

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Prosperous - An Chorr Choill</b>	Ref: <b>780</b>
County: <b>Kildare</b>	Mark: <b>250</b>
Category: <b>C</b>	Date(s): <b>03/07/2022</b>

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2021</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2022</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	40	40
Streetscape & Public Places	80	35	36
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	33	34
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	19	19
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	11	11
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	46	47
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	34	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	28	29
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>250</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.

You have good links with the school, local businesses, and the County Council.

Communication is important so people can see or read about your work, and they might also be encouraged to help with some of your activities. This could be an area of focus for the next year. Your map might need slightly updating as the new developments and changes in the Village are not reflected on the map. We tried to find some of your social media channels but could only locate an older Facebook page. Perhaps some of the local TY students could help with PR and creating a new map for the village?

It is also suggested that for the next 12 months maybe one of your main areas of focus is to build up your membership and gather ideas for the community that you could include into a long-term plan? An online survey to gather ideas for the eight different adjudication categories of this competition is recommended. A TY student could help compile this for you and it could be a good way to gather contacts of potential volunteers.

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

The school has a lovely array of planters and cherry trees. Congratulations on your green flag which was proudly flying during adjudication. Across the road the Lawn Tennis Club was clean, attractive, and nicely presented. How good to have this amenity in the centre of the Village.

Many of the business premises look really well, including The Hair Factory for example and Christy's Bar & Lounge. Dowling's bar also looked well with flowers on top of the outside seating areas. The rear car park to Christie's is quite open and difficult for pedestrians to know where to look for cars entering and exiting. Perhaps some carefully positioned planters, or the instatement of a hedge or low wall could help define this area.

Reilly's antiques and the adjacent premises here looked very nice, but the landscaping was very hard. The addition of more planters to separate the pavement and the car park, such as the lovely terracotta planter, would really make an impact here. Six or seven planters like that all in a line could really enhance this area. Or more planters such as the metal planters by the bus stop in front of the park would be lovely and provide some continuity.

In front of the Post Office, the street bollards need to be replaced. They are all rusty and bent. All of the premises around here seem to have external shutters so when visiting on a Sunday when closed, it gives a bleak atmosphere

whereas internal shutters still provide the safety required whilst enhancing the area. Your adjudicator has seen shutters that have been painted with nice images as well which can help enhance places.

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

The 'Loading Bay' is a lovely corner with nice roses being trained up the walls. The seating, the wooden barrel, and bench here all looked well. You are recommended to have a good look at where all your planters are positioned. For example, the plastic planter is not needed here and could be repositioned somewhere else in the area. A cluster of containers together can give a really good impact. It also makes it much easier to maintain these. The two planters in front of a utility box just by the parish office are really good examples of where they work well. Overall, there are quite a few planters but they're positioned in places where you can't see them so it's recommended you have a good look at where they are currently located and where they could be relocated to really make a difference.

Planting ideas have included bee-friendly flowers and you can share ideas and encourage homes to follow your example by downloading free information from [www.pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie).

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

Mossberg is a lovely estate. How nice to see the plants forming your community orchard. Some apples were nearly ready for picking on adjudication day! It might be nice to plant some more fruit trees or even put in a small, raised bed here with some herbs for the community to use such as parsley or chives. Newly planted trees in front of Mossberg will need to have more of their support straps removed as they are rubbing the bark and damaging the trees.

The secondary school has two lovely mature oak trees. One nice project could be to collect acorns and grow these up so that past pupils could be given some saplings from their old school.

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

It was good to see that the bus stops have clear timetables and have shelters. The entrance to the pitch and putt and the lawn tennis club had some lovely planting. Silver birch trees were located at the edge of the car park providing nice ample shade and a lovely copper beech was in position near the street pump. Perhaps a slightly lower container could be positioned in front of the pump because the current one is actually blocking the use of the pump itself?

It's great to see that so many of the new-build houses have solar panels in place. Are there many cyclists in Prosperous? Could you provide cycle stands near bus stops – or have you any at the school? Cycling proficiency classes could be organised with local youth groups.

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

Thanks to all of your volunteers who carry out a weekly litter pick. Sadly, on adjudication day Circle K had a lot of litter and overflowing bins. The post-box was looking very tired and needs repainting. A couple of streetlights were damaged. Don't forget that anyone in the community can report this easily to Kildare County Council via their website.

Some other street signs were broken or dirty and possibly should be removed, such as the neighbourhood watch signs.

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

Homes were nicely presented in Prosperous. For example, Goretti Terrace homes looked well, and we loved the inventive planters. You get marks here for recycling at least 6 wheelbarrows and filling them full of bright planters. Also well done on looking after the old traditional village pump that is still in location here. Other premises caught the eye, such as number 1 Minute Road and the nine terrace cottages that included the ICA premises.

Church View Lawns also looked well and the bilingual name stone at the entrance was admired.

Is important to have good continuity of pavement throughout the village so it was good to see this being prepared on the Main Street and the Allenwood road. It is hoped that a lot of this will be finished properly, and the council can help contact construction companies where necessary.

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

Arriving from Clane the welcome signs are nice and bright, but the speed limit signs and the tourist trail for North Kildare signs are both quite grubby and deteriorating. Maybe they should be removed? It is good to read in your entry form that the Kildare County Council have started consultations on welcome signage. Traffic comes in on the Clane road at quite a speed and it's quite a wide road so maybe some islands or some steps-in should be positioned here. They would allow for safe pedestrian crossing and also naturally slow down the flow of traffic. Ideas can be viewed in the Transport Infrastructure Ireland's Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets 'DMURS'.

Your adjudicator wonders if there could be somewhere suitable to create a community mural on the approach roads to make for an eye-catching attractive image to enjoy?

**Concluding Remarks:**

The competition has changed to embrace categories such as wildlife and sustainability. This brings opportunity to involve new and old residents on different projects of interest to the community. Gather ideas and develop an action plan . Thanks for your hard work over the last 12 months.