

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Ennistymon - Inish Díomáin</b>	Ref: <b>69</b>
County: <b>Clare</b>	Mark: <b>320</b>
Category: <b>C</b>	Date(s): <b>22/06/2022</b>

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2021</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2022</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	52	54
Streetscape & Public Places	80	42	45
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	42	44
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	32	34
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	19	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	33	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	33	34
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>320</b>

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valú 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..Thank you for your succinct submission this year supported by an excellent hand drawn map with appropriate designations for projects and referenced to Global Sustainable Development Goals, in addition to your Multi-Annual Tidy Towns Plan but most of all thank you for Ennistymon's 25 year's participation in the SuperValú National Tidy Towns Competition. Your adjudicator was especially impressed with your lovely logo for the town which reflects Ennistymon's architectural heritage. The Tidy Towns movement appears to be very well organised with quite a long list of supporting bodies, agencies, groups and individuals. Your website is also noteworthy alongside other digital means and traditional print media. Engagement with the schools is fruitful and we anticipate a significant addition to the built environment on the completion of the planned schools complex involving all three schools by 2024. The recently installed street name signs not alone look great but also serve to give their respective streets a stronger identity. Thank you for the excellent photographs.

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

The townscape when viewed from the high ground on entering Ennistymon from the Kilfenora road is superb with most buildings beautifully painted and presented. Both the old Market House and the Courthouse look really well and their new use fits well into the life of the town; colourful flower displays at the Market House were admired. All public buildings, both new and refurbished including the Community Centre are nicely presented. No doubt vacant premises on the market will enjoy the same high standard of presentation upon redevelopment and their traditional features will be retained. Hearty congratulations on the ducting of overhead service cables, refurbishment of footpaths and removal of unsightly service pole all of which enhance Ennistymon's streetscape immensely. The bench type seat in The Square could be revarnished and this area cleared of weed growth around the base of the tree and along the kerb. We look forward to the restoration of the vernacular gates identified in your recent survey.

### **Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:**

Colourful container flower displays strategically placed around the town looked really well; a possible exception in your adjudicators view were the hanging baskets along the bridge which had almost been overtaken by long grass and which interrupted a full appreciation of their visual amenity. Perennial planting such as the 1000 bulbs planted this year are invaluable as are the 28 fruit trees planted within the walled garden; well done on developments within the Library Garden also! Maintenance projects are favourably noted from the removal of tight ties on trees to pruning all the apple trees and more. We applaud the reduction of reliance on container plants in favour of planting

directly into the ground and the emphasis on pollinator friendly plants in all instances. The stand of mature trees within the grounds of The Falls Hotel look stately.

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

We wish you success with your entry into the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Award 2022; the details of your entry for Ennistymon are impressive. It is wonderful that the four sites for biodiversity are so well contained within the area located between the River Inagh and the River Ballymacraven and that you have been so thorough in identifying species and habitats. Congratulations on the completion of your 2022 Biodiversity Plan and the good use to which it is put. Ennistymon's liaison with Bird Watch Ireland will no doubt result in some excellent outcomes; the completion of surveys is favourably noted. The cemetery has some unusual heritage features which can be seen for quite a distance. The Woodland area within the environs of the Falls Hotel is an important natural amenity.

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

The recycling point, located within the curtilage area of Claire County Council Municipal District Service Centre is well positioned with good access for most people. Initiatives to conserve / improve water supply are notable in addition to the water refill station. Gaining the interest and engagement of the business community in the circular economy is an excellent achievement and see a reduction of items for landfill. Your movement towards sustainable planting is laudable and the transport initiatives will make a difference given time. Energy savings equivalent to three return trips by car to the moon made by the Falls Hotel by generating their own electricity is impressive by any standard. We note that many businesses' have installed solar panels and that many smart meters have been installed within households and encourage you to report back once more on energy (and other) savings made to raise awareness of Ennistymon's progress towards being a sustainable community.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Ennistymon was litter and dumping free during adjudication; all litter pickers are owed a debt of gratitude by the community in general; litter picking routes are noted and the involvement of school children in making Anti-Litter Signs must have made a significant difference! Their engagement in litter picking around the schools is appreciated. The wirescape free aspect of the Main Street reduces visual clutter immensely and enhances the streetscape; given time this will be extended to all areas within the core of the town.

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

Townhouses both two and three story are a handsome feature of the townscape. A beautifully painted terrace of dwellings located across from the river was admired. Ard Donagh residential estate has nicely maintained green areas and maturing trees its expansive green area could feature a section devoted to Grow Your Own initiative / Community Orchard / Herb Garden. Some nice road frontages to dwellings on the road leading up to the cemetery were noted. What looks like a very old three-storey house located beside the Thai Orchid premises will hopefully have its traditional features retained upon refurbishment. It is good to note the representation of residential estates on the Tidy Towns committee and the helpful interactions.

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

The new mowing regime and related signage is both good for pollinators and informative for the travelling public! Nameplates on entrances together with landscaping create a very good first impression of Ennistymon which is sustained upon arrival in the towns centre. In your adjudicators opinion there are too many signs on the entrance from the Ennis Road which is a bit of a distraction for drivers. The minor road leading to the cemetery is badly potholed and should be resurfaced. Car parking facilities appears to be adequate and pedestrian crossing enhances road safety. Street furniture enjoys good maintenance in general however there are still some unsightly service poles. The installation of the new litter bins is favourably noted as are new stretches of footpath.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

It has been quite a number of years since your adjudicator was last in Ennistymon and this year's visit was filled with admiration at the developments which taken place particularly those in relation to streetscape / townscape.