

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Boherbue - An Bóthar Buí** Ref: **95**  
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **312**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **13/06/2022**

|                                           | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2021 | Mark Awarded 2022 |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Community – Your Planning and Involvement | 80           | 39                | 42                |
| Streetscape & Public Places               | 80           | 42                | 44                |
| Green Spaces and Landscaping              | 80           | 46                | 47                |
| Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality  | 55           | 24                | 26                |
| Sustainability – Doing more with less     | 55           | 18                | 20                |
| Tidiness and Litter Control               | 90           | 59                | 60                |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas       | 55           | 34                | 35                |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes           | 55           | 38                | 38                |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>                         | <b>550</b>   | <b>300</b>        | <b>312</b>        |

### Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Fáilte Chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu 2021. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Lean leis an dea-obair! Thank you for participating in Ireland's longest-running environmental project and helping to make Ireland a better place. We really appreciate all the great work that you do and the effort you put in, year on year.

First of all may we express our thanks to all those who had a hand in putting together your entry form this year? A great piece of work, this was detailed and well-illustrated including many photographs of your group hard at work. Watch out for the size of the entry though. At 42 pages this is weighing in a little too long. Some narrative was added that could have been more condense. That aside, it was most helpful and informative when it came to adjudication. It was wondered whether you had omitted to include a Tidy Towns Plan. If you have such a plan, it would be good to submit this next year.

Your entry leaves the reader in no doubt that yours is a well-organised and capable group. The adjudicator is amazed that you can must three teams of 12 litter-pickers in a village of the size of Boherbue. Thank you for all the details of your work with the schools. You've been busy in that department. This will hopefully stand to you as you seek younger members for your team. There is also little doubt that you communicate well. With many Facebook followers and a 35-strong WhatsApp group, the talk is flowing. You have a lovely logo – congratulations to your designer! The specific project that you have identified for particular effort this year is the revamp of the centre island in the village. More on this later. We are so pleased to read how participation in Tidy Towns has benefited Boherbue. A really super entry in this category; just try to keep it more brief. Thank you.

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

Thank you for the detail on your built environment and the pictures thereof. New projects for you this year were the aforementioned island revamp, the painting of the Community Hall, a super new mural and a new public lighting system. Also new to Boherbue are new signage at Supervalu, new fencing, a new restaurant and three new stone flowerbeds (well done Nick!). Lots of news. Also listed by you are a plethora of maintenance tasks that couldn't all be listed here but include painting the walls of the Garda Station, kerb painting and park maintenance. A huge amount of work done by you in this category.

The Comprehensive School was the first site visited on adjudication day and it only looks fantastic. This is one of the best 2nd-level schools that this adjudicator has seen in terms of interesting landscaping and use of colour. The mural is so cheerful and positive. The school makes such a good impression on the entry to Boherbue from this road. Halla na Phiarsaigh looked great with its new coat of paint. The Post Office and Credit Union House looked

fine. Special praise for your revamped island. What a difference from the 'before' photograph! It looks a lot more friendly and the yellow pump and black and white community finger signs look great. The national school looked well and works were underway here at time of visit. The very many flowers at the nicely-painted pharmacy were noted. The handball club building was in good order. The Coop/garage building was amazingly neat and tidy. The fresh paint and tiered planter nearby were admired. Good use of colour is a feature of Boherbue. Even your more industrial premises looked bright. The Duhallow Food Training Centre wasn't up this standard though and looked in need of brightening up. The church car park was spotless and this is a lovely building inside and out. Three Swallows were inside the church at time of visit. It is hoped that they managed to find their way out. Very well-kept landscaping was noted at the front of the church grounds.

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

Thank you for the detail that you have provided here. It is acknowledged that almost all of the work in this category goes into maintenance and when you have no fewer than ten special gardens across the village, that is a lot of maintenance indeed. Watch out for overlap between the categories as some of the entries here might fit better in a later category. Although the adjudicator has chided you for length of submission, it must be said that it is interesting to read the background to your work and how it has evolved. Hearse House Garden, for instance demands a back-story. A most comprehensive entry here, thank you.

Good use of container planting was noted in several areas and this makes a difference. The planting at the Food Training Centre looks really well. Opposite the Hearse House Garden, you have made the Eircom facility look as good as it can with planters and a planted wheelbarrow. Lovely colours here. Another barrow has been decorated with a facsimile of your cheerful logo. The pergola at the gate to your mass path looks great. The information sign here is beautifully done. With the gorgeous raised planters here too, the adjudicator was spoiled for things to comment on.

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

We have another good entry from you in this category. You believe that you have created a 'wildlife corridor' and you go on to explain a little how you did so. It is suggested that a map would be helpful to illustrate this. There is now a no-mow policy in place in Boherbue – good stuff. An extensive biodiversity project is also underway at The Beeches Estate. Probably your biggest undertaking is the Biodiversity Garden project and it is imagined that this will just keep getting better. Other new projects are the creation of a rock garden, upgrades to Gneeve's Garden and wildflower seeding on the Newmarket/Kanturk Road. Loads going on.

Hearse House Wildflower Garden really caught the eye – a lovely little patch. There are lots of interesting plant species here and you have helpfully provided a guide to some of these on a very clean sign. Well done. While we couldn't determine whether the red beehive was in use, the bird nesting box just above it certainly was. A Honey Bee hive had been established in this – a first for this adjudicator! An opportunity for a lovely wildflower area might be the area of ground to the side of the handball club.

A special mention has to be made for Gneeve's Garden. Wow! This beautiful little garden is so well done and packed full of colour, interest and character. This is an example of what can be done in a small space. Fantastic work. A nearby bird life sign was also noted. A brief visit to your constructed wetlands site was undertaken and a Willow Warbler and a Sparrowhawk here attested to its value as a habitat. Watch out for the Japanese Knotweed in the storage area on the way down here. Your biodiversity garden will keep getting better and the mural really looks splendid – well done all involved. There is no need to cut back the Beech hedgerow at the school as was ongoing at time of visit. The slopes around the new garage and Supervalu car park would make a great 'low-mow' project area.

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

Yet another good entry in this category. You commence this with a description of your commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, thank you. New projects for you include an Energy Masterplan for Boherbue, a very topical area as this report is being written. You also organised a very successful event on plastic waste and its impact on the environment. Two 'plastic-free' schools would be an amazing outcome. The aforementioned bottle cap mural is also relevant to this category. A lovely piece of work. There is a new Fairy Garden at the Beeches and a 'wee library' at the national school entrance. Well done to the same school on their 3rd Green Flag. Still at Boherbue National School, a water awareness day sounds like a very worthwhile and enjoyable event. Well done to you and the school for all the organisation that goes into an event such as this.

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

New projects for you in this category are the installation of two new litterbins by Cork County Council and a new stretch of footpath in the East End. The latter would probably be better assessed under the final category. Well done on the collection of 52 bags of litter in this year's Spring Clean. We'd be keen to know if you're keeping track of such numbers and if they are going up or down. Your anti-litter actions appear to be the epitome of organisation and no doubt the envy of other groups. Thank you for the list of your other anti-litter and anti-clutter actions. Your newly painted benches looked very well on this sunny day. You'll be pleased to hear that no litter was seen on adjudication day. To be litter-free is quite an achievement for a busy little place like Boherbue. Well done.

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

Once again, thank you for listing the pertinent Sustainable Development Goals in this category. Almost all of the actions and projects that you list here are related to maintenance and that is understandable given that maintaining the estates and other residential areas is naturally going to take up a large proportion of your time. There is no doubt that you are in good communication with your residents and residents' associations. The new projects for you in this category are additional tree-planting at the Beeches an upgrade to a Wishing Well and fruit trees for your Biodiversity Garden.

Some superb efforts by householders are acknowledged here. Tig Noni is a stand-out but there were many. There is an opportunity for up-painting the derelict houses beside Halla na Phiarsaigh but you've no doubt looked into this. Subtle use of window-boxes really adds to your neat streetscape. McAuliffe Avenue is just lovely. So much good work going on here and much of the planting is pollinator-friendly too. A 'low-mow' area with All-Ireland Pollinator Plan signage was noted too. The adjudicator warns against 'high density' bird nesting boxes such as this new one. Single boxes specifically designed for bird species are a better bet.

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

Thanks for the very extensive list of your work and special actions over the last year. It's clear that you have a forensic approach to your roads and waysides. Watch out for overlap as there are several items here that have been mentioned already. Some others may properly belong in other categories etc. No matter, well done on all these which include new planters, painted benches, new fencing and hedge pruning. The defibrillator in the former telephone box was visited and all was in good order.

A depot close to the Eircom facility doesn't look good. We saw that you had painted the fencing here. Could tree-planting on the inside boundary form a beneficial screen here? Well done for highlighting your mass paths. These are items of cultural history that are unique to every location. A Clár-funded playpark that the adjudicator didn't remember from before was good and busy on the day. A new-looking 3G pitch beside the Comprehensive School is a super facility. The side gates here could be painted though. The landscape planting in front of the graveyard on the Kiskeam Road is really lovely. Well done.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

This was a really interesting and thoroughly enjoyable evident to Boherbue, thanks to all the great work that you have been doing. It is really appreciated. Congratulations everyone.