

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cross - An Chrois** Ref: **1930**
County: **Clare** Mark: **259**
Category: **A** Date(s): **09/07/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	32	35
Streetscape & Public Places	80	33	35
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	36	38
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	24	26
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	17	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	48	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	27	28
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	28	29
TOTAL MARK	550	245	259

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 Cross Tidy Towns Committee of 10 is certainly blessed with a volunteer base of 41 for such a small community; links with the 'Loop Head Together' group is both noteworthy and fruitful. It is satisfying that your 6-year participation in the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition has brought about so many community benefits not least of which is community cohesion and a spirit of welcome and social inclusion which is laudable. Congratulations on your successful application for inclusion in Clare County Council's Paint Scheme and on the success of your Village Orchard courtesy of the landowner, this spirit of co-operation and good-will is what Tidy Towns is all about and reflects Global Development Goal 17 "Partnership for the Goals" Thank you for this year's fine submission with projects identified and appropriately designated on your sketch map which facilitated adjudication; your adjudicator loves your document with beautiful images on 'The Importance Placed on Biodiversity' with its emphasis on Social Inclusion, Fun and Learning while taking actions for biodiversity.

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

Beautiful scenic views out to the surrounding countryside are an attractive feature of Cross Village; now that the Town and Village Paint Scheme has been extended to incorporate the Cross community this will enhance the visual amenity of the built environment significantly. Congratulations on refurbishment works to properties and on the success of the Window Box Programme engaging property owners in the overall appearance of the village. The 'School' B&B premises looked superb at the time of adjudication and appears to have been recently Painted, no doubt it will be Sale Agreed soon. The roadside boundary wall of the church is a bit weather-stained need in need of attention as is the wall of Naomh Eoin sports grounds, perhaps a climbing plant would be suitable for the concrete block wall here. it is good to note street enhancements for all seasons with the Daffodil programme and the Christmas tree initiative.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The entrance to Naomh Eoin looks quite well however as noted above its boundary walls do little to complement visual amenity within Cross. Container planting is prolific at many dwellings, are they featured throughout the seasons? Planting at the pump and across from it is maturing nicely. Your tree planting programme could be extended to create necessary enclosure to unsightly sites, remember to plant native where possible. The recently planted native apple trees within the Village Orchard is an excellent initiative as these are pollinator friendly. We note the dearth of public space within the village and that the Tidy Towns group continues to search out opportunities to extend landscaping;

perhaps tree and / or flowering shrubs could be planted inside the boundary walls of the Digital Hub, and at the old burial grounds; the possibility of landscaping within the carparking area of Naomh Eoin might also be explored.

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

The beautiful fragrance of roses permeated the air in Cross at the time of adjudication especially at the beds near the insect hotels. No doubt container planting too is pollinator friendly. Participation in the Loop Head Together Community Garden initiative is excellent. Consideration might be given to the identification of local habitats and necessary actions to support these; this could be undertaken with the pupils of St Cuan's National School. In addition to recommendations above for the old graveyard consideration might also be given to the installation of a plot identification panel and another on the social / cultural significance of the burial grounds. Actions undertaken on this and the above category are in line with Sustainable Development Goals 15 "Life on Land" and 11 "Sustainable Cities and Communities". Do update Us next year on the residency status of the bird nesting boxes.

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

The site accommodating the recycling bins was maintained free of dumping and litter during adjudication however it does look a bit underdeveloped and could be made to look more attractive. It is noteworthy that all new purchases made are of recycled materials. Rainwater harvesting is excellent as is your arrangement with the Loop Head Together group on the sharing and transporting of plants for Cross village which reduces your carbon footprint and moves you closer towards sustainable planting. An energy saving project could now be considered involving households perhaps around LED lighting, solar panels or other initiative and savings monitored to enable calculations and projections to be made for the future energy use of the community. The Tidy Towns Handbook is an excellent resource in this respect together with the SEAL website.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Litter control is excellent throughout Cross and no dumped materials were noted either. Some building materials were noted which no doubt will be removed on the completion of construction Works. A number of untidy yards were notable on entrances to the village which look untidy And while it is appreciated that these are working areas better enclosure could be achieved by appropriate planting of trees, shrubs or flowering native hedgerow. Well done on helping out neighbouring communities on regular beach clean-ups and of course on your own regular litter picks; we note segregation of litter for recycling. Do you participate in the National Spring Clean? The input of Clare County Council with regular street cleaning and support from your local shop is appreciated.

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

Dwellings within Rinevella View looked attractive however a number of roadside boundary walls looked unfinished. Consideration might be given to grassing or at least resurfacing roadside areas to Boundary walls of dwellings on approach roads and entrances to Cross. We note plans to extend the Window Box programme to new residents within the new housing estate. The refurbishment of the long wall near the church is favourably noted. Estate residents could be encouraged to participate in activities in other categories of the competition such as an energy initiative and / or a landscaping or biodiversity initiative.

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

New stretches of footpath within Cross enhance pedestrian safety, hopefully all damaged areas and kerbing will be refurbished soon. Name plates look well especially the new one which is eye-catching with its stone base and flower beds. Stone wall refurbishment is invaluable at many levels and host significant habits also. With the exception of the old service poles street furniture looks well; overhead service cables diminish visual amenity hopefully these will be ducted on refurbishment of footpaths and road surfaces.

Concluding Remarks:

The Cross Tidy Towns group and community are working hard to improve both the visual amenity of the village and its biodiversity and we look forward to future visits and witnessing the fruits of your work. Thank you!