

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Waterville - An Coireán** Ref: **352**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **321**
Category: **B** Date(s): **13/06/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	44	45
Streetscape & Public Places	80	41	42
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	41	41
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	28	29
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	25	25
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	67	69
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	34	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	34	35
TOTAL MARK	550	314	321

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 your map, three-year plan and a great selection of photos. We recommend that you reorganise your application form next year to help the adjudicators. Please, insert the photos into the relevant categories rather than providing them at the end of the application form, as now that the applications are digital, we must now access them when on site and the adjudicators will not have time to scroll up and down application forms referencing photos etc. Your committee of six has an additional 10 who volunteer on a regular basis. We see that the last posting on your TidyTowns Facebook page was 26th November 2021 and on the Instagram account, photos of your Christmas event on December 4th. Social media takes time and so we recommend that one member of your committee is assigned as PRO whose job is to update your social media sites and also provide articles/ photos for newspapers, parish notices, etc. You list the agencies who help and support you including a number of voluntary organisations who assisted you to 'bring to fruition different projects'. Regular communication with state and semi-state agencies as well as with local voluntary organisations is crucial to the success of any TidyTowns group and so we commend and encourage your activities in this. Twenty-five years of involvement in the TidyTowns competition is commendable and we are delighted that your participation has helped to bring the community together. Are there many new residents in your village? A note through the door informing them of your existence might encourage them to volunteer for one of your projects. We have found that new residents are often happy to become involved as a way of interacting with a village community.

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

Set in rural Ireland your village like many others has a mix of residential and commercial along the main street with focal buildings such as the Cofl church of St Michael and All Angles (now the Heritage Centre) and the imposing Butlers Arms Hotel adding to its character. With the well-maintained green area and sea beyond, the village streetscape is quite unique. Many of the businesses and home owners have recently painted their properties, which also adds to the character of the streetscape and this in addition to those painted by you, the volunteers, has ensured that Waterville's streetscape is presentable. Are there any plans for these unoccupied buildings? As in others communities outdoor dining, which is always a treat, has become the norm in Waterville as shown in the photos. The new work to the playground was noted. We loved the Cable Station Trail. We suggest that this be developed further and we suggest that you introduce a QR code at each location so that the visitor can access more information on the various buildings, as this area and these buildings are unique to Waterville and should be celebrated.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

With exposure to the wild Atlantic winds and salt laden air, trees and shrubs are difficult to grow. We encourage you to accept this and instead concentrate on growing grasses, ferns and low ground cover which accepts the climate of Waterville. Check www.treecouncil.ie where you may find new ideas on planting suitable for a coastal location. The green area along the sea front is an amazing asset to your village. Divided into different 'zones' this promenade provides a safe area for ball play, quite relaxation, picnicking, running, or just strolling along, taking in the beauty of the area. The many sculptures and statues were the subject of photo shoots by tourists on the day we visited. Having references to Charlie Chaplin in various locations shows you affinity with this wonderful actor who was a regular visitor to Waterville. The area cleared in Mick O'Dwyer Park was a great success and although a tedious job the results are worthwhile. While the green area to the south of Charlie Chaplin's Walk has some permanent planting beds giving colour to the area, we note that there are none to the north. We suggest that you identify sites where permanent beds could be located in order to give maximum impact and bring your suggestions to the area engineer. At present the area, while pleasant, lacks colour. You mention that you maintain all the green spaces in the village using a mower supplied by Kerry Co Co – is this a mulching mower or must you collect the grass? Elsewhere you mention that you purchased a new lawnmower so we are a little confused.

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

Stone walls and dense hedge rows lining the access roads ensure that your insects, birds and small mammals have great cover and nesting areas. You also have a long coastal presence which is part of an SAC. Having a seal sanctuary close by is wonderful and we read that a local company and volunteers conduct land-based seal surveys to monitor the population. Add to this the lakes and rivers in the vicinity of Waterville and we have a complete ecosystem. Is there access to the Currane river from Waterville at any point or is it all private land? Is the adopt a Stream Project being undertaken by pupils from St. Finian's National School part of the Green Flag Programme? Remember to use Irish wildflowers in your wildflower areas instead of imported wildflowers. We don't want to introduce any invasive species! Visit the National Biodiversity website and examine the booklet 'Local Communities: Actions to help Pollinators' and put a list of the plants which are good for our pollinators on your website/Facebook page and perhaps on the notice board in the community centre.

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

Let us have more details about the Sustainability Plan for the Waterville/ Ballinskelligs/ Inny Valley in next year's application – not just a list of the stakeholders. We loved the idea of including a Christmas card made by the Primary School children in the Christmas hampers which were given to those living alone and those in need. Like many other communities Waterville has introduced re-usable cups and is part of the Conscious Cup campaign. We were delighted to read that 7 local businesses joined the Refill Ireland Programme in 2019 – how many additional businesses have joined up since then? One good result of Covid is the number of Webinars that have been undertaken by community groups – did Waterville TidyTowns undertake any. Sustainability is an ideal subject for Webinars where you can arrange for an expert(s) to talk on subjects relevant to this category. Contact your environmental officer in KCC who may have suggestions. You mentioned that you use rainwater collected at the oratory for planters. How do you transport this water? ESB fast charge points for electric cars are becoming a normal sight in our towns and Waterville too has one in the holiday homes complex. Are there others? This is something you should request as visitors to the village will shortly expect this facility.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

It is wonderful that KWD sponsors the County Clean-Up and as usual your volunteers took part. While Waterville is neat and tidy weed growth is a problem in some areas. We note that weeds are removed by hand and we commend you on this. In order to contain this problem, we recommend that you ask those doing the litter pick-up to bring a hoe or wire brush with them and to also remove weed growth. Your litter patrols are working well and we commend you on the cleanliness of the whole area. The bring bank area was neat and the bins were clean and presentable. They had been recently emptied and were ready for the next batch of glass and cans. You mention that dog fouling is a problem and to be honest you are not the first community who have mentioned this becoming a greater problem due to the number of dogs purchased during Covid. Please don't be tempted to put up lots of signs on poles as remember signage distracts from the beauty of a streetscape or natural area. Instead, we suggest that you paint 'Clean up after your Dog' on the footpaths where dog fouling is a problem. We have seen this in other communities and have been told it works better than signage on poles.

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

On the entrance roads to Waterville, we are met with single and two storey houses set in large gardens, some filled with a colourful array of flowers and shrubs and some with specimen trees for dramatic effect. We admired the simplicity of the estate name 'Klondyke', but take care to trim back the shrubs which are encroaching. The bridge at the entrance is beautiful but in need of treatment so as to preserve the timbers - urgent. We admired the houses of Iveragh Terrace – unusual in a village setting. We are delighted that you have re-established links with the residents of various estates – you are very often the link that's needed in a residents' association. While many don't like window boxes and hanging baskets, we find them quite acceptable and those in the centre of Waterville brightened up the streetscape. Many of the residents and businesses carefully selected pollinator friendly plants and as we passed, we witnessed very contented insects buzzing around the flowers. Have you suggested pollinator friendly planting to the residents' associations? Very often individuals and indeed associations are not aware of the plants (and colours) which attract pollinators. A list on your Facebook page would be most helpful. We are

delighted to read of the Best Presented Business and Private Residents Awards. A little competition is good and individuals and associations enjoy the challenge. We also suggest that you advise on environmental weed control methods and grant applications etc.

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

Being situated on the busy Ring of Kerry, the N70, must at times pose a challenge for you in terms of traffic, but on the day we visited, cars and buses drove slowly and so the streets were fairly safe for pedestrians. The road surface of the N70 is very good in Waterville as too are the road markings. The grass margins on all of the approach roads were neatly trimmed and hedgerows had been cut back to give good visibility. Village name signs, direction signs and speed signs were all clean and legible and easily read. Footpaths too were in good condition in the areas we visited with dipped sections added at road junctions where appropriate. Compliments to KCC area engineer on all of this. We didn't see any bike racks but we are sure there must be some. Are there any cycleways (besides on the promenade) that are safe for children? Is there a 'Cycle to school on Wednesdays' organised for the school? This has become very popular among many communities – urban and rural.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to visit Waterville and stroll around. A few additional suggestions/ recommendations. Remove the FP information/projects from your application and map. The application form has asked for New and Maintained projects only as all Forward Planning projects will/should appear in your Three-Year Plan. Please update your map and application form next year. We also request that you examine your numbering system which is confusing – N and M (and also FP) projects are not in sequence. Are the children still in the GAA club for lessons? Update your application form if this has changed – see under Roads M. Please make reference to the Sustainable Development Goals in the various categories in your application next year. Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2021 competition.