

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Ring - An Rinn	Ref: 690
County: Cork(West)	Mark: 285
Category: A	Date(s): 22/07/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	48	49
Streetscape & Public Places	80	34	35
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	38	38
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	26	27
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	12	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	30	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	30	31
TOTAL MARK	550	278	285

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.

- Ring An Rinn, a small village with a population of 50 people – has entered the competition since 2014 and has made 2 applications since then and has a committee of 8 members with support of another 4 volunteers.
- The committee meets weekly from May-September plus monthly meetings are held over Zoom during off-peak times.
- Support is received from a total of 8 different national and local agencies, businesses and individuals.
- Social Media – Facebook, the Southern Star Newspaper, Whatsapp, posters and word of mouth are used for communications.
- There is strong engagement with the principal of the local school, Darrara National School and pupils are involved with weekly litter picks, nature walks and recycling initiatives and the Ring Village Annual Fishing Competition.

The hand drawn map provided with your Entry Form was of good quality, although a little dark when printed, and identifies the main roads and features of the village and the numbered projects undertaken over the last year. The quality of the application form is very good and the 'before and after' photos highlighting the projects carried out were very informative. The adjudicator's assessment is based on a recent site visit and the contents of the application form which is suitably concise at 11 pages long - well done. The text inserted on the form was also very easy to read.

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

- You have undertaken some improvement works on a local heritage building the Arundel Grain Store including the installation of seating, signage, planting and solar lighting. Some structural repairs to the coastal picnic area were also carried out including the installation of flood relief infrastructure and various amenity improvements.
- Your adjudicator called to Ring Village for the first time on a cloudy but warm afternoon in July. Barry's Bar was nicely painted and was enhanced with attractive floral displays. The white-washed old cottage beside Barry's bar also looked well from the road. The area around the village pump was admired and the nicely painted pump feature, whitewashed wall surround and floral displays here caught the eye. The cap appears to be missing from the pump and perhaps a replacement can be found in due course.
- Kitty Mac's bar also looked well with an attractive yellow painted façade. The small cottage beside the bar,

which has a steel roof was also admired and perhaps this can be brought back into residential use, as it enjoys wonderful views towards Ring Bay.

- The adjudicator called to the Arundel Grain Store and noted the comprehensive information signage, solar lighting, floral displays and recycled plastic seating here. The overall standard of maintenance in and around this important heritage feature in the village was excellent.

- The new seating area at Middle Ring which has a rock armour protection together with a low concrete wall enclosure was visited. This seating area complete with smart litter bin, recycled plastic seating, floral displays provides a very important stop off point and opportunity to admire the wonderful views across the bay. It would be good in the future if this wall could be finished in natural stonework, to reduce impact of the concrete, which is generally not in keeping with the walls in the surrounding area. The colourful recycled plastic seating on the approach to Ring Pier was positively noted.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

- Well done to your local volunteers who restored the old hand water pump and you are now using this for the watering of the village floral displays. You remain very active in relation to the maintenance and improvement of the village picnic areas and public seating etc. including regular litter collection, planting, weed control and planting. The development of walking trails is also a strong point for you under this category and no doubt these are attracting extra visitors to the village.

- Reducing reliance on annual bedding schemes for your floral displays is an important initiative for you to consider under this category. Colourful perennial and pollinator friendly plants e.g. Alstroemeria spp. or other species tolerant of coastal exposure, can be used to very good effect as an alternative to the flamboyant but labour/energy/water-intensive annuals such as Begonias and Petunias.

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

- There have been some improvements recently in relation to the Ring Bay area of conservation and there is evidence of increased numbers of waterfowl frequenting in the area. You continue to take steps to enhance local biodiversity by planting pollinator friendly plants and the wildlife sign erected in the village centre was positively noted.

- 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'. FIT Counts are very simple and useful tool for TT groups to measure change in their local biodiversity, especially when they have taken action already for pollinators. By carrying out FIT Counts throughout the year and across future years, it will help track the impact of your actions on insect numbers and diversity as well as providing important data for the National Biodiversity Data Centre (biodiversityireland.ie). It would be good to get local schools involved in these counts. Please follow this link for further information Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT Count) - National Biodiversity Data Centre (biodiversityireland.ie)

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

- One of your projects under this category this year is the re-use of old tyres to provide wall mounted decorative floral containers. You are also using recycled plastic benches for your seating areas and have plans to harvest rainfall in the future as a water conservation measure.

- When considering new projects under this category it is worthwhile first of all considering how the proposed project 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 are also useful way to provide a quantity of mulch to place on planted areas, which will ensure rapid establishment of the plantings.

- Other areas worthy of consideration by Ring Village 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 provision of public e-car charge points and bicycle parking facilities in the village, and where none exist, suggest suitable locations where these could be provided in the short term.

- 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:

- The cleansing operations in the village including weekly brushing/weeding by committee members and volunteers are very effective and this is assisted by the introduction of the smart technology bin. The Litter Life Cycle sign is a very good way to educate the public and raise awareness about the impact of litter on our

environment and this was positively noted.

- On the day of adjudication Ring Village was found to be completely litter free – well done.

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

- It is noted that the residents living in Ring Village maintain their properties and gardens to a very good standard. Your committee has also enhanced the general area by painting local landmarks and are planning further structural work in the vicinity of the seating area at Kitty Macs.
- The residential housing scheme in Ring village was generally presented to a very high standard. The homes here are enhanced with attractive stone walls along garden boundaries.

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

- The new signs at the entrance to the village looked superb and were enhanced by suitable floral displays. The new cycle safety signs also looked very well.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a great pleasure to visit Ring Village for the first time this year - it is an idyllic setting overlooking the beautiful Ring Bay. Ring has good potential to progress further in the competition. We hope you find the comments in the report helpful and wish you well for the future.