The TT Committee must be justly proud of the recently opened Ballinagh River Amenity. This area by the river with wide accessible paths, seats and picnic table provides views to the countryside, a charming garden on the opposite bank of the river and an attractive bridge completes the scene.

Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:

As it matures the recently developed Ballinagh Riverside Amenity will develop into habitats for both land, waterside and water-based animals and plants. Every success as you in collaboration with other agencies, continue to develop this area. In time it will be a useful resource for environmental education for school children and adults. One of your projects with a transition year student was completed with success. Namely a bug hotel constructed by a wall leading to Seangharraí Drive and the G.A.A. pitch. Close by a border of pollinator friendly plants were in flower. While this area will be used by children, the Committee might consider building other bug or bee hotels at suitable locations in the village.

Nature and art came together in another one of your projects with children in St Felim's primary school. As you say both children and the general public will enjoy the planned mural.

Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:

The use of rainwater for watering hanging baskets and troughs and old pots for bug hotels are good example of sustainability. The Committee could explore the introduction of other projects or practices of recycling and upcycling in the village.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Litter bins are provided at intervals along the principal streets. Dog waste containers are also evident in the village. The Committee might attend to a few places on paths and paved areas which have become weedy. Mention was made in the application to the refurbishment of the filling station on the N55, which is now both tidy and very welcoming with planters and hanging baskets.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

In one area visited, Forge Brook, the trees, grass and hedges in the communal open space were well maintained and linked with the boundaries and trees of adjacent fields. While the older conifers near Seangharraí Drive are in good condition, some severely pruned ornamental Cherries could be replaced in the coming years.

Grass, trees and planters are well maintained on the Corstruce estate. Given the extent of the grassed area could consideration be given to a less intensive mowing regime in part of the site? This would reduce the use of fuel (Sustainability) and increase the numbers of wildflowers (Nature and Biodiversity).

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

The approach roads are well maintained with some very well-maintained roadside boundaries of houses. Looking in the opposite direction these approach roads blend well with the surrounding road and agricultural landscape. The streets, in particular, Main Street, has benefitted from the recent refurbishment.

Concluding Remarks:

In the last seven years much has been accomplished in Ballinagh Tidy Towns Committee. Through your own endeavours and with the support of the local authority the local streetscape has been significantly improved and projects promoting and supporting nature and biodiversity completed. Local community support is evident in the well-maintained housing areas and many well filled planters and window boxes situated by homes and business premises. Lean leis an dea obair.