

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Abbey - An Mhainistir** Ref: **104**
County: **Galway** Mark: **356**
Category: **A** Date(s): **04/07/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	48	48
Streetscape & Public Places	80	41	43
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	47	50
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	42	44
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	24	25
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	71	72
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	31	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	42	43
TOTAL MARK	550	346	356

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....

Thank you very much for your application to this year's competition and for providing so much useful additional material such as the Pollinator Plan, your Development Plan, as well as the beautifully illustrated map and photographs in your application, all of which are greatly appreciated. Considering you are a small village, you obviously have great support within your community with 9 people on the Committee and an additional 25 people who volunteer, so well done on this which surely helps develop a great sense of pride in the lovely place in which you live. It is heartening as well to hear that your work on community projects, and the recent restructure to operate under the Abbey Community Development Association has resulted in a new, younger cohort who are taking up the gauntlet. It is great as well to see all that you are doing to raise awareness on environmental issues including biodiversity. Well done on the work that you have done on the redevelopment of the Abbey Tennis Court to convert it into a Multi-Use Games Area, not to mention the work by local school and scouts on the colourful murals. It is also fantastic to see how many local businesses and sports clubs as well as government agencies and bodies as well as other organisations are giving you support and assistance.

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

All of the public buildings in Abbey are maintained to a very high standard, including Abbey Community Centre, with nice planters to enhance it, but could probably be further enhanced with perhaps even more colour judiciously placed. Likewise, The Church of Our Lady of the Assumption is very well maintained and clean with some nice planters outside to enhance it, and the grounds of Kilnalahan Abbey were immaculate, Hollohan's shop is clean and neatly presented, and appears to be a hub of the village, and the planting and greenery opposite it is very attractive, the bring bank is spotless, and the artwork of the Monks on the wall opposite the community centre was greatly admired.

St. Feichans national school is very well presented with the Green Flag flying and the vibrant yellow doors and complementary window planters.

The quirky cow mural is a colourful and charming addition to the village as was the signage for the Community Orchard.

The work underway to record the history and folklore of Abbey is fascinating and we wish you the best of luck with it, and well done also on other heritage projects such as the work done to promote the use of the Irish language, with the rewrite of the bilingual 'South-east Galway: Aspects of its History' as well as the postcard project.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

It is great to see that you are making such an effort with your emphasis on pollinator friendly plants, and are making sure to avoid cutting vegetation in certain areas in order to not disturb their habitats. The Finnegan's permaculture garden looks fantastic as well as helping with biodiversity. Well done on your clean up of the riverbed, and incorporating 'wild' flowers as well as dealing with invasive plants.

You have done a great job with landscaping and maintaining green spaces in Abbey, and that you are conscious of not just providing colour during the summer months, but all year round. I was really taken by the contrast of the planting of lillies, poppies and lavender by the vibrant yellow water pump at the Lazy Well, with its colourful contrast to the grey stone of the adjacent stone walls and ruins of Kinalahan Abbey.

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

It is wonderful that you have continued with your support for the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, along with the creation of a Pollinator Friendly Planting Plan for Abbey, which has included so many local community groups as well as businesses to help support your work. Your Pollinator Plan is very clear and focused with practical steps at implementation, such as bee friendly plants, education and awareness, the community orchard and wildflower meadow on Lacken road as well as the creation of nesting habitats throughout the village. The stone signage for the Pollination Garden is also very charming with the lovely engravings of bee friendly plants and the bee buzzing from one to the other.

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

You are doing a lot of work in this category, work being done in this area includes the following; The involvement of farmers in the national IFA Smart Farming Programme as well as the Sustainable Dairy Assurance Scheme by dairy farmers, the use of Solar PV plates in milking parlours, recycling, and the safe disposal of hazardous waste. Initiatives to promote sustainable transport such as cycling, especially for students includes the provision of bicycle racks, as well as 'COW' days, Cycle On Wednesday. Energy efficiency educations and assistance on such matters as grants, energy and water conservation, promotion of the purchase of local produce, energy audits as well as upcycling and the use of sustainable Irish seeds. Following on from your 'Elimination of Food Waste' course, the 'Community Hen House' project is also to be applauded with the aim of the reduction of food waste, with the lovely bonus of the opportunity to buy fresh sustainable eggs. A huge amount being done in this area, well done!

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You obviously put a great effort into litter control, as on the day that I visited, the village was near immaculate, apart from one or two lonely cigarette butts, there was practically no litter to be seen, which can be such a rarity these days, and you are to be greatly commended for this. The Bring Bank was spotless, and nicely enhanced with a colourful planter beside it. This is a result of the pride people obviously have in keeping Abbey clean and tidy as well as the concerted efforts that you make in encouraging and educating as well as your daily litter patrols, spring clean and ensuring that everyone plays their part and are conscious that prevention of litter is everyone's responsibility, including dog owners to take care of their pet's litter with the provision of doggy bag dispensers.

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

The pride that your community take in the village was evident throughout the village with the majority of residential properties and housing areas very well maintained with lovely landscaping and fresh looking paint. I thought the birds mural at the corner of the blue and white house particularly charming. The Páirc Cinéal Fheichin estate appeared to be well maintained and clean, with good signage and nice silver birch trees to enhance the estate. A house across from the village green had an excellent display of landscaping.

The old farm machinery to be seen near the Lady Well are a nice display, and add some interest, and the buildings here are also very well kept. It is also noted that you are encouraging residents to incorporate wildlife and bee friendly planting, many of which have clearly taken this on board, and also up-cycling using old pallets to install a bench and planter in the Chineál Feichín estate.

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

The visitor to your village is given a great first impression from the very moment you approach Abbey Village with lovely signage (including the sign indicating that you are a previous Bronze Medal Winner) alongside beautifully maintained verges, clean roads with lovely landscaping and planting. The sign with map welcoming visitors to your village with illustrations of the various attractions such as the church, village green, water pump and the lazy well is lovely and informative. Well done on the addition of the path to the Portumna Road beside the river. All roads leading into the village, as well as the roads in the village were clean and free from litter and extremely well maintained.

Concluding Remarks:

This was my first time to visit your lovely village and it was a joy to see such a well kept and beautiful place and how much pride the community obviously has in keeping it this way, well done and best of luck.