

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clarinbridge - Droichead an Chláirín** Ref: **186**
County: **Galway** Mark: **334**
Category: **B** Date(s): **03/07/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	45	46
Streetscape & Public Places	80	43	44
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	45	47
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	39	39
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	18	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	64	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	35	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37	38
TOTAL MARK	550	326	334

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 including a map. Although you have a relatively small number of seven on your Committee, you have a very impressive amount of ninety people who can be called upon to volunteer, and you are taking a good approach with having longer term projects as well as having short one off projects that people can get involved in if they do not have the time to make a full commitment. It is fantastic to see so many organisations and businesses that are involved in the support or sponsorship of your TidyTowns work, far too numerous to mention here, but obviously great community involvement. It was very heartening to hear of the approach that was taken to bring the current TidyTowns work to where it is now and of planting the seeds and slowly but surely getting people involved, great work!.

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

There are some very attractive business premises to be found in your village including The Oyster House, Kelly's Shop and the Post Office, Paddy Burke's, Jordan's Bar, with it's lovely hanging baskets, and the Mise Tusa clothes shop was very well presented with some lovely features such as the bicycle planter as well as the lovely planters in front of the window. The Meadow & Byrne retail area was well maintained and clean and tidy.

There are some flags in the village that look as though they need replacing as they are becoming a bit faded and worn out looking. The hanging baskets at the bridge looked very well and very healthy, and the pops of colour contrasted well with the grey stone. The mural of hurlers caught the eye, though it might be worth considering painting the gable end here at some stage as it is beginning to look a bit patchy. Like many other towns and villages throughout Ireland you have some derelict buildings, but great to see that you have used some of these for messages of hope, if allowed by the owners would it be possible to paint the exterior of some of these buildings to ensure they do not become a visual eyesore in the village and at least improve the external aesthetics.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasá agus Tírdhreachú:

There are some really attractive landscaping and features to be found in Clarinbridge, you are very lucky to have so much on your doorstep. The 1916 Commemorative Plaque and the planting around here looks splendid with a very informative sign on The Route of the Rising Trail. The stone Celtic cross in the village green looked fantastic on the day I visited with a vibrant pop of pink from the roses that were flowering, and the horse-chestnut trees to be found here looked in great condition. The Welcome to Clarinbridge information sign was a very useful and interesting guide to the history and attractions of the village, but make sure to get this replaced before it begins to look too

faded. The old green water pump area was well presented, though there were a few plants in plastic pots and they looked a bit randomly placed, also, noted was the modern water tap close by, is this drinkable or used just for watering the plants?.

Well done on the planting on the wall at Casiel Riada, it just shows what can be done with perseverance!

The flower bed in the picnic area beside Paddy Burke's were beautiful.

The 'Halloween on the Green' sounded like it was fantastic fun, a great way to get people together and to utilise the community space.

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

The village is blessed with some beautiful natural amenities. The walk beside the Clarin River is gorgeous and the entrance to this looks very attractive with some lovely dark blue planters. Plenty being done in this category including the planting of pollinator friendly plants such as the wildflowers at the entrance into Clarinbridge from the Galway Road, the planting of 900 trees around the grounds of the Clarinbridge GAA Club, as well as the wildlife corridor.

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

It was good to see bike racks outside the Londis shop to help motivate people to cycle rather than using cars whenever possible for short journeys. Other initiatives in relation to sustainability include the growing of flowers from seed in your polytunnel as well as the re use of coffee grounds for composting by the 'Goats Lane' Cafe. Other things you could incorporate into your work would be rain water harvesting if not done already, clothes and book swaps, the local cafes could introduce a 'keep cup' scheme to reduce the amount of paper cups used, or also offering water refills to reduce the need for single use plastic bottles. Also, the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) is a great source of advice as well as information about grants for both residential and commercial buildings.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The day that the village was adjudicated it was practically litter free, obviously due to the work done by your litter teams that go out every week. The Bring Bank area was clean and tidy and very well maintained. We noted the new pedal push solar bin with built in cigarette butt disposal unit which hopefully helps remind people to throw their trash in the bin and not on the ground. Your plans to protect the woods at Kilcornan and Stradbally, as well as Cow Park and HillPark are very well thought out in order to preserve, protect and enhance these valuable amenities, and the CTT litter Management Plan will hopefully ensure that this result in these areas being available to all to enjoy in a sustainable manner in keeping with the natural heritage of your village and surrounding areas. It is also great to hear that you are managing to keep on top of weeds without resorting to the use of weedkiller, and well done to Johnny Kelly and his team!.

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

There are some very attractive residential buildings in the village, including some gorgeous thatched cottages which were nicely painted, as well as the lovely stone houses near the village green and memorial area, many with very lovely coloured doors and flowers. There must be a great atmosphere and Christmas spirit in the village when all the lights are lit, and it is good to see that this is a community effort with local houses being involved to keep it clean and allow access to power for these lights. Would you perhaps though consider looking at solar powered lights in the future for even some of the lighting?.

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

The stone Welcome to Clarinbridge sign at the entrance to village with its Oyster motif is charming, though a small splash of colour might add an extra touch of vibrancy and interest. There is some absolutely gorgeous landscaping on the approach roads to the village, with the boat planter being very much admired. Work being done here also includes planting at the Lay-by which looks really well maintained, as well as the Coilté Forest entrance as well as the various approach roads.

Concluding Remarks:

This was my first visit to Clarinbridge which I enjoyed very much, it is a charming village with many attractions and natural amenities, I particularly liked the river walk area. Best of luck in this year's competition and with all the projects that you have planned for the future.