

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Toormore - Tuaim Mhór</b>	Ref: <b>682</b>
County: <b>Cork(West)</b>	Mark: <b>287</b>
Category: <b>A</b>	Date(s): <b>14/07/2022</b>

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2022</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	37
Streetscape & Public Places	80	38
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	34
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	22
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	69
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>287</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.

Toormore Tuar Mór, a small village which has entered the competition for the last 12 years and has a committee of 10 members with the support of another 10 volunteers.

- The committee has had 1 meeting in recent months and you receive little or no support from local or national agencies/businesses.
- Telephone contacts are used for communications with members, volunteers and the general public.
- There is no local school so it is not clear whether there is strong engagement with the local children or young people.
- It is noted that in your main areas of activity include maintaining the tidiness of the general area e.g., litter collecting and planting.

The map included with your entry was simple and easy to read. There was some confusion on site as it was difficult to ascertain the exact boundaries of the village but eventually it was possible to identify the local features from the map you submitted. It is good to include a list of the works carried out or projects completed over the year on the map, as this allows the adjudicator to easily navigate around the village and to readily identify projects completed for inspection.

The quality of the application form was good but more information and photos showing works carried out by the Tidy Towns Committee would be desirable.

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

- You have mentioned that the grounds of the local Church of Ireland are regularly maintained along with regular maintenance of roadside walls and local roadways and the old Altar School has recently been renovated to provide living accommodation.
- The adjudicator called to the village of Toormore on a very warm sunny afternoon in July. The start of the tour commenced along the line of the old road, where an old privet hedge on the boundary here was in full flower and created an attractive screen and feature in this area
- A walk along the right-of-way down to the beach was enjoyed and the adjudicator noted the well-cared for private gardens nearby, where a wide range of fruit and vegetables crops were under cultivation.
- The Church and burial ground at The Altar was visited and it was good to see that the maintenance of this area makes allowance for the development of areas of wildflowers. The stone wall boundary along the frontage of the Church grounds enhanced considerably the attractiveness of the road environs at this location. The grass strip

along the road here could also be managed in the interest of biodiversity.

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

- The small boat feature created on the local green area using natural stonework was admired and it would be good to fill this structure with soil and establish a bed with permanent pollinator-friendly type plants. The use of drought tolerant species would also be an important advantage here, to reduce future watering requirements.
- The shrub roses in the vicinity of the water pump feature were in full flower providing a lovely scent in this area. The pump itself is somewhat obscured by vegetation and would also benefit from a freshen up with paint.
- The grassed areas at the main Toormore junction are maintained to a very high standard, including some very steep sections sloping down towards the road. Perhaps consider reserving some spots here for the development of wildflower meadows and wildlife retreat areas, particularly along grass drains and along the steeper sections. It is important to keep the roadside margins close to the road maintained to a good standard, but the remaining areas can be maintained on a less frequent basis, to encourage wildflowers. The use of 'Managed for Wildlife' signage would be important in this context.
- Reducing reliance on annual bedding schemes for your floral displays is an important initiative to consider for the future. Colourful perennial and pollinator friendly plants e.g., Alstroemeria spp. can be used to very good effect as an alternative to the flamboyant but energy/water and labour-intensive annuals, such as Begonias and Petunias.

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

- You have recently put up more bird boxes to encourage wildlife and each resident is strongly encouraged to use rainwater when watering the summer bedding plants. Residents are also encouraged to plant flowers to attract local insects and birds. It is noted that you strongly dissuade local residents from using harmful chemicals in the local area to protect biodiversity in the area.
- 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.

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

- You encourage recycling where possible and the use of harvested rainwater for the watering of village plantings.
- 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 and Handbook is very informative in this regard.
- You might in the future consider installing a community composter which will provide a quantity of mulch to place on planted areas, to ensure rapid growth and establishment of plantings.
- Other areas worthy of consideration by Toormore 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 an e-car charge point and bicycle parking facilities in the area and perhaps these could be provided at the Oska Outlet premises.

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

- It is noted that litter control in Toormore is very well managed and local residents are very involved in keeping their own properties and nearby areas along with common areas litter free.
- On the day of adjudication there were no issues to report with regard to litter or tidiness in the village of Toormore - well done.

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

- It is good to note that all residents maintain their properties to a very high standard. This was confirmed during the adjudicator's visit to the area.

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

- The stone walls which formed the boundaries to properties along the road greatly enhanced the road environs in the Toormore area. There is a concrete post and rail fence along one of the boundaries near the main junction on the Durrus road, which is unsightly and could be screened with native hedgerow planting.
- Road surfaces in all parts of the village are in a good condition with clear road markings and clean directional signage. The main sign relating to the Sheep's Head Drive was however, obscured by vegetation.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

The work of Toormore Tidy Towns is having a significant impact in terms of the appearance of the general area.

You are fortunate to be surrounded by a wonderfully scenic coastal landscape. Perhaps concentrate your efforts on a single high-profile project and perhaps the low mark categories and you will progress further in the competition. We wish you well in your endeavours for the coming year.