

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ahiohill - Achadh Eochoil** Ref: **2236**  
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **250**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **15/07/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	36	38
Streetscape & Public Places	80	30	32
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	30	31
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	21	23
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	13	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	27	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	29	30
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>250</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.

Welcome to the Super Valu Tidy Towns Competition for 2022. We thank you for your entry, and wish you all the best in all your future work. Good luck.

- Ahiohill Achadh Eochill, a small village with a population of 158 people – has entered the competition for 4 years and has a committee of 10 members with support of another 30 volunteers.
- The committee meets during the winter months on a monthly basis and from April - July meetings are held every 2nd week to enable participation in litter picking, gardening etc. around the village in preparation for the competition.
- Support is received from a range of different national and local agencies/businesses including Ahiohill Montessori, Ahiohill National School, Ahiohill Vintage Club, St. Oliver Plunkett's GAA Club, Keelnameela LFC, Fr. Tom Hayes PP, The Four Winds Bar, Con McCarthy (Historian), Conor Mannix (Horticulturist), Coillte, Keelnameela LFC, Karen O'Sullivan (Irish Translation), Cork County Council, Murphy Decorators, John Nyhan Electrical, Walsh Construction Group, and Zoe Turner (Graphic Designer).
- You communicate with the general public through Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and by word of mouth. A very good quality digital newsletter is produced and notices are placed on the printed Enniskeane Parish newsletter. You hold occasional public meetings and in order to reach those who are not on social media, temporary signage is erected to notify the public of the dates and times of clean ups and these are moved from location to location.
- There is strong engagement with the local school Ahiohill National School and you have raised funds in conjunction with Ahiohill Vintage Club and have received grant aid from Cork County Council to redevelop the school garden to create a sensory garden. We wish you well in your endeavours to bring this project to a successful conclusion.
- The adjudicator is very pleased to note that the voluntary work undertaken by Ahiohill Tidy Towns over the last number of years has clearly demonstrated to the wider public the unfaltering dedication of your committee and team of volunteers to the job at hand. It is pleasing to read that your first major project, the painting of the wall around the Church, has put your committee's contribution to village life firmly on the map. You can be very proud of your progression in the competition to date and no doubt you will continue to significantly improve the village area, for the benefit of future generations.

The coloured sketch map provided with your Entry Form was clear, simple and of very good quality. It would be helpful however, to also provide a simple legend at the base of the A3 size map, listing and describing various projects completed over the last year.

The quality of the application form is excellent – the simple numbering system and the dating of new projects was

very helpful. The 'before and after' photos and the other photos highlighting the projects completed during the year were very informative. The Multi-annual Plan 2022-2025 for the village is very comprehensive with a detailed list of very worthwhile projects provided under each category to be completed over the period of the plan. The adjudicator's assessment is based on a recent site visit and the contents of the application form, which is suitably concise at 22 pages long - well done. The text inserted on the form was also concise and very easy to read.

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

- The Ahiohill Tidy Towns group has carried out a total of 12 different very worthwhile projects under this category ranging from the maintenance of the Church wall, placing of 11 attractively designed bilingual signal posts along the village walks to the installation of very attractive murals at the old school building.
- The adjudicator visited Ahiohill on a very warm sunny afternoon in July and the first stop was the area around the National School. The newly created murals on the door and window openings of the old school building gave this area a great lift and these were greatly admired. The old School Building and the adjoining Ahiohill National School were well presented and it was good to see the new bicycle parking facility installed to the rear. The small playing pitch facility located behind the school also impressed. The artificial grass surface in the school playground seems to work well and provides relief from the normal rough tarmac playground surfacing and no doubt prevents multiple sore knees!
- Works were underway on the repair of the bridge over the Abhainn Caoch and hopefully the road will open shortly. It was interesting to read about the old corn mill which operated in this area, from the excellent bilingual timber signal post. Perhaps consider creating a small perennial pollinator friendly planting scheme on the triangle, to further enhance presentation of the namestone and environs here.
- The Church of the Assumption of Our Lady in Ahiohill and Our Lady's Grotto were greatly admired, with a tidy presentation of the adjacent burial ground and nicely painted boundary wall facing the road. Perhaps consider providing some areas for the establishment of wildflowers on the sloped grass banks, within the Church grounds.
- The Four Winds licenced premises continues to operate successfully and looked well sporting a rather dark colour. The roadside edges in the central part of the village look a little untidy and uneven. The painting of the steel roof of the building on the opposite side of the road to the public house, would improve the overall presentation of the village streetscape here.

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

- Under this category your group has carried out 3 projects this year including maintenance of the Ark Life Bed, Biodiversity Hedge and the organising of a community planting day. The community planting day seems to have been a great success with a total of 1000 native trees planted in conjunction with St. Oliver Plunkett's GAA club. The GAA club are to be complemented for supporting this biodiversity initiative at their grounds which is fully in accordance with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.
- The GAA grounds were visited and the native hedgerow community planting carried out along the roadside was noted and seems to be establishing well. Hopefully the young plants will survive the summer drought period.

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

- You have completed a total of 7 different very worthwhile and appropriate projects this year under this category, ranging from the installation of a bird bath at the fairy trail to the running of a 'Save the Bees' campaign at Ahiohill National School. You continue to make good strides in this aspect of the competition.
- The wide range of wild plants, flowering grasses and ferns which characterise the roadside boundaries and verges in the Ahiohill area, are a joy to behold and these should be cherished for the future.
- With reference to the 'Save the Bees' campaign, your committee is no doubt aware that the New All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) 2021-2025 has now been launched and it is particularly concerning that one third of bee species in Ireland are now threatened with extinction. As well as this Plan, useful guideline documents are now available to Tidy Towns committees to increase the numbers of pollinators in your local area, including guides which are specific to local communities, farmers, councils, transport corridors, sports clubs, businesses etc. Different 'How to Guides' are also available showing how to establish pollinator friendly planting schemes, pollinator friendly roundabouts, use of 'Managed for Wildlife' signage etc.
- This year the AIPP is focussed on gathering survey data to assess the impact of all the good work groups such as the Tidy Towns are carrying out across the country. The National Biodiversity Data Centre has developed a new app to make this survey work easy for groups through the use of 'Fit Counts'. FIT stands for 'Flower-Insect Timed Count'. Please follow this link for further information. Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT Count) - National Biodiversity Data Centre ([biodiversityireland.ie](http://biodiversityireland.ie)).

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

- Under this category you have carried out a total of 8 different projects this year including the installation of a filtered water dispenser at Ahiohill National School, which will help to reduce plastic waste, to the use and maintenance of community rainwater harvesting facilities and clothes recycling initiatives. Well done to all involved in pursuing these very worthwhile and sustainable initiatives for your village community.
- When considering new projects under this category in the future it is worthwhile first of all considering how the proposed projects will align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The information provided in the Tidy Towns newsletters is very informative in this regard.
- You might in the future consider installing community composters in the village, which will provide a quantity of mulch to place on any newly planted areas and this will ensure rapid establishment of the new plantings.
- Other areas worthy of consideration by Ahiohill Tidy Towns for the future under this category, which is in keeping with the Sustainable Development Goals, include the development of small electric microgeneration

schemes for Wind, Solar and Hydro in partnership with the Local Authority - these may also attract suitable SEAI or Leader funding.

- You might look at the possibility of installing a public e-car charge point perhaps at the old school car parking area?

- The Committee might also consider in the future initiating membership of the Sustainable Energy Communities programme run by the SEAI which includes engaging in learning networks, preparation of energy masterplans and local energy action plans etc. The following are useful links in this regard.

<https://www.seai.ie/community-energy/sustainable-energy-communities/><https://www.codema.ie/sec>

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

- Your activities under this category relate mainly to litter picking along roads and at the Church and school. It is great that so much of the activity here involves schoolchildren, which has a very important longer term educational benefit. The removal of 18 bags of litter and the identification of various fly-tipping locations as part of your Spring Clean Event was clearly a very successful outcome for all.

- On the day of adjudication there were no issues to report with regard to litter or tidiness in Ahiohill - well done.

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

- Some significant improvements have taken place this year in Ahiohill village under this category including the installation of new footpaths, undergrounding of overhead wires and the commencement of a new A-rated housing scheme at Ardeevin.

- In relation to the new housing scheme at Ardeevin called 'Vermont', the adjudicator was pleased to note the high-quality boundary treatment provided around this development, which consists of a vertically bedded stone wall, a wall type that is common in the area. It is hoped that new wall will enhance the road environs when this development is completed and additional tree planting will help to integrate the development into the surrounding village and landscape. Solar panels have been installed on some of the outbuildings within this A-rated scheme, which were positively noted.

- Private residences in Ahiohill are presented to a very high standard with floral decoration provided at many entrances, which greatly enhances the environs of the village.

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

- It is unfortunate that the bridge over the Abhainn Ckoch river leading into the village was damaged during stormy weather in March 2021 and the opening of the new bridge is now eagerly awaited. You continue to undertake essential maintenance works on approach roads with a good distribution of the workload amongst volunteers and this includes at the triangle, at the beautiful Hare sculpture and ongoing efforts to ensure all signage is well presented.

- The new brightly coloured name signs and planters installed on the approaches to the village were greatly admired and the artistic Tidy Towns Logo provides a very strong connection to the historical naming of the area.

- The adjudicator was impressed with the fairy trail on the approach to the village and no doubt this is popular attraction with local children. The new bird bath was searched for here, but to no avail. There is a line of dead trees along this section of road and no doubt these will be removed in the near future.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

It was a great to visit Ahiohill for the first time this Summer. The simple map and numbered project list made the adjudication of your village a real pleasure. Your committee is clearly working very diligently with the entire Community under all the competition category headings. We wish you well with the implementation of your Multi-Annual Plan 2022-25 and every success in the competition.