

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Chapelton - : An Caol (Baile an tSéipéil)</b>	Ref: <b>331</b>
County: <b>Kerry</b>	Mark: <b>295</b>
Category: <b>A</b>	Date(s): <b>14/06/2022</b>

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	40	41
Streetscape & Public Places	80	34	35
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	37	38
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	30	30
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	19	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	62	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	33	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	35	35
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>295</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 including map. Your committee of eight are elderly and we know that it is very difficult for a small community such as yours to keep people motivated. You inform the community of your activities via public meetings, What'sApp and Facebook. Hopefully the volunteers will become involved now that your activities have begun again. There is a local school in the area and we suggest that you become involved in some activity with one or two of the classes. Perhaps something as simple as a nature /biodiversity walk through the park at the river. We recommend that you make contact with the environmental and heritage officers of Kerry Co Co who will assist you in a choice of activities /projects which you can lead. Contact the GAA and local school when you have some in mind and we have no doubt that assistance will be forthcoming. You mention that you have Ukrainians in your community – approach them and see will they assist. Other communities have benefited from their expertise and work ethic.

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

You are a 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 dominant building in the village is the RC church set in its own landscaped grounds and surrounded by a low capped wall. Your village is accessed from three directions – from the east, the west and the north from the centre of Valentia Island. Like many rural villages in Ireland you have dereliction which detracts from the streetscape but we see that you are trying to resolve this problem and that you paint these buildings on a regular basis. We commend your committee on this. Painted kerbs brighten an area in addition to defining the road edge for the motorists. You might ask the GAA to replace the 'O' which is missing on their lettering. The box beside the defibrillator was empty – is this a community notice board? We suggest that you put up information of your activities here. The business premises 'The Lyne' add to the village and we admired that signage was kept to a minimum so as to show off the architecture of the building. We loved the sculpture praising the women who drew water from the river.

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

You have planted 15 new trees in Geokaun View. The flowers at the entrance sign to your village from the west were quite beautiful. Did you intentionally pick out primarily yellow and blue flowers this year? The new permanent beds at the Valentia Young Islanders GAA pitch have been beautifully built using Valentia slate and now

rosebushes and annuals have been planted. In several other places along the streetscape, you have permanent planting which adds colour to the area. Would you consider planting some wildflowers in the garden beside the river? These will attract more pollinators and also add colour to the area. Picking acorns and growing your own trees is wonderful and we are delighted that the CE employee is advising and helping.

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

The dry-stone walls in your area are a haven for insect and small mammals. You also have the Caol river with its rich banks. In addition, your hedgerows and trees are nesting and roosting sites for birds. The local birds of prey sign is interesting – we kept an eye out but unfortunately didn't spot any. One of the bird boxes had fallen from a tree in the green space beside the river. We note that two species of bat are found in Ballyhearney house. Have you undertaken a count of these bats? Contact Bat Ireland and they will assist you. Are there also swallows in this property? These too are of interest as nesting locations are in decline. You are encouraging people to mow their grass leas often so as to provide food for pollinating insects. You mention that they do not mow in May but we also suggest that they allow clover to flower which is from June to September. So perhaps just suggest that all mow less often through the complete summer and save time and money as well as helping the pollinators.

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

As we all know Sustainability isn't just about recycling. We read that the secondary school children have now become customers of the local charity/second hand shop. It is now acceptable to wear recycled clothes – weren't we slow in learning this? We all need to look again and see if goods we have finished using can be repurposed or passed on to someone else. In addition we should encourage the repair of items. Perhaps you might make a list of people/places where items can be repaired? Then this could be put on our Facebook page - 'Valentia – where can I fix it?' Make enquires and see what repair skills are available locally – dressmakers, bicycle repairs, small electrical repairs, phone repairs etc. We see that carpooling is popular and now with the increase in fuel costs this will become even more popular. You have a community bus – what type of service does this provide? We didn't see any Green Flags at the local school – are they involved in this programme? If not maybe encourage them to participate

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

Did you take part in Kerry Clean-Up in April? Is this the day you collect 15 bags of rubbish? We note your comments on refuse charges and truthfully we agree..... !! Although you are located with traffic driving right through your village there was little evidence of litter when we visited. There were some signs leaning against a wall which we have no doubt is temporary. Take care not to add too many signs as in the end they detract from the streetscape or natural beauty of a wild area. The gravel area where the farm machinery is on display had quite an amount of weed growth which must be controlled. We note your method of weed removal and we also recommend spraying with a natural weed killer – vinegar and baking soda works but must be reapplied. Access to the river was virtually impossible – cut back the overgrown branches that hinder access. The handrail also needs repainting. Ivy should be carefully removed from all stone-built structures (buildings, walls, bridges, etc) as the roots enter between the stones and finally causes the structure to collapse. A lot of ivy was noticed on walls and also on the roof of the building opposite the road to Valentia Quarry. Ivy is very suitable for plastered walls as in this location it will cause no damage. We noted the seats at the school – due for repair. We always recommend that specialist remove Japanese Knotweed so we must assume that you have received expert advice if you are undertaking this work yourselves?

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

Your village is rural and so you have single and two storey houses in the village centre, small housing estates and also farm houses with outbuildings on the outskirts of your community. The entrance to Ceol na hAbhann has a beautiful stone built, pollinator friendly planting bed which had quite a number of buzzing insects visiting when we passed by. May of the house had been freshly painted and those with gardens displayed a variety of flowers, shrubs and some had specimen trees. The large Valentia rock of Geokaun View is beautiful and we were delighted that you have withstood the temptation to plant in front of it so that its strong form can be admired. Set with a backdrop of evergreen planting it is perfect. We do however recommend removing the weed growth. Have you thought about a Best Kept Garden competition? This is always a bit of fun and encourages people to swap ideas and plants.

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

The road through Chapeltown is in excellent condition with clear road markings making it safe for the motorists. We wonder however about the safety of the pedestrians and while there is a 50km speed limit, cars were travelling faster than that when we were there. Luckily a footpath extends from the village to the school and parents can access the school on foot. The same however is not true of the GAA grounds. You might ask your local elected representative to enquire on your behalf. While many might not admire the black and yellow painted kerbs, we find them very suitable in certain locations as they are a visual reminder to the motorists on the road/path edge and also a reminder that the motorist is in a built-up area.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

It was a pleasure to visit Chapeltown and see what is on offer to the visitor. Next year make a connection to the Sustainable Development Goals in the various categories in your application.

Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2021 competition.