

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Coilldubh - Coill Dubh** Ref: **279**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **238**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **13/07/2022**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2022</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	29
Streetscape & Public Places	80	32
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	35
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	21
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	46
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	28
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>238</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. We missed you in 2021 so we are delighted to have you back in the competition.

For a small community you have a strong committee and lots of volunteers which is commendable. Most of your communication is via word of mouth so maybe it might be worth providing an occasional article for the local paper or having an annual newsletter available in the local shop. Raising awareness could help attract more volunteers. One could record details of your activities so you would have readily available content for your 2023 entry.

Why not set up a suggestion box? The community could provide ideas to help you collate a long-term plan for the area. If not a physical box, some of the teenagers in the community could maybe help design an on-line survey in consultation with the committee?

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

The grounds of The Credit Union looked very nice. The boundary walls and gates may need a little enhancement.

The Hurling Club House and grounds looked very well surrounded by nice mature trees. This new building is another great amenity for the community. The bare concrete wall at the rear of the car park looks quite austere, but it would be easily enhanced by ivy or honeysuckle or other native plants. There appears to be a closed club house next door that looks quite sad, are there any plans for this?

It was good to see a pedestrian cut-through provided to access the AFC grounds. A new clubhouse was in development during adjudication, and we wish you the success with this facility. Do explore the options of having solar panels and LED lighting to reduce long-term running costs.

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

Landscaping was very nice in the centre of the village and there are many mature trees also. Borage, poppies, and roses all looked well in the raised flower beds as you drive around Coill Dubh. There is some lovely advice on plants that are good for hanging baskets, raised beds etc and that are also good for pollinators. Poster, leaflets and information sheets are available to download for free from [www.pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie)

Where would most people congregate for outdoor activities? Maybe you could think of a communal barbeque or

picnic table?

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

Can you organise a drawing competition with the local school to ask children to draw their favourite local animal? Or you could have an on-line voting system to vote for the favourite – a swallow, a fox, or maybe a barn owl? These are easy ways in which to raise awareness of the local wildlife in Coill Dubh.

It was disappointing to see weedkiller used around the base of all trees and also around litter bins and public benches. Perhaps you can apply mulch or simply strim in these areas? This would have the same effect but would not have any impact on the environment.

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

This category of the competition is about using your resources wisely. There is good information in the competition handbook, available from the TidyTowns website. For example, you might want to consider providing a push button tap at the GAA grounds to conserve water.

Pedestrians were waiting to travel at the bus stop – do you have a good service; do you promote the timetable and fares? The bus stop shelter would benefit from being enhanced – this could be added to your plan of works for your volunteers.

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

Lanes and backyard residential estates look very well. There was some fresh litter, but overall Coill Dubh was presented very well during adjudication. Don't forget to leave a corner a little untidy for wildlife!

A sewage vent pipe has been replaced with a stainless-steel pipe – can this be painted to tone in better? The Community Centre needs some fresh paint and the container storage container to be painted. The lane down to the community centre has some nice roses planted, they looked lovely.

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

Many houses were freshly painted and have flowers or gardens and looked really nice, so we applaud all. The homes in the centre of Coill Dubh are designed in a lovely layout. Is this a Bord na Mona estate perhaps? Maybe a local information board could be provided about the history of the area.

There is a very large green area in the middle which was tightly mown and your adjudicator wonders if even small parts of it could be allowed to grow long in order to be pollinator friendly? You could maybe make a fun maze or have some fun create paths with a mower for children to enjoy!

Arriving from the southwest there's a new modern estate that had solar panels on homes. It looked very well, but there was no name sign at the entrance to this estate and it would be hoped that a bilingual one would be provided.

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

Field gates within Coill Dubh were green which help create a strong sense of place. This, and clean signs on approaches, make a good first impression upon arriving at Coill Dubh.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Many were outside enjoying the good weather and the nice landscaping in Coill Dubh. There is scope to add a lot of focal points into the village, so you are encouraged to collect ideas from the community to help you develop a long-term action plan.