

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carna - Carna** Ref: **1827**
County: **Galway** Mark: **300**
Category: **B** Date(s): **20/06/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	39	39
Streetscape & Public Places	80	44	45
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	40	42
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	26	27
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	15	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	32	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37	37
TOTAL MARK	550	292	300

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 a map, best of luck for this year's competition. For the size of your village you have a healthy number of 8 people on your committee, and a very healthy amount of additional volunteers, with over 50 mentioned as being involved, which obviously shows a great level of community spirit and pride in the place you live. It is also great to hear of the Juníour Tidy Towns Committee involving transition year students, and well done to them on growing daffodils for sale on Daffodil day, and fingers crossed that the polytunnel project will result in flowers for use throughout the village.

You seem to have good lines of communication, with information being disseminated via the parish newsletter, Raidió na Gaeltachta, social media, and direct contact with people, and even during Covid you managed to communicate what you were doing through WhatsApp. The Community Cafe is a fantastic initiative which sounds as though it really helps people to socialize and get to know each other better whilst being able to avail of tea and cake! You also enjoy the support and sponsorship of a wide range of businesses, government organisations as well as many other local organisations which is fantastic, as it seems that the majority of the village must be involved in some way in your endeavours.

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

Congratulations on obtaining funding for an extension to the Ionad na Nimirceach building (which looked very neat and clean on the day Carna was visited) to include a tourism and exhibition elements, and we look forward to seeing this in due course. You are blessed with a beautiful coastline and the project to enhance and improve the coastal and hill walk along the shoreline, including signage and other amenities will be a fantastic addition to the village for both residents and visitors alike. It also seems that although this walk will hopefully help boost the economy and encourage tourists that you are conscious of managing this in a very sensitive and sustainable manner. The Church looked very well maintained and clean and tidy. I liked the chemists with the red and white paint and thatched roof with the old green telephone box in front of the building.

There is an old green water pump that could make a very attractive feature with a fresh coat of paint.

Mylotte's looked very attractive with a lovely green and white colour scheme and traditional style font used on the name sign, similarly the Carna Bay Hotel looked well maintained with very fresh looking paintwork which complemented the grey stone of the wall very well.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Carna is blessed with a beautiful coastal setting, and all the landscape seen throughout the village was sympathetic to the natural landscape, and complemented very well, the lovely natural stone to be found throughout the village. The GAA grounds were very well maintained, and likewise the landscaping at Garraí an Chlochair and at Ionad Cúram na Leanaí looked very attractive. It is a pity that your plans for The Community Garden have to be put on hold due to the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment to take place, but hopefully this is only a temporary set back, and that you obtain the additional funding needed for the planning application.

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

Given its location Carna enjoys a wide range of flora and fauna, and make sure that you keep your waterways and local beaches as clean as possible and to educate people of the value of this rich, bio diverse landscape. It would be nice to have a bit more detail on the application form of your work in this area given its importance to the area, even bulletpoints to give a bit more information. Perhaps it would be possible to include local schools, perhaps transition year students to document the different types of birds, wildlife, sea life, flora etc. Also do you have bird or bat walks, these can often be extremely popular, and enjoyable events as well as being very educational, perhaps talk to your local Heritage Officer who may also have some additional help or resources. It is glad to see that you are managing to keep on top of the invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed and Gunnera in the area, as these can be quick tricky to tackle.

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

You have quite a few interesting projects in train in this category, I was particularly interested to hear about the Community Energy Plan that you are engaging in with the help of the SEAI. The retrofit grants are not only more sustainable and energy efficient but also ensures more economic and lower cost heating and lighting etc. Well done also on the installation of the 2 Electric Car charging points, as well as 2 bike shelters to encourage cyclists, as transportation can be a very major factor in energy use and impact on the climate, and your local second level school also participated in the National Cycling at School day. Other initiatives include the 'cash for clobber' event to raise funds and recycle and reuse clothes and your local football club also has a Boot Swap and Save system which is a great way to make sure boots in good condition are not thrown away, and it can also help save the cost of new boots for families. We also note that you use harvested rainwater to water some of the planters in the town.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The Bring Bank area was clean and neat and tidy, and generally Carna was litter free with the few exceptions of a few drinks cans and cigarette butts. The repaired planters looked well and it is great that you are using recycled materials and getting your local Men's Shed organisation to paint them. Well done in your participation in the annual "Píoc Suas E" campaign, and it is heartening to hear that many of the Ukrainian people who are living in the village due to the war are getting involved in the community and playing a part in the upkeep of your village.

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

There are some very attractive houses in the village, one in particular that caught my eye was a very fine looking house with crisp white paint with yellow trimming on the base of the walls and window sills. It is good to hear that the wastewater treatment plan from the Garraí an Chlochair estate has been upgraded. This estate looked well maintained, as did the Garraí and tSagairt estate. Also great to hear there was an additional stretch of footpath added to the village under the Clár Scheme.

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

The approach roads to Carna looked well maintained, with some nice planters to be seen, as well as some beautiful stone walls which make for a lovely welcome to your village. Carna has so many natural advantages that it does not need much done in order to please the eye. All of the approach roads and streets around the village were very clean and practically free of litter. The road up to the church had some particularly nice landscaping and was extremely attractive in a very subtle and understated way which is all that is needed here.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to visit Carna, which is blessed with a beautiful location and look forward to seeing it again in the future and the progression of all the projects that you have planned.