

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Asdee - Eas Daoi** Ref: **322**  
County: **Kerry** Mark: **269**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **28/06/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	40	41
Streetscape & Public Places	80	33	34
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	33	35
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	26	26
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	14	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57	58
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	29	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	31	31
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>269</b>

### 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...

Welcome to the 2022 SuperValu TidyTowns competition and thank you for your application form which included a map and photos. It's wonderful to be able to visit the communities this year and see the results of the hard-working volunteers. Your committee of eight has an additional six who assist when a job needs to be done. It would be good to increase the number of volunteers if possible. Have any new residents come to Asdee? Participating in local groups is an excellent way for new residents to integrate and very often they bring skills which are of benefit to the TidyTowns committee. We note you don't have a three- or five-year plan. This is an excellent tool to help focus your work programme and we strongly recommend that you write one. Don't make it too onerous – just a few actions under each category that you as a small village can achieve in the time allocated and add partners who will assist/advise you.

This is your seventh year and your participation has encouraged the local community to maintain their properties so that the village is aesthetically pleasing to all.

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

You are a small rural village with a mix of vernacular single and two-storey buildings and these with the topography of the village, gives your village its character. The streetscape was very presentable with most residents making the effort to paint their buildings and garden boundaries. The dominate buildings/structures in the village are St. Mary's RC church, Asdee National School, The Community Centre and the grotto (which was being revamped when we visited). We also noted the new area with the information board and bike racks. We question if the low post and rail timber fencing at the entrance from the east is required. If it is, then it needs to be repaired, otherwise just remove it. We loved that the bridge along the entrance road from the east was painted white, which draws attention to it, and the flowers at the base added to its beauty. The area in front of the GAA building is very barren – are there plans to landscape this? The complete roadside boundary fence was removed which is a pity as that would have softened the area somewhat. A landscape plan is something you might suggest to the committee and you could include this in your long-term plan. We visited the beautiful Tobar Naomh Eoin .... we almost missed it. The little gate needs painting and the ivy should be cut back so that the entrance is clearly visible. Put the sign on the wall beside the gate. While the grass has been cut, the area in general is overgrown and needs attention.

### Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

You have an array of flower containers both on the ground, on top of walls and attached to fences etc, which have a

great variety of flowers adding colour to the streetscape. We strongly recommend however that you identify areas where planting beds would give maximum effect and concentrate the planting in these areas with a variety of tall and low grasses, and tall and low flowers for impact. This is a better system than lots of little planting boxes/containers. More drama / impact and for you a lot less work so that you can concentrate on projects under the other categories. We greatly admired the planting in the beds at the west end of the village. Low white walls and a great variety of colourful flowers of varying heights – maximum impact. The line of begonias along the wall also brought colour to the entrance from the west and the beautiful pollinator friendly raised flower bed with its white backdrop was stunning. It's always good to have year-round colour in a village and you are attempting this with your bulb planting which gives great spring colour to your village. Next think about winter colour – what can you plant (shrubs, grasses or flowers) to brighten up your village in winter? Remove unnecessary flower pots as they detract rather than add to an area – e.g the flower pot at the new Asdee sign (on the east of the village); behind this is a flower bed so why not add trailing flowers to this instead? The flowers at the base of the old Asdee sign (from the east) were barely visible – you need to think of taller flowers for this location so that they can be appreciated. We agree with the 2019 judge so says that the 'main structural elements in the landscape are trees' and we too suggest that you embark on tree planting.

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

Your village located in rural Ireland and surrounded by stone walls, hedge rows and trees so you have nature all around you. But have you undertaken any study of Nature and Biodiversity in your locality? Do you know what mammals etc have habitats in your locality? It is important to promote awareness of nature in your area and perhaps there is someone locally who could map these habitats. Make contact with Kerry Co Co heritage and environmental officers and ask for advice in undertaking activities/projects in this category. Maybe have a Biodiversity study undertaken? You also have the river as a habitat so this too could be included. Attending the webinar on Gardening for Biodiversity will have brought additional knowledge to the group.

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

It is good to see that you reuse planting trays and pots. We note that the school partakes in the Green Flag Programme – but are you also involved with them in this? The teachers, we have no doubt, would be very grateful for any assistance you could offer. Maybe help to build raised beds so that the pupils could grow vegetables and flowers. Have you thought about having a community garden within the village? This has become very popular in small communities and besides being a great way to share plants etc. it is also a great social gathering venue. It would be good to see a walking track around the GAA field for the use of the whole community. Are there plans for this? Grants are available - so something you might raise with the GAA committee.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Like many communities around Kerry, you too took part in the County Clean up from 2nd – 9th of April. This is a great way to get the whole community working together for the good of each other and we encourage participation in this annual event. The bring bank areas were neat and the bins were clean and presentable. They had been recently emptied and were ready for the next batch of glass and cans. Their location is ideal as they are on view and so shouldn't give a problem with people leaving cartons and bags. A small amount of litter/rubbish was noted behind the bins – remove this as litter attracts litter. While the area was generally litter free there is considerable weed growth along footpaths and in gravel areas. We suggest that the litter pick up volunteers also become weed removal volunteers and ask them to bring a hoe or wire brush and to also remove weed growth. The gravel areas can be sprayed with organic weed killer or a mix of vinegar, salt and washing up liquid. Ask the area engineer to remove the now defunct 50k sign from the entrance road for the east. You now have the new sign so the old one is clutter. Remove posters from poles. If posters are a problem for you ask the area engineer to provide a Community Notice board (measuring 2.4m x 2.4m) at the entrance to the village where all notices are posted and then if some organisation puts a poster on a pole, you can remove this immediately. Some weed growth was noted in the planting beds at the entrance from the east. The sign at the ball alley is not legible – carefully pick out the letters in white paint.

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

The village properties and those on the outskirts of the village were, in the main, well presented. Some had been recently painted and were quite beautiful. Residents have made an effort in terms of adding colour/movement and many had an array of flowers and shrubs in pots beside their front doors which gave additional definition to the entrance area. We noted the suggestion from a previous adjudicator of beginning a Garden competition – this is something that introduces a little competition and is always successful. A certificate can be presented to the winner of the Best Kept Garden and perhaps the Most Improved Garden on a social occasion where the press is invited for a photo shoot – more publicity for your committee.

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

Neatly mown grass margins along the winding entrance roads greet the visitors as they enter the village from the east. The planting beds had a variety of shrubs and flowers and looked good. Road surfaces were generally good on the entrance roads and road markings clear. Within the village itself the roads are in need of repair in some locations and road markings need repainting. Footpaths have been repaired and we note that footpaths have been provided on both sides of the road through the village making it safe for pedestrians, particularly children. We loved the tree lined entrance from the well road. The main road would benefit from trees so this is something you should investigate. Trees to be provided on small buildouts which would also assist in reducing the speed of the traffic

passing through the village. Would it be possible to gain access to the river near the shed i.e. through the double farm gates? This small area (fenced off from the main field) is quite beautiful and would make a very pleasant picnic area for the village. We have no doubt that it is in private ownership but maybe negotiations could begin?

**Concluding Remarks:**

We enjoyed visiting your village and seeing the work undertaken. Please insert the photos into the relevant categories in next year's application as the adjudicators don't have time to scroll up and down through application forms to find the photos referenced.

Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2022 competition.