

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tarbert - Tairbeart** Ref: **350**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **331**
Category: **B** Date(s): **28/06/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	51	52
Streetscape & Public Places	80	44	45
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	44	44
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	37	38
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	23	23
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	34	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	32	33
TOTAL MARK	550	325	331

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 Tidy Towns competition and thank you for your application form, which included Photos, your maps and your 3 Year Plan 2019-2022. We suggest that in the upgrade of this plan you include partners whom you will need to consult or who will assist in the implementation of the projects. You have listed state and semi state agencies in addition to local business and community groups who support your activities and we are delighted that you meet with the area engineer to discuss issues regarding Tarbert. Social media in addition to newspaper notices etc is vital. If you have social media, it is necessary to be 'active' – your last post on Tarbert Tidy Towns Facebook was in March. Your involvement with Tidy Towns for the past 21 years has provided the platform for meaningful communications with Kerry County Council officials and elected members. The projects completed have added to the appearance of the village and amenities have been improved for the benefit of all - residents and visitors. This is a competition to assist each community to improve itself and bring out the individual strengths associated with that particular area and local community.

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

A mix of single and two storey houses interspersed with retail and commercial premises makes up the centre of the village. Many had been recently painted which gave your village a very pleasant appearance. St. Brendan's church and graveyard are well maintained but a little weed growth was noted which needs attention as they detract from the overall beauty of the church and surrounds. The entrance gate needs painting. The plaque to Dr. Thomas MacGreevy who describes Tarbert as 'a not unlovely village' was noted as too was the plaque of the Wesleyan Chapel (the sign border needs painting). The new playground is wonderful and although not in use when we visited, we are sure it gets great usage by the local families. We are unsure why a pot with a few flowers was placed outside this isn't needed. The resurrection monument in the graveyard is very impressive. The large central area – The Square – is devoid of character. This large area could look so much better if it was carefully landscaped – hard (paving) and soft (planting). We suggest that this issue be raised with the area office and maybe some Village Enhancement money could be made available for a landscape architect to be employed to provide a suitable design. This is a job/design which requires imagination and should only be undertaken by a landscape architect. We admired the M Coolahan shop sign and also the plaster detailing around many of the windows of the village houses which had been picked out in contrasting paint colours. Seating is crucial in all villages and it is only in recent years with the increase in walking and cycling we appreciate this. Your new benches add greatly to your village and on the day we visited all were in use – it was a lovely balmy day. The historical panels are interesting ... but unfortunately are very difficult to read. Would this improve if they were cleaned? We encourage the retention of

the shop names when the premises are being converted into residential units – these are part of the social history of your village.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

There are no large green open spaces in the village but Forge Park although small is quite beautiful. You also have communal open spaces within housing estates which can be used by the community in addition to the GAA pitch area. But a short walk from the village are wonderful woodland walks where there are a great variety of mature trees to be enjoyed by all. In addition, the walk along the woodland to the Ferry Terminal is beautiful with the Shannon Estuary all along one side of the road. Hopefully the footpath, which at present extends to Tarbert House, will continue the whole way and so make it safe for the pedestrian. Some of the estates have trees which give a very pleasant appearance to the area. A row of silver birch could also be planted on the green area between the footpath and the road at Doonard Crescent. The concrete pipe planters at The Square are very unpleasant – truthfully painting them green emphasises them more. We strongly recommend that these be removed and a permanent planting bed located in this area (at least until The Square landscape is carried out). Suckers were noted on quite a number of trees – these should be removed using a sharp knife or secateurs. We also suggest that in your green areas not need for play, mowing should be just along the footpath edges and the remainder of the grass areas be allowed to grow and produced wildflowers etc and become habitats for insects and small mammals.

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

In your surrounding area you have a great collection of drystone walls, hedges, mature trees, forests and of course the harbour and undulating coastline making Tarbert a haven for all our wildlife – aquatic, land and air. Tarbert Bay is special - an SAC, SPA and NHA and we see that you now have white tailed eagles breeding locally. The membership of Clean Coast has increased and this voluntary group now patrols 12kms of coastline where they remove rubbish washed in by the tides – we commend them on this task which is ongoing. The newest group, North Kerry Dolphin Watch Group, is exciting – we look forward to hearing more about them next year. You intend to organise some courses and talks during the forthcoming year - a guided biodiversity and wildflower walks through the forest might be something to think about. Have any of the lock school children undertaken any nature study in the area – check with the teachers.

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

This is a category that most communities find challenging and we see that you list a number of activities in which the local community are involved – book swap, composting, water butts, etc. You also organise a walking festival which will hopefully be well attended. For the Darkness into Light festival this year you collected over 400 jars which you will use again next year to provide lights on the road to the Ferry. During Covid quite a number of state and semi-state organisation organised Webinars and many were on subjects which relate to this category. Did you take part in any? Some are still available on-line. We suggest that you contact your environmental officer and he/she will assist you. You mention that school children walk along the Ferry Road – the footpath needs to be extended (see elsewhere). ESB fast charge points for electric cars are becoming a normal sight in our towns and villages – enquire about having one installed in Tarbert.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The village, approach roads, harbour area etc were all practically litter free and very tidy when we visited. Your litter patrols are working well and we commend you on the cleanliness of the whole area. Your Spring Clean-Up Day was successful and this year you had additional children taking part. You also arranged a parish clean-up week where volunteers took ownership of areas and removed the litter – this is admirable and something to be repeated. 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. Unfortunately a considerable amount of weed growth was noted along footpaths leading into the village and indeed within the village itself and housing estates. We suggest that you undertake a programme where not only do litter pick up teams remove litter but that they also removed weed growth. Weeds take away from an area and need to be removed. Ask them to bring a hoe or wire brush with them – it's slow but very effective. We noted quite an amount of ivy growth on stone walls. While ivy is a wonderful habitat for insect life it should be removed from natural stone walls, bridges, etc as the roots cause damage to these structures leading to their collapse. Natural stone constructions are in themselves great habitats for insect life and also very beautiful in the streetscape. The black and yellow paving at The Square was very dirty – it needs to be redone. The cream surrounds to the bronze historical panels were quite dirty and need to be repainted. Remove the ivy which is beginning to encroach on this wall as in time (if not checked) it will hide the panels. Congratulations to the 'litter pickers' - a small group of children aged between 6 and 10 that assist in keeping the playground area clean.

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

The houses on the approach roads are a mix of bungalows and two storey houses set in their own gardens interspersed with some farmhouses with yards and outbuildings. All were well maintained and those with gardens had trees, shrubs and colourful floral displays with great varieties of pollinator friendly planting. The houses within the village were also well maintained – one in particular had a beautiful garden of roses. We applaud the many home owners and occupiers who clearly take pride in their premises and maintain the front facades, road frontages, gardens and boundary walls to such a high standard. In addition, the clear bilingual names signs of the various housing estates were admired. Unfortunately, communal open spaces were not as well presented. The open area at

the entrance to Tiredella Park was untidy with large tufts of long dead grass seen in various places. We recommend that narrow margins of grass on open communal areas and at the edge of footpaths (we refer here to Woodview Place) be trimmed on a regular basis using a grass mowing machine with a mulcher as this will cut the grass into small clippings which then break down and provide nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus to the grass.

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

Trimming the edges of the grass margins on the approach roads gives motorists a warning that they are shortly arriving at a village/town and so must reduce speed. Signage is clean and legible which is very necessary for the visitor. We loved the Car Ferry signs painted on the road giving clear instructions to the intending traveller. Main roads are in a good condition and footpaths generally well maintained. Roads in the estates however are in a very poor state of repair with edge break-up, potholes, tarmacadam ravelling etc. We noted some new paths in some of the estates – maybe road repairs are next? The work around the Ferry Road/Pier area is admirable especially as this area has become more used by the community.

Concluding Remarks:

We enjoyed walking around your village. Please make reference next year to the Sustainable Development Goals in the various categories in your application. Next year refer to the New and Maintained Projects in the Application Form and put the Forward Planning Projects into your Three-Year Plan. Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2022 competition.