

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardrahan - Ard Raithin** Ref: **1963**  
County: **Galway** Mark: **241**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **05/07/2022**

|   | <b>Maximum<br/>Mark</b> | <b>Mark<br/>Awarded 2021</b> | <b>Mark<br/>Awarded 2022</b> |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Community – Your Planning and Involvement | 80                      | 30                           | 30                           |
| Streetscape & Public Places               | 80                      | 34                           | 35                           |
| Green Spaces and Landscaping              | 80                      | 33                           | 35                           |
| Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality  | 55                      | 20                           | 23                           |
| Sustainability – Doing more with less     | 55                      | 15                           | 16                           |
| Tidiness and Litter Control               | 90                      | 50                           | 50                           |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas       | 55                      | 27                           | 27                           |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes           | 55                      | 25                           | 25                           |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>                         | <b>550</b>              | <b>234</b>                   | <b>241</b>                   |

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

Fáilte Chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu 2022. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn. Go raibh maith agaibh as ucht bhur dtacaíocht le linn na paindéime. Lean leis an dea-obair. Welcome to the 2022 SuperValu TidyTowns competition, and thank you very much for your entry, and we appreciate it can be hard when you have a relatively small number of volunteers, however, it is amazing what can be done even with a small number, and please don't let that deter you from entering the competition, even if you can not give as much time to the entry form that you might if you had more members. Perhaps you can get the schools involved in some special projects as well as the help that they have given you with the litter picking?

The WhatsApp groups as well as using the Ardrahan Facebook page are good ways of getting people involved and aware of your work, and hopefully to volunteer as well. I was sorry to hear that you did not seem to have received a report from your last entry, and I am sure that this was simply an administrative error and I will check if this can be forwarded on to you.

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

There are some very attractive buildings in your village, including the Garda Station which is a lovely stone building and is well maintained, as was the Muiltir Amháin building with fresh looking cream and blue paint and nice traditional lettering. I liked the Irish Fibre Crafters shop with its lovely blue paintwork and hanging baskets. There were some nice planters, and I really liked the painted old water pump. You also have some very attractive stone walls to be seen throughout the village which greatly enhance the greenery and trees throughout. The Church of Ireland and the graveyard was well maintained and the managed for wildlife sign was noticed and it is great to be able to incorporate pollinator and bee friendly measures when possible. It would be useful if there was some information on the form in relation to what future plans you have in this category, even if it was just a 'wish list' of what you would like to see improved in the village.

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

Ardrahan is blessed with some lovely areas of natural amenity, such as the woodlands and the Mausoleum area. The verges left un-mown around the village will definitely help with diversity as well as promoting the growth of native wild flowers such as red clover, cowslips, oxeye daisies etc, and it is great that you also have signs up to raise awareness of why this is happening in order to get people on board with the idea. The natural stone landscaping beds at the entrance to the village looked attractive, as was the planting outside St Marys Church and the bed apposite Tarpeys was also admired.

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

Thank you for submitting your Ardrahan Area Biodiversity Plan, and best of luck with The Ardrahan for Nature Community Biodiversity Group with your aim of helping to preserve and enhance the biodiversity of the area. You have a lot of ambitious plans in this category as well as a lot of practical measures already undertaken. These include the planting of native trees, shrubs (subject to funding), involvement with schools to build a bug hotel as well as biodiversity in art and poetry, talks and walks as well as pollinator friendly reduced mowing of public spaces, best of luck with all of these. you are doing a lot in this category and some of the great events that you have had in the past include bat walks, one to examine local flowers, a bird walk and talk, as well as plans for another walk and talk on native wild flowers with the help of an NPWS Conservation Ranger, well done.

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

There was no information in relation to sustainability given in the entry form, so I am basing my marks on last years, but am maintaining them on the basis of the work you are doing in relation to biodiversity as well as the use of solar powered speed signs which saved energy as well as making the village safer. I can't see a mention of if the school has a green flag? this would be interesting to know. Also other projects to increase sustainability could include a book swop facility somewhere in the village, clothes swops, water butts, and energy efficient light bulbs in public and residential buildings, the SEAI, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland is a very good resource for this kind of information.

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

Overall, you are doing a good job in relation to litter control, though there was unfortunately some litter to be found, I noticed some coffee cups, plastic bottles and sweet wrappers.

The fancy dress litter pick that happened last year sounded like a really novel and interesting way to get everyone involved and make what is often a chore into something fun, what an excellent idea. Also, best of luck with your plans to engage local scout groups and to get them involved in litter picking.

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

Generally, all houses and residential areas looked well maintained and presented, with many having lovely vibrant window boxes as well as hanging baskets. Druid's Court was very well presented, as did the Caislean Rathlin Estate. There was a house painted a very attractive pale yellow with some flower designs at the side and some very interesting and vibrant murals.

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

The stone sign welcoming you to Ardrahan is very fresh and clean looking, there is nice planting on it, but a splash of colour might enhance this even further, but this is just a minor comment. There was some signage that I think was probably temporary just a short distance up from the sign and the well kept verge, and I felt this detracted just a tiny bit from what was a lovely approach into your village. Obviously businesses need to be able to advertise but just something to be aware of.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

It was my first time to visit Ardrahan, and it was a pleasure to see it and I look forward to visiting again and seeing how you progress, and best of luck with your endeavours.