

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Dun Laoghaire	Ref: 843
County: Dublin	Mark: 326
Category: E	Date(s): 14/07/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	41	43
Streetscape & Public Places	80	48	50
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	47	49
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	28	29
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	15	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	56	58
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	38	39
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	40	41
TOTAL MARK	550	313	326

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. Dún Laoghaire is welcomed to the Supervalu Tidy Towns competition for 2022. Thank you for your application, maps and copy of your plan. Dún Laoghaire Tidy Towns group have been re-activated with a written constitution and policies in place. The Tidy Towns Unit value your participation in the competition and it is good to have you back. Meetings are held bi-monthly with an AGM held annually. There are a large number of volunteers helping out. It is important for all organisations within the community to work closely together, resulting in a strong sense of community spirit. Your main source of funding is Dún Laoghaire /Rathdown County Council and Pobal (Tidy Towns). Clubs and businesses also help with advice and donations. Communication to the wider community is through social media. Articles about the Tidy Towns activities are printed in the local newsletter. Schools are very supportive, with TY students helping out each year. You also have some junior Tidy Towns members and you hope to add to this number during the year. Wildflower meadows have been installed at three sites with great help from the students. These new projects have helped to enhance these areas making them bright and interesting.

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

The streetscape of Dún Laoghaire is fortunate in its development to contain a number of superb historical buildings. These mix and blend with the more modern developments of the area. Your addition of the "Handy Walking Tour Map" showing points of historical interest was most welcomed. The County Hall and surrounds is impressive, an important historical building in the area, and takes pride of place. To name but a few of the historical building visited were the Mallin Railway station, the Royal Marine Hotel, National Maritime Museum of Ireland, Carnegie Library, St Michael's Church and the Royal Harbour Hotel. You are to be commended, that you recognise and appreciate your historical buildings and significance to Dún Laoghaire. They continue to be maintained and presented to a very high standard. The area has also seen the addition of modern architectural builds, most notable the Lexicon Library. The harbour is an important part of your streetscape and your history. The harbour surrounds and the pier are maintained and presented to such a high standard. It is a very pleasant experience to sit on the pier and admire the harbour and the town. Queen Victoria's fountain was presented to a high standard, and the Tourist Information office, blends naturally to the surrounds. The businesses and eateries in this area, are all presented to a high standard and nestle behind the excellent planting to the front. The smell of lavender filled the air as many people availed of the outdoor dining facilities. We look forward to seeing the renovations complete at the Dún Laoghaire baths. The many businesses throughout the town are to be complimented on their presentation. The Best Shop Window competition is an excellent idea, and it is clear to see that many shop fronts have being restored and superbly enhanced. Many murals were noted and they add to the charm of the streetscape. You are fortunate to have a number of trees and ground planting on your streets and they soften the hard surrounds and bring a

splendour to the streetscape. Your heritage plan is an exciting project and we look forward to seeing this develop further in the coming years. Your project to preserve town signage from previous buildings and from years past, is an exciting and unique project. You are right that this is part of your heritage and important to maintain. We wish you success in finding funding for this project. You are very fortunate in the public spaces that you have in your area. Myrtle Square is an brilliant development and project and will be an excellent space for the town to use and enjoy. The pedestrianisation on George's Street has certainly enhanced this street, well done on this excellent project. St Michael's Square was also visited and enjoyed and was busy on the day. Seafront plaza is again a splendid public space and was very busy on day of adjudication. The views from here are superb. The final public place to visit was the Peoples Park. What a beautiful area, with splendid pollinator friendly planting in place. The Park, surrounds and play area are presented to an exceptional high standard. You have exciting projects planned in this category, we look forward to seeing them develop.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Dún Laoghaire is fortunate on its scenic location of superb coastline and a number of mature parks. These mature planting areas are enhanced by the colourful landscaping throughout the town. The planted green areas, at a number of locations, of wildflowers, pollinator friendly shrubs and bulbs bring great pleasure to all visitors to the area. The long-term planting under the guidance of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan looks very positive, with the introduction of perennials and shrubs. There will always be sites where annuals need to be planted to provide colour and interest. The planting of native trees, which include fruit trees is also commended. Trees need good care after planting with regular checking of tree ties. It is good to note that all groups are working closely together on the care and planting of all green spaces, biodiversity and nature activities. A number of residents' associations are embracing the planting theme of the town in their green areas, with trees and bulbs while also leaving natural wildlife areas. The hard landscaping throughout the town complements the planting. The information boards on the various species of flowers and the colourful murals add greatly to the well-planned landscaping sites. Various planted containers which include hanging baskets, window boxes and superb tiered containers were noted and admired, on the colour and vibrancy they brought to their respective sites. The lavender planted beds were particularly admired and are a splendid addition to the streetscape.

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

In this category groups are asked to show how they appreciate and enhance nature and biodiversity in their locality. As stated in the Green Spaces category, nature and biodiversity is embraced and appreciated in Dún Laoghaire. This is done by well thought out planting projects, which include pollinator friendly plants and shrubs. The wildflower areas are particularly admired. Bug hotels made from recycled materials are added, to provide more interest. To encourage more wildlife bird boxes, feeders and bird baths have been installed at various locations. Working with Bird Watch Ireland and recording the findings from this initiative is important. It is also important to share these findings with the wider community and host walks and talks to celebrate and appreciate the various species of birds attracted to the town. Tidy Towns in Dún Laoghaire are doing good work in raising awareness and sharing knowledge on correct planting and support for pollinators. To help measure this support, Flower Insect Time counts (FIT), pollinator data is being collected. This is done in collaboration with a local primary school. The first survey was due to take place on the 10th of June. This survey will help to raise awareness among the children, in particular how to identify pollinators. It will also help them carry out observation and report their findings online. Further surveys in the future will be done at different locations. You as a group have a number of future planned projects, which when complete will enhance nature and biodiversity in the town more.

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

In this category groups are asked to show how by their activities, they are reducing the amount of waste being generated in the community, by better management of their resources. Transport, energy and water are three areas where a number of savings can be made. Harvesting of rainwater which can be adopted by the wider community is achievable by most groups. The water refill stations that are being installed such as the one at Myrtle square is encouraging. Walking and cycling is good for the community's health as well as helping the environment. More cycle lanes are thankfully being installed in towns and villages to enable this to happen safely. Segregating litter and recycling where possible are also good. The provision of segregated litter bins is helpful. Charity shops play an important part in reusing/recycling of items as well as raising necessary funds for charity. Energy is one resource we all need to manage better by simply learning to switch off and using lower energy bulbs. You have carried out an energy saving competition with a number of households, namely the Cualanor energy saving initiative. This was across all forms of energy, with the total consumption of energy used recorded quarterly and annually. At the end of the year results were shared and ideas and tips given on ways of reducing their energy consumption further. This is about the community sharing and learning from one another. It is hoped to extend this competition to other areas of Dún Laoghaire. The mural on recycling at Dominican School was admired.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You have approached this category in the competition in a very structured and organised manner. You acknowledge the support from DLRCOCO in the addition of extra bins, at litter blackspots and the additional cleaning now taking place in the town and at the seafront. This has given you the time to focus on other areas and other projects. Well done on your success in the An Taisce, Anti-Litter league, a great achievement for Dún Laoghaire. As a Tidy Towns group, you have weekly clean-ups, where you collect a large volume of litter. Have you seen this reducing or increasing week on week? Do you think you require more bins or is this from a known blackspot? Volunteers continue this excellent work throughout the week, through Tuesday Gardening, Friday Express, New Clean Team and individual clean ups. Everyone who gives their time and support is applauded. All

this hard work is certainly paying off and was evident on day of adjudication. Only a small amount of litter was noted and this was at the seafront, given the high volume of people in the area, this is a great achievement. Well done on your work in combating litter. You are combating dog fouling through increased signage and also looking at eradicating graffiti. Some instances of graffiti were noted, in particular the bins at the sea front, but you are working well on this problem. Weed growth is always a problem in any area, but again you have a plan in place to work with this. Some weed growth was noted at the carpark at the sea front, which distracted from an overall tidy area. Some of the planters on the streets contain trees that need to be addressed, they may be more suitable to the excellent ground planting you have in place. Keep up the good work in this category.

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

Dún Laoghaire contains a mix of residential premises, from traditional town houses, apartments, estates and modern developments, which is expected in most suburban towns today. It is obvious from first impressions that the residents take great pride in their homes and gardens. Crosthwaithe Park and Clarinda Park were admired on their presentation. The Cualanor development was also visited and greatly admired, both the houses and the surrounds. In wandering through the streets of Dún Laoghaire and visiting some of the older housing stock, it is evident the pride residents place in their homes. These traditional houses of Dún Laoghaire bring great charm and splendour to the streetscape. New builds are under construction and it is hoped they continue to blend with the surrounds and existing buildings. We look forward to seeing the coastguard cottages in the harbour restored to their former glory. Well done to everyone for their work in this category for presenting their homes and residential areas to such a high standard.

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

For any approach roads it is always important to define your boundaries, however this can be sometimes challenging in highly populated areas. You indicate you are working with DLRC for new welcome signage to be erected. We support you in this endeavour and look forward to seeing this new signage. Road surfaces are good throughout and on all approach roads. Footpaths are in good condition and have been widened and extended in places. Pedestrian access throughout the area is good. On day of adjudication there was huge number of people in the area, with the sea front walks and the pier walk being greatly utilised. The addition of the cycle lane has added to the safety of the area. The "Love Our Laneway" project is an excellent initiative. Hopefully this will help to rejuvenate these areas. Please keep us updated on this and include pre and post pictures if possible in your application. Parking in the town was difficult to find, maybe additional signage is needed.

Concluding Remarks:

Dún Laoghaire was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. You have completed excellent projects for this year and have new and exciting projects planned. Thank you for the excellent application and maps. Keep up the good work and you will continue to progress further in the competition.