

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Mountshannon - Baile Uí Bheoláin</b>	Ref: <b>81</b>
County: <b>Clare</b>	Mark: <b>340</b>
Category: <b>B</b>	Date(s): <b>08/07/2022</b>

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2021</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2022</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	53	54
Streetscape & Public Places	80	45	46
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	47	48
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	36	38
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	18	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	42	43
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>340</b>

### 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. Mountshannon's 40 years continuous participation in the SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition is an impressive record by any standard and it has been a pleasure for your adjudicator to have visited a number of times over those years. Thank you for this year's submission; for next year please designate projects on the map or in the legend as M, N or FP as required. The Tidy Towns group have every right to be proud of their work on approach roads over the past year as your adjudicator was most impressed with the excellent landscaping at entrances to the village. We welcome the new Community Council and Tidy Towns sub-group to the competition and wish them a rewarding 4 years. It is satisfying to know of the community benefits that have accrued as a result of participation. The planned New Holy Island Visitor Centre is an exciting project that will add a new dimension to life in Mountshannon. The Tidy Towns group have excellent community support and engagement with the National School is laudable; communication channels with stakeholders are effective and fruitful.

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

Mountshannon features a number of heritage buildings for which new uses have been created and these serve the local and wider community well in a variety of ways in addition to maintaining their traditional features. Thank you for the fine photographs. The recently redeveloped Boat House looks superb. Both the Church premises and the National School together with the adjoining preschool were beautifully painted and the nature murals featured on the roadside façade are a nice touch. The car park of what looks like an unnamed public house located opposite the Inver Garage needs resurfacing however beautiful rose displays and well used picnic benches are an attractive feature here. The elevated nature of the Main Street affords nice views both into and out from the village; consideration might be given to featuring a co-ordinated colour scheme for its buildings.

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

The maintenance of the Aistear amenity area by CES workers and Tidy Towns volunteers is to a very high standard and in fact green areas in general look very well. The roadside grassed verge with the semi mature trees beyond the garage looked really lovely and the rose displays at the Hotel Bar were admired also. The flowerbed / shrubbery on the stone plaint near the recycling bins are favourably acknowledged also. Container plants in some instances appeared not to be flourishing, no doubt this is a temporary situation. Don't forget the needs of pollinators when choosing species and where possible chose native species of tree to support biodiversity. Do remember to plant perennial species also and try to have year-round interest and colour.

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

The foreshore area was very clean in Mounshannon on adjudication day which was nice to see having walked the footpath to the marina/harbour and enjoying the colourful display of wild flowers. It is important to keep the base of trees and fruit trees free of weed growth as these diminish the water and nutrients available to the trees. Areas left in their natural state to display wildflowers are great for pollinators. To assess the outcome of actions for pollinators the following link can be used to download an App that will measure changes over time. Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT Count) - National Biodiversity Data Centre ([biodiversityireland.ie](http://biodiversityireland.ie)) Nature information panels should be installed at the car park of the Wood Park Forest amenity; the car park itself is very badly pot-holed and needs resurfacing. The preparation of a Biodiversity Plan for the Aistear Amenity area is an exciting venture that will be richly rewarded; well done to the members of the Tidy Towns group that participated in Biodiversity Training offered by Leader and congratulations on Mountshannon's Blue Flag status.

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

Mountshannon's recycling point was neatly presented during adjudication with good accessibility. For optimum performance in this category of the competition projects under the following headings should be offered; Water conservation and management, Energy conservation and management, Sustainable planting; Materials management (reduce, re-use, recycle, upcycle) and Travel all of which contribute toward Climate Action. Ideally the community's carbon footprint will be reduced by engaging in some of these actions. Thank you for the information provided on the Croilár Community Development Hub.

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

The CES workers do a great job in their weekly litter collections and the community's participation in the Annual Spring Clean appears to make an impressive contribution to the litter and dumping free status of Mountshannon; no graffiti was noted either and it is good to note your successful actions re dog fouling. The bin for boat visitors and the 'Leave No Trace' initiative at the Forest Park are commendable also. Some dishevelled looking farm outbuildings on a side road at the crossroads together with overhead service cables and dated timber service poles along the Main Street diminish the visual amenity of the streetscape. Redundant petrol pumps could be painted and the containers here planted with pollinator friendly species. Quite a bit of weeding was necessary throughout the village.

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

The entrance to Mountshannon Court residential development looked lovely and rose displays in many gardens throughout the village were admired. Weedy footpaths within the 'An Garran' estate were possibly a trip hazard and weeds many centimetres high were noted along a kerb in a development near the harbour although dwellings themselves were very attractive. Unfinished gardens seemed prevalent in the 'Radharc An Locha' estate. Perhaps an Estate Competition would help focus the attention of residents on areas beyond their roadside boundaries.

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

Wonderfully landscaped entrances to Mountshannon from the R352 are an excellent introduction to the village and road signage was quite good too. Road and footpath surfaces are in a good state of repair and road markings clearly delineated. In a few instances signs were in need of refurbishment and one was obscured by growth which needed to be cut back. The car park at the marina / harbour was beautifully surfaced and lined. Stone walls and buildings are a handsome feature of approach roads and those on the Whitegate Road featured wild fruit bushes.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Mountshannon is a very pleasant village overall with much to offer the visitor and the local community; we extend our best wishes to the incoming Community Council and Tidy Towns sub-group.