

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyconneely - Baile Conaola** Ref: **2272**
County: **Galway** Mark: **226**
Category: **B** Date(s): **19/06/2022**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2021 | Mark Awarded 2022 |
|---|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Community – Your Planning and Involvement | 80 | 35 | 37 |
| Streetscape & Public Places | 80 | 30 | 31 |
| Green Spaces and Landscaping | 80 | 30 | 32 |
| Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality | 55 | 14 | 14 |
| Sustainability – Doing more with less | 55 | 13 | 13 |
| Tidiness and Litter Control | 90 | 41 | 42 |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas | 55 | 26 | 26 |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes | 55 | 30 | 31 |
| TOTAL MARK | 550 | 219 | 226 |

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. I see that last year was the first year you entered the competition, and we are delighted that you decided to enter again this year. As you are a relatively small committee of 3, it is great to see that you have the support of an additional 12 volunteers. You have quarterly meetings and communicate and advertise your work through Facebook as well as village notices. As you are just new in the competition I would suggest that maybe you reach out to other villages nearby who are also involved in the TidyTowns competition to get some hints and tips. Also, it would be useful for the adjudicator to have some more detail in your application form, and this does not need to be very long or complicated, perhaps just some bullet points of things that you would like to see improved in your village, and perhaps assign them as immediate plans, short term and long term, as well as indicating points of interest that you would like the adjudicator to take note of.

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

Some premises that looked very well included Keoghs Restaurant, the church and its grounds were very well maintained, and the MACE shop was clean and well maintained, and the church and grounds looked well maintained with fresh grey paint and some nice planters. We note the work being done on new footpaths in the village and these will enhance the village. There was a really good information sign for cyclists showing different routes and attractions in the area.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

There is some lovely landscaping to be found throughout Ballyconneely, the area surrounding the Welcome to Ballyconneely sign was particularly nice and gives a warm welcome to your village. There was a bit of work being carried out across from the Bring Bank area, presumably the new footpaths, which at the time detracted a bit from the village, but this is just temporary and once the works are completed should further enhance this area.

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

Please take a look at the All Ireland Pollinator Plan, which will give you some ideas of what flowers and plants are beneficial for our bee population. You are fortunate to be located in a beautiful area, and perhaps you could do an inventory of all the different flora and fauna in the local area (this is something that you could possibly get schools involved in) and work out ways to showcase these to visitors, with perhaps some information signs with pictures. Another useful resource is to look at the Biodiversity Ireland website at

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

Perhaps take a look at the website for the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) for some ideas on how to be more sustainable and energy efficient, for example, in heating, lighting, use of solar panels etc. as well as giving information on grants that may be available for either residents as well as businesses and community groups.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The day I visited your village it was generally clean and litter free on the main street and side streets, there was unfortunately some litter to be found at the very right hand side of the Bring Bank area. It would be useful to know does the committee and volunteers get involved in regular litter pick ups or any other initiatives such as the Annual Spring Clean initiative?

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

There were some lovely houses to be seen in your village, and these seemed to be well maintained and painted, with some lovely landscaping and planting in many of them. One stone clad house with a low stone wall to the front looked very well, and complemented the area very well.

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

As mentioned earlier, the welcome to Ballyconneely sign and the surrounding landscaping was very attractive, though I felt the multitude of signs at this area detracted slightly from it, and maybe it would be possible to rationalise this a bit.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to visit your village for the first time, and you are very welcome to the competition, and we hope to see you enter again next year. Some more information in the application form would be useful, but this does not need to be very detailed or complicated to start with, just a few bullet points of the main things, and perhaps pick one category each year that you would particularly like to concentrate on. Best of luck in your future endeavours.