

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Gort - Gort Inse Guaire** Ref: **1039**
County: **Galway** Mark: **235**
Category: **B** Date(s): **05/07/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	30	30
Streetscape & Public Places	80	32	33
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	33	35
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	20	21
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	15	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	48	49
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	25	26
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	25	26
TOTAL MARK	550	228	235

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. A lot of work being done by quite a small committee of 3 people with an additional 6 volunteers, well done and please keep up the great work, we appreciate that this is not always easy. Is there a PPN (Public Participation Network) or Men's Shed or other such organisations that maybe might be in a position to help out with some of the work that you do on an ad hoc basis even if people are not in a position to join the Committee or commit to too much time?. Also, are you in contact with other TidyTowns organisations in nearby towns and villages that may help give you some ideas or might be just good to network with.

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

You mention on your entry form that you have done no new work this year, but well done on all you do on maintenance work and on litter control, and a few bullet points stating what work you have done and maybe some photographs would be useful.

The St Colmans Hall building looked very fine indeed, and the church with red doors is a beautiful building and I liked the co-ordinating red and black bench outside.

Some premises which caught the eye included Dicey Riley's Bar, and Johnny Walsh's with its striking red and yellow colourway, and the Gallery Cafe looked very elegant, with some lovely pink planting outside, as did Hartes Pub with fresh cream and soft green paint. There are some fine buildings to be found in Gort, however, like many towns and villages throughout Ireland there is unfortunately quite a bit of dereliction, and a few buildings that would greatly benefit from a fresh coat of paint. There was a nice swan mural, but it would look even nicer if it was possible to paint the wall behind it

I noticed that the T Lally building had sale agreed and hopefully the new owners will give it a facelift.

There was some really good hard landscaping in the area near the toilets (though these didn't appear to be open at the time I visited)

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The Gort River Walk is absolutely lovely, a real haven of tranquility if you want to escape the hustle and bustle of town for a bit. I thought the sign at the entrance was gorgeous, and absolutely loved the vibrant paintings of a swan, frog etc. made by GCS TY students. The information sign was also really well thought out with some very good information as well as safety message, and the area along the river was clean and litter free on the day I visited. I thought the sign for St. Manchan's well was lovely, but a bit more information about the well would have been welcome, or maybe I missed it. The 'remember if they poop, you scoop' sign appears to be working, as the walk

seemed to be free of dog foul.

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

There is plenty of nature and wild life to be found in the town, in particular the river walk area, and there has been great work done previously to make this an absolutely fantastic spot for both locals and visitors alike to while away some time. There were plenty of bee and butterfly friendly plants to be seen throughout the town, so you are probably consulting with it already, if not The All Ireland Pollinator Plan has some great information and advice on different types of plants and flowers to use. Another idea which could be useful would be for local schools to carry out a wildlife and flora audit if you do not have one already.

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

Although you state in the entry form that there is no new work this year, it would be useful for the adjudicator if you could list, even in bullet points, what has already been done, for example do you carry out rainwater harvesting, have clothes or book swaps, use energy efficient lighting, try to recycle etc. It might be useful to look at the website of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) for ideas on some energy saving ideas and information on possible grants for both residential and commercial energy saving initiatives

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The area around the riverwalk was spotless on the day that I visited, great work on this. Overall, the town was clean and litter free, apart from an overflowing bins that were threatening to spill over. The Bring Bank area was clean and well maintained. It would be interesting to know how you go about litter control, do you have a rota, take part in the Annual Spring Clean etc.

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

Dun Na Rí Housing estate was well presented, as was Sliabh Curran, and overall the majority of residential areas were well kept, and likewise Gort community playground is well maintained. Although you have a small committee perhaps one way of trying to create interest and assistance with your work would be to have a competition for best kept estate, or maybe the County Council have a scheme or could assist with this, or maybe talk to some of the resident's associations.

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

The stone Fáilte go Gort sign is a very nice welcome to the town, although there is a bit of signage around this area however which does lead to a bit of visual clutter, and it is important to ensure approach roads are well maintained and managed to create a good first impression.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to visit Gort, and great work done considering that you have a small committee and have issues such as dereliction etc. to deal with in your town. However, Rome wasn't built in a day, and keep on maintaining as best you can, and perhaps maybe focus on one new project a year if you have the capacity to do this. Good luck with this year's competition and I look forward to visiting again in the future.