

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Spanish Point - Rinn na Spáinneach** Ref: **2211**
County: **Clare** Mark: **279**
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/06/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	36	38
Streetscape & Public Places	80	38	40
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	40	42
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	25	28
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	19	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	53	55
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	27	28
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	25	27
TOTAL MARK	550	263	279

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 hionrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Adh Mór...It was delightful to visit Spanish Point on a lovely Summer's day and enjoy all the village has to offer. With up to 30 volunteers and a committee of 7 the Tidy Towns group is well poised to make significant progress in the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition. The support of the community for events like the Big Beach Clean-Up and other maintenance projects is admirable and it is good to note that the group is expanding by welcoming new residents on board most especially the Ukrainian families. Your liaison with other community groups is fruitful and engagement with the schools is a wise investment in the future of Spanish Point. Your Facebook page, Website and Newsletter are excellent means of promoting Tidy Towns news and events. Your 'Dune Restoration' project is impressive and the information panels on this are both informative and attractive. New seating and fencing including wind proofing fencing is a welcome feature also. Thank you for your continued participation in the competition and for your excellent submission this year which was very well organised, easy to comprehend and facilitated adjudication.

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

The majority of buildings within Spanish Point present a beautiful presentation to the public realm; the entrance to Saint Joseph's Secondary School with its lovely name stone was particularly admired. It is with pleasure that projects which feature universal accessibility are offered; the space on the concrete base of the new seating for wheelchairs and/or buggy's is a most welcome development; well done on identifying the relevant SDGs. Other new projects which include a new walkway, information panel, autism communication's board and more will open up your lovely village and make it more inclusive. The development of the Audio Guide with QR codes linked to other such codes will facilitate a greater understanding of Spanish Point for all than was previously. All maintenance projects are favourably acknowledged.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasá agus Tírdhreachú:

The entrance to Spanish Point from the Miltown Malbay road is quite beautiful with its lovely and well managed green areas and handsome name stone; the landscaped roadside area further in eye-catching. Trees within the school grounds are settling in nicely and the creation of a wild flower meadow is an appropriate addition, thank you for the photographs, these were helpful. The relocation of perennial plants is noteworthy too. No doubt the group is aware of the need for pollinator friendly species and native species to support biodiversity. The difficulty of landscaping in a coastal location is appreciated. The commemorative stone / memorial on the visit of the King and Queen of Spain in 1986 and the Spanish Armada route is a strong feature in the landscape and features an

excellent presentation.

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

Dune restoration and maintenance in Spanish Point benefits all, the local community, visitors and the planet, those involved deserve great credit, thank you; the accompanying information panels are a bonus and will serve to create awareness. The shoreline and beach in general were very clean during adjudication and the picnic facilities a welcome feature. Both the public toilets and the car parking facilities were in excellent condition; some sign frames were in need of refurbishment. Well done on the Nature Trails and Activity Sheets for children in addition to the stone wall survey; the Bluebell survey is a nice touch, no doubt their arrival each year will be eagerly anticipated and they will be protected. To assess the outcome of your interventions for wildflowers and biodiversity download the App from the following link Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT Count) - National Biodiversity Data Centre (biodiversityireland.ie); this will allow you to check the increase in insects in a patch worked upon. It is best not to use wildflower seeds as they may contain an incorrect species mix that don't belong together and can compromise biodiversity; it is best to allow a site remain fallow to establish what species grow together naturally. The Tidy Towns Handbook has some excellent resource material.

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

Recycling facilities are being maintained to a high standard of presentation in Spanish Point. Well done on engaging with the business community on sustainability measures ranging from eliminating the use of straws, a change to paper napkins uses, installation of a water filtration system to sustainable planting and other in-house initiatives. The Grow Your Own initiative is an exciting development well worth the investment of time, labour and money. LED lighting along the footpath at the beach is an important energy saving initiative also that should be encouraged throughout households within the community. No doubt litter collected is segregated for recycling. The 10 new electric car charging points are favourably noted. You rightly state the use of QR coding for walks will eventually eliminate the paper involved.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Spanish Point was very clean during adjudication; we note the use of solar compactor bins and the free coffee initiative courtesy of the Armada Hotel for the sea plastic collection. Participation in the National Spring Clean has no doubt played a big part in promoting awareness of the problems of litter and dumping; the school children are to be thanked for their involvement especially in relation to the Poster Competitions 'Three for the Sea and The Three B's' in which the secondary school students were involved. Hopefully the 'Adopt a Road' initiative and the dog fouling project will have the desired effect in addition to the provision of rubbish bags to campers.

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

Spanish Point features a mix of permanent year-round dwellings and holiday homes/ parks which is challenging for community development and Tidy Towns work however, the Tidy Towns group appears to be successful in managing this situation and in welcoming newcomers to the community and getting them involved which lies at the heart of social inclusion and community development. You rightly state that all residents maintain their properties and communal areas to a very high standard and we note the group's tireless work in keeping communications open. Perhaps residents could participate in an 'energy use survey' to explore how much energy is utilised within the home and how this can be reduced long term; a wildlife / garden bird survey can be also considered and / or community orchards / herb gardens created in communal green areas. The opportunities are many, check out the Tidy Towns Handbook on tidytowns.ie for further ideas in this and other categories of the competition.

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

Car parking needs appear well catered for within Spanish Point together with road signage and information panels. Stone wall refurbishment is very worthwhile as stone walls are a handsome feature of our towns, villages and countryside. Roadside verges are being successfully managed for wildflowers and grasses with an appropriate mowing regime; it is good to know that weed killer is no longer being used to allow pollinators a chance to do their work. Congratulations on the completion of pedestrian connectivity by the extension of the footpath from the Golf Club to the Bellbridge Hotel. Yet once more Universal Accessibility has been catered for by the provision of tactile paving and dishing along footpaths. All remaining footpaths will no doubt be refurbished by next year's adjudication.

Concluding Remarks:

Thank you for a fine presentation of Spanish Point this year supported by an equally fine submission with excellent photographs.