

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilcummin - Cill Chuimín** Ref: **1020**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **303**
Category: **B** Date(s): **13/07/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	40	41
Streetscape & Public Places	80	38	40
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	38	40
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	31	33
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	16	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	62	64
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	34	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	32	33
TOTAL MARK	550	291	303

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, maps 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 fifteen has an additional twenty who assist in the clean-up and when a job needs to be done. We recommend that from now on you insert the photos into the application form under the relevant categories. Please also let us know what are New and what are Maintained projects and give numbers to these - N1, N2, N3 etc and M1, M2, M3 etc. Then transfer these numbers onto your map/s. This will assist the adjudicators to have a pleasant and more rewarding visit to your village. In addition to the traditional methods of communication we were delighted to see your active Facebook page Kilcummin Looking Good. You list state and semi-state agencies, businesses and community groups who support you. It is interesting that the local T.Y. students have a 12 weeks placement within the parish – a great idea. You have entered the Tidy Towns competition for the last 11 years which has helped you to create 'an awareness of the need to be conscious of our behaviours and actions so we can improve our local area for the benefit of all'.

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

You are a dispersed rural community with a mix of vernacular single and two-storey buildings and these with the topography of the village and its great vistas across the countryside gives the area its character. The core of the village has the recently constructed church – we loved the design and were stunned by the beauty of the stained-glass screen behind the altar. Is there any way this could be lit so that it can be seen? Maybe contact the artist and see what he recommends. Or perhaps it is lit and visible when a religious service is taking place? Well done on placing a seat beside the grotto – this is very often missing and we wonder..... why? The National School, Community Hall and old Cof I church also add to the architectural character of the village. It is wonderful that the ESB wiring is now underground which has improved the vista of the streetscape. The mural on the National School was admired along with the painted stones. We also loved the flat iron gates which we noticed – great architectural/industrial heritage.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

We were delighted that trees had been added to the streetscape in the village which will add to the biodiversity. Trees are known to have a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing. By planting and caring for trees, you help reduce pollution, improve your surroundings, improve the appearance of your community and increase the

value of your property. In addition, they provide shade for humans, food for insects and food roosting sites and nesting sites for birds. We loved the Biodiversity Park in the centre of the village and spent some time meandering around. This is quite varied and will require maintenance. We say this, as we noted quite a few areas that needs attention at the moment – the black weed barrier fabric (under the gravel) was seen in quite a few areas, many of the bottle caps on the planting trough were missing, weeds were noted around ‘A sense of Time’ (just put grass here with a path) etc etc. We recommend cutting a narrow margin of grass on both sides of all paths through the Park so that it will be obvious to the visitor that the remainder of the area is being allowed to grow wild for biodiversity. Bushes etc which encroach on the paths also need to be cut back. At present the Park looks a little unkempt. We admired the large planting trough at the entrance with the beautifully painted flowers adding to its beauty. Remove the dog fouling sign and just paint ‘Clean up after your Dog’ on the tarmac – less intrusive in your beautiful park and we have been told it works better. We admired the strategically located planting bed at the junction of the two roads – a perfect location for a dramatic effect.

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

Located in rural Kerry with tall mature trees, hedgerows, and natural stone walls all around you have a great variety of habitats on your doorstep. Instead of using gravel in your Biodiversity Park we strongly recommend that you use bark mulch on planting areas and on all planting beds. Bark mulch reduces the need for watering, protects the bare soil, creates new soil over time and creates a habitat for many important creatures. We admired the Park with its varied projects all in one area in the village – wildflowers, grasses, trees, willow archway, sensory garden etc etc. We see that you are composting and we also recommend that you shred timbers for your bark mulch. We noted the wheelchair picnic bench and wheelchair garden beds. Take photos next year of the spring flowers and insert them into the Tidy Towns Application Form. You mention that ‘tutorials are hosted within the biodiversity garden by local Biodiversity Expert’. What is the subject of these tutorials? Do many attend? Take photos and let us know. You mentioned a Bog Walk ... where is this? Indicate its location next year on a map.

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

This is a category where many communities struggle but truthfully it is just about being aware of how we use the resources of the planet so that we cut down on our waste. Educating both young and old in Sustainability – doing more with less is crucial so that we advance our knowledge in how we use the resources of the planet in order to cut down on our waste. This category has become increasingly important in the tidy towns competition as it now has a marks allocation of 55– the same amount as the key categories of nature and biodiversity, residential streets and housing areas and approach roads, streets and lanes. Tidy towns committees are encouraged to try and prevent the generation of waste when carrying out their day-to-day activities. We note that you constructed a bin from willow to compost leaf mold but we understand that now you use the three pallet composter instead. You are given cardboard from local businesses to assist in the production of good compost which you make available to those in your community who would like some. But there are other activities/projects for you to consider. As a committee it is recommended that you get the basics right and focus on simple but effective measures. Growing your own pollinator friendly plants, harvesting your own seeds or sourcing donations of plants from keen local gardeners is recommended as this avoids the waste associated with shop bought varieties. Consider harvesting rainwater in your own homes and advise others to do the same. This will avoid you using treated water when maintaining your planters. Using waste or surplus products (like timber) to make planters or other items like bird boxes and seating benches is also encouraged. Avoiding chemically based pesticides in favour of weeding by hand or naturally based alternatives should also be considered. Undertaking all of these actions will enable you to avoid generating waste in the first place and allow you to lead by example in your community. More ideas for actions under this category can be found in the tidy towns handbook which is available online. We note that the fruit from the apple trees in the garden are used by the villagers, which is good.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Like many communities in Kerry, you took part in the Kerry Clean-Up Week in April and also the Spring Clean-Up – we commend the community on this as it focuses the attention the village on the need to be vigilant on litter, fly-tipping and weed growth. When we visited the centre of the village was virtually litter free but unfortunately weed growth was also noticed at kerbs, base of walls and in open gravel areas in some areas which gave them an unkempt feel. Please commend the litter pick-up 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.

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 clothes, 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. We noted one plastic bags had been left and we assume that your litter pick-up team will have dealt with that promptly. The statistics you presented are interesting – for a small village there was quite an amount of recycling which is excellent Clear Glass 19-480kg, Brown Glass 13626kg, Green glass 17567kg, Steel Cans 2886kgn Aluminium 796kg. Hopefully the appearance of the bring bank area will improve as it detracts from the streetscape at present. We note you are in discussions about this.

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

The standard of presentation of individual houses within the village core and on the approach roads was generally very good and we applaud the many home owners and occupiers who clearly take pride in their place and keep their front facades, boundary walls, gates and piers well presented in support of your work. Gardens were well maintained with neatly cut grass, great displays of colourful flowers, shrubs and trees adding to their presentation. The monkey puzzle tree in the garden at the road junction draws the eye and gives extra drama to the junction. The

two estates, Radharc na Sléibhte and Pairc Chuimin, were equally impressive. We admired the boundary treatment of Pairc Chuimin with the vertical railway sleepers set between stone piers – when it connects with the village (which will happen in time) it will be even better. The thick green wall of planting gives the residents in the front row of houses great privacy from passing traffic. We loved that the green space is being used for ball play but could some picnic benches be added too? There is also a distinct lack of trees which could be added without hindering the area of ball play. We admired the pedestrian walkway along the edge of the front green space – but cut back the bushes which are beginning to encroach on it. The communal space in Radharc na Sléibhte was also well maintained and we admired that the shrubs and trees were planted to allow the majority of space to be used for ball play. We noted one garden (on the outskirts of the village) where the owner had allowed the centre of their lawn to grow long and produce wildflowers naturally while cutting narrow strips around the edges and around the trees – well done.

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

Tree lined roads with lush hedges form the entrance to your village. Hedges were neatly trimmed along roads giving the motorists good visibility as they entered the village. The white paint on the village name signs needs to be refreshed. We suggest a planting bed (of similar stone construction) be constructed around the base and colourful flowers planted which will draw the motorists' attention to the name sign. Generally, road surfaces on approach roads were poor with potholes, edge breakup and poor/no road markings. However, in the centre of the village where the improvement works had been undertaken road surfaces and markings were perfect. We were disappointed to see that cobblelock had been used in the improvement works. Cobblelock is being removed by many local authorities as weeds grow between the pavements and an inordinate amount of time is spent in maintenance to stop this. The parking bays and bollards are excellent and we were delighted to see that trees had been added in buildouts. Bike stands were noted as was the pedestrian crossing. We see that you are extending the footpaths to the 80km road signs – we approve of this.

Concluding Remarks:

This was our first visit to your village, and we wish to compliment you for the care and attention you give to your local community. Keep up the good work and we hope that this report provides some guidance for your programme next year. We suggest that you also consult the Tidy Towns Handbook (online) for more project ideas to consider under the various criteria. Also please note our advice on filling in the Application Form and producing your map.

Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2022 competition.