

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Knock - Ce Cnoc** Ref: **78**
County: **Clare** Mark: **314**
Category: **A** Date(s): **10/07/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	42	44
Streetscape & Public Places	80	39	42
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	46	48
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	25	27
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	17	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	31	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37	39
TOTAL MARK	550	298	314

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. Knock can rightly claim to be an attractive destination on the Shannon Estuary Way and the enhancement works on the Cé Cnoc have been a fine Achievement of which the community is rightly proud. Thank you for Knock's 18 year participation in the SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition; it is satisfying to know that the community has benefited in many ways and become a more cohesive group with a greater appreciation of their home place. The Tidy Towns group itself is small with only 7 committee members and 4 volunteers however the wider community support available is strong with a list of 17 bodies, agencies and other groups from which you receive support. Communications methods appear effective and the hand of friendship extended to new residents is heart-warming. Engagement with the school is fruitful and benefits all. Thank you for this year's submission with supporting material. The map is quite detailed and colourful.

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

The Fisherman's Hut is beautifully presented and work accomplished for other buildings on the main thoroughfare is visually impressive. Thank you for the photographs, the co-ordinated colour scheme of premises enhances the overall visual amenity of the village centre and the presentation of the window display in the (vacant) Mc Cullican premises is a poignant reminder of past times. Public spaces offer opportunities for recreational amenity and all are enhanced by flower displays. Your adjudicator likes the emphasis on wild roses. As so many of your buildings and public spaces have socio cultural significance information panels could be featured alongside. Perhaps a premises could be found to host a small social history museum.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Green areas marking entrances to Knock from approach roads are beautifully presented with colourful flower displays set against the grey of natural stone and a carpet of green. The travelling public is not disappointed upon arrival in the village centre which features equally colourful displays completed by seated amenity areas and picnic facilities. When further picnic tables are being installed include one that is wheelchair accessible in the interest of universal accessibility. The difficulty of finding plant species that are salt and wind resistant is appreciated by your adjudicator so it seems a little insensitive to add a requirement for native species and pollinator friendly species; at least the montbretia is good for pollinators even if it is not native however don't become too reliant on begonias which were featured on the quay. We note your Community Tunnel which is a wonderful facility and also noted is the spirit of

generosity of the owner of the land on which it is located. Ongoing projects in the polytunnel are impressive.

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

Being located on the Shannon Estuary Way gives Knock an advantage in terms of the natural environment and biodiversity and we note pier fishing which reflects Knock's heritage of being an old fishing village. A biodiversity plan should be prepared for the village to identify habitats and species and interpretive panels installed to educate and promote awareness of the biodiversity of the estuary in general and of Knock in particular. Even stone walls feature habitats which deserve to be identified and protected and we note proximity to a woodland area earmarked as a future project for recreational amenity. It is good to note how well informed the group is regarding species that are pollinator friendly and that there is a mowing regime in place to allow wild flowers to flourish. That so many of your plants are propagated from cuttings in the community polytunnel is wonderful and that an organic nursery is accessible locally is a blessing. The following link can be used to download an App which will be helpful in assessing the success of your actions for biodiversity Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT Count) - National Biodiversity Data Centre (biodiversityireland.ie)

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

It is wonderful how the concept of the Circular Economy has been so thoroughly embraced within the Knock community. The range of activities in which the community is involved is impressive. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Resource Management of Water and Energy, Travel initiatives, Composting, Sustainable planting from seeds and cuttings, Fertilizer from seaweed and more! Give some thought to making a calculation as to by how much has the carbon footprint of the Knock community been reduced and set some goals in reducing it further to eventually becoming a Sustainable Community. Congratulations to the pupils of Burrane School on their Green Flag achievement!

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Knock was litter and dumping free during adjudication and it was a pleasure to note how clean the foreshore and pier areas were. A few untidy areas were noted most likely related to on-going construction work. Your vigilance regarding plastics is laudable as are your activities along the foreshore in the aftermath of Storm Eunice in March of this year. Your monthly litter picks are favourably noted as indeed is the installation of the three new litter bins on the pier by Clare County Council. Well done also on the segregation of litter where feasible for recycling. Overhead service cables and associated timber service poles create visual clutter which is untidy in itself, hopefully a start date can be set on ducting the cables and replacing the poles.

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

The Oaklands Estate was beautifully presented with well-maintained green areas, a good footpath surface, attractive lamp standards for public lighting and no overhead service cables. Dwellings along the main thoroughfare looked well also and a number of detached dwellings featured nice gardens and boundary treatment. Consideration might be given to featuring a Sensory Garden, Herb Garden, Community Orchard or other Grow your Own on one of the large green areas within Oaklands Estates. Other Knock residents might be encouraged to undertake a Garden Bird survey or other wildlife initiative.

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

Entrances to Knock from approach roads are very beautiful and raises the visitor's curiosity and expectation of what lies ahead. Road surfaces are reasonably good; are there sufficient footpaths to meet pedestrian needs? The only one remembered from adjudication is the stretch within the Oaklands estate. The outer edge of the grass verge from the estate towards the village is neatly trimmed and looks well. Stone walls on approach roads and elsewhere are an attractive feature of Knock also, some were being refurbished on adjudication day. Road and other signage looked well, congratulations on the new signage. It may be of benefit to conduct a 'Walkability Audit' taking those with mobility issues into consideration to establish universal accessibility within Knock.

Concluding Remarks:

Knock is a picturesque village with a rich socio cultural and natural amenity heritage which deserve to be further developed for the local and wider community.