

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Lettermullen & Ballinakill - Leitir Mealláin & Bai	Ref: 1890
County: Galway	Mark: 284
Category: B	Date(s): 06/07/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	39	40
Streetscape & Public Places	80	35	36
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	37	38
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	24	25
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	13	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	64
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	35	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	32	32
TOTAL MARK	550	276	284

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 for your application, map, and Three Year Plan. For the size of your village you have a very healthy number of 7 people on your Committee, as well as up to an additional number of 20 volunteers to help with your work which is great. You engage with a wide variety of organisations and local clubs, including Galway County Council, private businesses as well as the Local Boys Scouts and National School. You have various methods of communicating the work that you are doing such as radio, posters (English and Irish) Facebook, WhatsApp, as well as good old face to face interaction as you go about your day, a great advantage of living in a small rural community. Considering that you only formally set yourself up as a TidyTowns group in 2021, you have a very clear idea in your Five Year Plan of what you want to achieve, and have already managed to accomplish a significant amount of work, well done and please persevere with your endeavours.

Good work on your funding applications, and even better to hear that these have been approved.

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

As well as the work you are doing on maintenance, you have also taken on quite a few new projects. These include the work on the Lettermullen and Ballinakill signs, re-erecting the historic church bell, sowing of daffodils by the Boy's Scouts local chapter as well as the work done to clean and refresh the Mother and Child statue at the Church. The daffodils will surely be a sight to behold come Spring, and fair play on your fund raising initiative and looking for cash or bulbs!

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The School, Community Hall and Church all looked neat and well maintained, a lot of work in particular being done around the Church with the cleaning of the Mother and Child statue. Great work on the accessible picnic table, at Trá Huston beach, along with the Bruscar bin and flower garden. There are also some lovely stone walls to be seen around the village and surrounding area, so make sure to keep these in good condition as they are really a lovely asset to have in the environment. I noted that you are hoping to develop a pollinator trail in the future in the Lettermullen and Ballinakill areas, and we look forward to seeing this develop, as I am sure you know, the All Ireland Pollinator Plan is a very useful resource to help you with this.

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

Given your location, you have a wealth of nature in your area, and the Biodiversity Garden at the Lettermullen National School is a fantastic way to get young students interested in the environment around them and how to protect it for all to enjoy, and good to hear that you are also teaching them to grow flowers from seeds, and that recycled pots were used and that you avoided using peat.

Along with a lot of other places in Galway you are prone to the growth of invasive species such as Rhododendrum and Japanese Knotweed which can be very difficult to deal with, so good work on the development of a plan to deal with this issue along with Galway County Council and relevant land owners.

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

Some good practical initiatives in this category including the use of a rainwater harvesting collection system in order to water plants & livestock, seaweed from the seaweed baths being used to fertilize and mulch flowers and vegetables, as well as LED lightbulbs installed in the Seaweed Centre, Cafe and community Hall. It might be useful to also take a look at the website of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) as they have some good advice on energy saving, as well as information about grants for both residential and commercial buildings. Other ideas for this category include book and clothes swaps, 'keep cups' and water refills to avoid single use plastic cups and bottles, and this can also reduce litter from these items.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

A huge amount of work going into your efforts to maintain your village as clean as possible. An impressive amount of work done with up to 40 bags being collected monthly, as well as ongoing awareness raising and education to ensure that the entire community does their part to keep their local areas clean. You also participate in the annual An Taisce Clean Up. Well done also on your Irish "Coinnigh an Ceantar Seo Glan"/Keep this area clean signs, and great to hear that they seem to have done the trick, with a lot less rubbish seen since these were put up. The Bring Bank/Recycling area was also very clean, but I concur with a previous adjudicator that they are very visible and there are some things you could do here to screen these a small bit so they don't detract from the surrounding area and all the good work that you are doing.

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

The Garrí na Cóirce estate is well maintained, with a good communal green area and clear sign at the entrance. Well done on the planting of the daffodils along this area to further enhance the area, and I am sure they look splendid in the Spring, and well done to the resident on the estate that regularly cleans weeds to keep the verge looking neat.

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

The stone Fáilte go Leitir Mellain sign and the new engraving and painting on this and the Ballinakill sign, looked very smart indeed, and really sets a nice tone as you enter the village, and it was really good to read that this was very much a community project, with multiple groups in the community, including local businesses all contributing, including the local artist who generously gave over 20 hours of her own time to this.

Concluding Remarks:

This was my first visit to Lettermullen, and it was a pleasure to visit such a scenic spot, and we wish you well in this year's competition as well as all your future projects.