

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre:	<b>Shannon - Baile na Sionna</b>	Ref:	<b>88</b>
County:	<b>Clare</b>	Mark:	<b>336</b>
Category:	<b>E</b>	Date(s):	<b>28/06/2022</b>

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	51	53
Streetscape & Public Places	80	43	45
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	47	50
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	37	40
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	20	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	51	53
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	33	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	38	40
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>336</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. Shannon Town is welcome to the SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition in this their 44th year of participation, a fine record indeed. The first impression on reading your submission is that the Tidy Towns group is very much engaged with the community having committee members involved with other groups such as Men's Shed, Meals on Wheels and more; your adjudicator likes that the group took a stand at a social event to introduce themselves and their work to attendees and recruited new members including Ukrainian refugees. Congratulations on the acquisition of a 40-foot container which you can use as your very own base for meetings, events and storage as necessary; we note your intention to enhance its surroundings appropriately. We admire your helpful involvement with the Park Run, the Darkness into Light Run and the orchestration of the Family Fun Day. The planting of 3600 native Irish Saplings for hedgerow is impressive and the help received from the community including Ukrainians is equally impressive. It is satisfying to know of the benefits accrued to the community by participation in the competition.

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

The Goal Post public house and adjacent Wolfe Tones na Sionna CLG premises look really well and the car park is nicely surfaced; flower displays, flags and the children's play area are a nice touch. Public buildings looked well also with the church, schools, Library and Medical Centre enjoying a good presentation alongside the Town Centre and its car park. The new public space at the Illaunmanagh Lawn Cemetery overlooking the Shannon Estuary is wonderful and the Oasis Garden is a special place also. Improvements to the playground are welcome as is the footpath upgrade to increase capacity. Your involvement with Clare County Council on signage content is noteworthy as is your submission to the new Shannon Town Master Plan. Hopefully plans for the Drumgeely Shopping Centre, the Shannon Development building and the Garda Station will be realized; your involvement with the Hastings Farmhouse Restoration Project is laudable. Congratulations on the success of the Christmas lights initiative.

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

Green open spaces with stands of mature trees are a characteristic feature of Shannon Town and all are maintained to a high standard. Container flower displays brought colour to their environs and in many instances were pollinator friendly too; flower beds especially those enclosed in stone surrounds were eye-catching. Reference has been made above to the 3,600 native Irish saplings planted for hedgerow which is impressive by any standard; the Spring bulb planting initiative is excellent also and complements summer flowering to give year-round interest and colour.

Mini Orchards, the new Biodiversity Garden, the Wellness Garden and more bring nature and colour into their surroundings. Maintenance work at the Town Park is invaluable as is tree management action. The groups involvement with other groups on the Shannon Wetland Restoration Project is laudable.

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

Congratulations on Shannon Town's new Biodiversity Action Plan and the identification of 11 public grassland sites for biodiversity enhancement. A downloadable App using the following link can be used to assess actions taken for pollinators and biodiversity. Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT Count) - National Biodiversity Data Centre ([biodiversityireland.ie](http://biodiversityireland.ie)) Well done on the four new Wildflower Meadows. The Purple Loop Walk which starts at the entrance to the cemetery is a wonderful amenity and deserves to be highlighted on a map in the town centre with signposting at appropriate locations. The plethora of initiatives under this heading are too numerous to include in this short report however the Fairy Door Trail and the actions of the Scouts and Beavers deserve our appreciation. The Clare Biodiversity Forum sounds like an excellent resource.

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

Activities under this heading include LED street lighting; identification of reduced areas for spraying; future plans for Green Waste; an Awareness Raising Campaign utilising social media and more. For improved performance in this category of the competition try to include projects on energy management and travel. Perhaps consider hosting an Energy Savings in the Home event with help and advice from the SEAI and the Environmental Awareness Officer of Clare County Council. A Walk / Cycle to School Day or a Walking Bus / car free day might also be considered. The range of activities from water harvesting to composting and other best practice actions at the Community Allotments is favourably noted.

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

Shannon Town was litter free during adjudication and there was no evidence of dumping or graffiti either; well done. Weedy outbreaks were noted in a few locations the most notable being a stretch of footpath beyond the church travelling towards the Town Centre; the footpath surface was quite bad and the weeds were growing through the cracks. Involvement in the National Spring Clean and the Clean Coast initiatives works at many levels; not alone does it keep your home place clean but it can also be a vehicle for social cohesion and wellbeing. Litter collection action in the Town Park in the wake of the failure of the no bins and Leave No Trace trials is invaluable for this most precious community facility; appreciation is extended to the CES workers in this respect. The co-operation of the schools and particularly the TY students is appreciated also for litter management within their environs. The groups proactive approach regarding signage and the business community is good and the use of Facebook to promote Litter Awareness is excellent.

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

All residential areas visited for adjudication looked very well managed and tastefully landscaped; the entrance to the Dún na Rí estate was especially admired. It is excellent that the Tidy Towns group are on hand to give advice and practical help to residents of the two new estates and to residents that manage the Community Oasis Garden. Cognisance is taken of the group's maintenance of the five large stone enclosed flowerbeds at Drumgeely together with containers and raised beds throughout Shannon Town; the flower pot upgrade for better visual impact is noteworthy. Your Best Kept Awards for schools and small businesses is an excellent initiative and sounds like a fun event also.

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

Entrances to Shannon Town from approach roads are excellent in respect of their overall appearance and in particular name signs, road signs, street furniture and landscaping; the Ballycasey roundabout which marks one entrance to the town looked especially well. Some traffic islands, not many, were a bit weedy and worn looking but nothing too serious. Road and footpath surfaces are generally good and roads well marked. Pedestrian crossings enjoy good maintenance and car parking appears to be adequately catered for in many off-street car parks. The new bus shelters are an attractive and very useful element of their respective streetscapes. Bothar Mór must have looked beautiful in the Spring lined with daffodils. We appreciate that the preparation of the Shannon Masterplan will place a halt on your shorter-term plans for the town; we wish you every success for your future Tidy Towns actions.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Shannon Town is very different in design and layout from most Irish towns and members of the travelling public may not realize how much the town has to offer. The installation of town maps showing the location of walks, parks and other amenities is suggested at a number of strategic sites within the town. Apologies if these exist already and were missed by your adjudicator. Thank you for a high standard of presentation this year and the best of luck for the future.