

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Dungloe - An Clochán Liath	Ref: 700
County: Donegal	Mark: 331
Category: C	Date(s): 22/06/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	48	49
Streetscape & Public Places	80	48	49
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	42	44
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	41	41
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	22	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54	55
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	36	37
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	34	34
TOTAL MARK	550	325	331

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

Community-Your Planning and Involvement/ An Pobal- Pleanáil and 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.

Thank you for your commitment to this competition and maintaining the active involvement of an impressive number of people in your committee and volunteering. From the range of organisations you work with it is obvious that Dungloe Tidy Towns is fully embedded in the social and economic life of Donegal and Dungloe. It is particularly significant that your group makes up the Environment and Planning sub-committee of Dungloe Community Network, which meets monthly and allows for communication about your projects to all businesses, community groups and businesses. It is noted that your secretary also runs the Dungloe Community Network facebook page whose followers have grown from 2400 to almost 3000 and has created a newsletter which is widely read and distributed.

We are impressed that you successfully adapted to the challenge of fundraising post Covid by organizing new fundraising events. We hope the car show will be a success. Congratulations to both your local Schools which have joined the Green Schools programme and we expect that you will be co-operating with them as they work their way through these programmes. It was good to discover that Dungloe Junior Tidy Towns committee had been involved in developing the landscaped meeting area for your new Ukrainian residents at the old Tourist Office. We hope it functions well as an outdoor free meeting place.

We are very impressed by your map of the town and your use of a numbering system to identify projects. As your map is a work of art amendments should be inserted in a similar style. Hopefully the artist will oblige you by appropriately amending that section of the map showing the projects associated with number 22.

Your application form was excellent in that it included information about all the work you did this year. However when drawing up your application next year please assign project accounts to the different categories being judged. This makes it easier for your adjudicator to allocate marks under these headings.

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

Streetscape and public spaces/ Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:

The old Quay, sea and river are your major assets. It is good to see that those valuable and historic stone buildings

at the quay are still in excellent condition. The planting of street trees on the Main Street has made a significant impact on that streetscape. You are making huge efforts to ensure appropriate presentation of buildings in your Main Street through representations to the local authority and their owners and offers of painting and installation of window boxes. The appearance of the buildings is a credit to you. Let us know how the regeneration plan is progressing and any news about implementing its innovative elements. It is disappointing to find a redundant mast within the town immediately beside a larger functioning one. Representations should be made to the owner to arrange for its removal.

If possible the group could encourage the development of a walking route from Main Street to the pier and redevelopment of stone buildings to allow public appreciation and access. In the meantime it is excellent to have a temporary use through the presence of temporary building offering snacks etc. Better promotion of these interesting buildings could be provided in the Main Street when you amend your interpretative panel which is not currently in good condition.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

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The major new project for the Tidy Towns was the Dungloe River Walk Community Arts Project which created a walk through Coillte Woodland called Tír na Draiochta along which large size fairy houses were installed and a huge wooden sculpture of a troll. Within this area a small no mow area is indicated by an All Ireland Pollinator Plan sign. The entrance to the walk is indicated by an attractive interpretative sign.

In the environs of the town there are several small green spaces have been planted up admirably with a mixture of species most of which reflect sustainability principles (perennial and pollinator friendly). Most planting is in the containers but some has been done in the ground. The landscaping on part of the green spaces associated with Fairhill Estate is excellent, so also was the small green space associated with the Old Fire Station.

With this experience the group could turn its attention to the large green space around the church and schools which contains a memorial to Donegal men, called Tunnel Tigers who died while constructing tunnels throughout the world. This space has major potential for improved landscaping for biodiversity and amenity. This suggestion arises from the group's interest in landscaping outside the town at the pier near Dungloe Lake. If the currently bare areas near the pier is landscaped it would be more appropriate to use pollinator friendly perennials not a wildflower mix.

This year window boxes were installed on the bridge wall, Bank of Ireland railings and railings opposite Ionad Teampaill Chroine. The group liaises with local garden centres to provide plants at a reasonable cost.

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

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

Tír na Draiochta is a successful initiative to encourage children to enjoy a natural area. Once inside it would be good to encourage interest in the native biodiversity of this area, particularly the river. With the involvement of teachers a trail guide could be developed for different age groups.

At the pier near the town and at the river some interpretation could be provided about features of their natural environment.

As this adjudicator noticed that knotweed is still present in several locations around the town the group could contact the county council to arrange for treatment.

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

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

Dungloe is lucky to have a wide range of services and facilities which support sustainability. There is an electric recharging point in the car park. You found an imaginative site for a defibrillator in an old telephone box. The town has second hand shops which provide for local recycling. The community has access to a wide range of recycling facilities on the outskirts of the town. It would be good to find a location within the town for some of these facilities. In terms of food an excellent cottage garden is present beside the coast. It is wonderful that you use water from the lake to water plants. It would be good to use home made compost in planters and not peat moss.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Tidiness and Litter control/Slachmhaireacht and Rialú Bruscair:

Dungloe is remarkably litter free and there is an excellent standard throughout. Litter bins are plentiful and are in good condition.

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

Residential streets and housing areas/Sráidanna Cónaithe and Ceantair Tithíochta:

Residential streets and housing areas are well cared for and it was good to learn about your latest competitions for residential areas and approach roads. Your numerous categories (Best Kept Housing Estate, Best Kept Business, Best Kept Private Dwelling, Best Kept Approach Road and Best Effort) should attract lots of entries. You could consider a competition for Best Effort to Benefit Biodiversity.

Typical of their style of development almost all the public spaces in these estates are simply landscaped with mown grass of low biodiversity value. The appearance of these spaces and their biodiversity could be improved by either adopting a no mow regime (until August September and then removing cuttings) in much of these grasslands or developing a plan to introduce more interesting landscaping and communal food growing in some of the green spaces.

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

Approach roads, streets and lanes/ Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna and Lánaí:

The pedestrian only laneway off Carnmore Road into the church is a unique pedestrian route which deserves to be highlighted on your map. Semi-natural vegetation bounds all approach roads until the town is reached. Management allows marginal vegetation to flourish which is appropriate.

The planting of a beech hedgerow beside the GAA pitch provides a pleasant linear green feature along one of these approach roads. It would be better to replace some beech with a few different native species which would be more appropriate in this rural like location on the edge of the town.

Concluding Remarks:

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Congratulations for your efforts in this competition. It is obvious that the community is aware of its heritage and makes a huge effort to maintain, improve and interpret it. We look forward to returning and seeing the results of your further efforts in the town and environs.