

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Whitegate - An Geata Bán** Ref: **1128**
County: **Clare** Mark: **299**
Category: **A** Date(s): **08/07/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	36	38
Streetscape & Public Places	80	36	38
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	36	38
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	37	39
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	16	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	31	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	30	32
TOTAL MARK	550	282	299

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. Thank you for Whitegate's continued participation in the SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition over the past 10 years, it's been a pleasure to adjudicate your village this year. A lot has been achieved by the Tidy Towns group with good community both local and a variety of organisations. Congratulations on grant funding received this year for the restoration work on monastic ruins at Clonrush Cemetery; we look forward to the fruits of your labour! It is good to note your use of Facebook and WhatsApp in addition to print media and word of mouth to broadcast Tidy Towns happenings. The group's engagement with the schools at both levels sound like fun and educational events.

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

Business premises within the village centre are beautifully presented particularly the Half Barrel Pub and most especially it's gable wall however the car park here badly needs resurfacing; both Traceys and McDermots look well too. The church and its grounds look inviting and one is inclined to sit and rest, is there a new use for the old church premises? The school is quite well presented. The entrance to Cumann na Geata Bán looks really well and the Memorial Park with its interpretive panels on the social history of the role of the Old Creamery within the community is superb. The Drumaan Harbour facility / public space is well maintained.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Landscaped areas at entrances to Whitegate are beautifully presented with colourful machinery on green areas entering the village excite interest and curiosity and encourage one to visit the Memorial Park to read of Time Past. Seated amenity areas are a welcoming feature and the hard surfaced area with the White Gate was admired. The planned picnic area should include a table for disabled access also. When choosing flowers remember to favour pollinator friendly species and plant native trees where possible. The planned 'Wildlife Map' for the village centre is an excellent initiative and we look forward to seeing it on our next visit.

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

The maintenance of Meelick Bay Picnic area, Clonrush Cemetery, Dromaán Harbour and Ash Tree Crossroads by the Community Council and Tidy Towns volunteers locate 2km from the village is impressive by any standard and all involved deserve our thanks. The installation of the boardwalk at Meelick Bay for universal accessibility is laudable! Flora and Fauna signage at Meelick Bay promotes awareness of our natural heritage while that at the Clonrush Cemetery our cultural heritage; plans for Ash Tree cross which gives directions to both amenities will

increase their visitor numbers. A successful balance has been achieved between the mix of managed green areas within the village and wild flower meadows. A wildflower information panel should be installed for the wildflower site located across from the old church. The following link will enable an App to be downloaded that will help measure the success of actions for pollinators; Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT Count) - National Biodiversity Data Centre (biodiversityireland.ie)

The biodiversity status of the stream on the Mountshannon road should be established. Nature walks, Dawn Chorus events, bird and bat nesting boxes strategically placed throughout the village are excellent ways to celebrate our natural heritage. Do update us on residency status of the latter two.

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

The recycling point located at the roadside boundary wall of the sports grounds enjoyed excellent maintenance at the time of adjudication. The use of timber pallets at the Half Barrel premises mounted onto the wall to display flowers is a very creative touch and an excellent example of the re-use of materials. Rainwater harvesting, composting, the use of manure as a fertilizer places Whitegate firmly on the road to sustainable planting; the next step will be seed harvesting and the propagation of your own plants from cuttings and perhaps community allotments. Well done on the installation of solar panels on the school extension! Have savings been calculated? They should be! Congratulations also on the new Link Bus service and on car-pooling and WoW initiatives all of which reduces Whitegate's carbon footprint and moves the community further along the road of sustainability.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Whitegate was litter free during adjudication and no graffiti or dumping was noted either. The involvement of residents in the 'Adopt an Area' initiative surely plays a significant role in your litter management success. The monthly clean-up of approach roads together with the weekly rota of collection at a central area is a fine arrangement also. A few untidy entrances were noted and a very run-down premises located across from the old church diminish their streetscape. the 'Leave no Trace' signage at Meelick Bay is helpful also. Overhead service cables do not cause visual clutter as in many other centres as cables don't criss-cross the road.

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

The small estate features a lovely entrance and most properties are nicely painted. Many gardens were admired especially those with rose displays in full bloom which looked magnificent! Handsome roadside stone boundary walls were admired too. A vacant premises on the Mountshannon road is unfortunate.

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

Footpath surfaces throughout Whitegate are very good and car parking areas are clearly delineated. Some road signs need refurbishment however they do help negotiate the area. Nameplates look very well on entrances to the village. The water pump with its stone surrounds is a charming feature; most street furniture looks well. The planned 'Townland' project will hopefully be realised by our next visit.

Concluding Remarks:

Whitegate is a beautiful village which is a pleasure to adjudicate and your adjudicator hopes to return and enjoy the area more for recreation.