

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Callan-Cailin** Ref: **987**  
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **285**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **06/07/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	35	36
Streetscape & Public Places	80	43	44
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	35	36
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	18	19
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	14	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57	57
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	34	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	43	43
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>285</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. Adh Mór. Welcome to the 2022 National Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition Callan. Callan is, as always, a very strong contender in the National Competition and it is obvious that you place significant efforts in forming partnerships to achieve shared goals. As well as local schools and businesses it is great to see you expanding even more with your local Macra na Feirme coming on board. Keep up the great community engagement! Well done for taking on the last adjudicators comments about a suggested walking route – this was very helpful and a great way for entrants to make sure we don't have any difficulty finding your projects. However, the scanned map was very hard to read. I appreciate the overall file size limit placed on entrants but the map is a key element so make sure to double check its clarity. Marking the projects on the map with a legend would also be a good idea. For next year when choosing a category to mention a project; opt for the one with most relevance. An adjudicator will do this but it does make their job easier. Also, more consistency in marking projects as N, M or FP and wrapping text around photos will help you reduce your submission even more. Easier said than done and we all appreciate the pressure coming up to the deadline so try your best and always try and leverage in someone to help, a fresh pair of eyes can be so welcome and enlightening. Great to see you have a Three Year Plan – perhaps review on an annual basis to make sure the projects are fit for purpose. More detail on how you prepared this Plan would have been interesting seeing as it was only prepared this year so a major flagship project for your committee!

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

Congratulations on your successful grant application and the Garden of Remembrance. During my visit I found it a very peaceful place to sit and reflect, something I am sure residents and visitors to the town also appreciate – some formal, pollinator planting might be nice here. Callan has extensive streetscapes and it is obvious that owners take great pride in their premises - from St. Mary's Church to the Bank of Ireland, Callan Parish Hall, the impressive Edmund Ignatius Rice Statue to beautiful shopfronts and businesses like Keoghs Bakery and Cullen Motors. Importantly you also flag an important role of Tidy Towns committees – to engage with those owners who may be capable of doing more. This requires great skills and remember you won't be docked points where you have tried but perhaps not succeeded in changing ALL hearts and minds, you are a voluntary group after all. It is great to see the local authority supporting your works with upgrades to signage and footpath resurfacing. I had a nice coffee break at the new street furniture on Green Street – a wonderful project which is age-friendly and also a place to meet up and chat with friends in an outdoor setting. Whilst the planting is, naturally, a part of the streetscape I have addressed those interventions under Green Spaces and Landscaping. The playground was well presented... and used... during my visit to Callan, a great asset to the town.

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

A lot of work – both new and maintained – has been undertaken in Callan over the last 12 months and this attention to detail was very evident on the day of adjudication. The town was in full bloom; from planters and formal landscaping to wilder areas, really beautiful. Again, so many of your activities could be placed in any number of categories so to ensure you receive the due increase in marks you deserve I have assessed some projects here under the Nature & Biodiversity Section. There were some rail mounted planters on Green Street (at a pedestrian crossing) that needed some attention. Also, what about some planters around the new seating areas? In the Fair Green you have so much space – could some Landscaping initiative be started here?

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

Again, you have used your standing in the community to leverage biodiversity-friendly measures from your local Council – excellent work. Leaving areas managed for pollinators and stopping herbicide use is not only the environmentally sound and right thing to do I think over time the Council will note that it is saving them time and money; a win-win for everyone. Also well done on partnering with Birdwatch Ireland for your two bird walks. I always attend my local Dawn Chorus guided walk, a sure sign Spring is here. The Acorn Project sounds wonderful – some more information on this initiative and how you are supporting it would be most welcome in next years submission. You have a wealth of pollinator initiatives underway and all those schemes mentioned under Green Spaces & Landscaping are helping connect habitats and provide seasonal food sources for all forms of wildlife throughout Callan.

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

The local Green Schools Team are undertaking tremendous work; having received their 7th Flag – congratulations to all involved. There is a great sense of collective endeavour in Callan with the Men's Shed, Council, Businesses and particularly the new housing development which has placed an emphasis on reduced energy usage. It would be great to see Callan Tidy Towns taking lead on some projects. Perhaps for 2023 this could be a core area of focus for the Group? Projects like the Wreath Waste Prevention Workshop are very good ideas and perhaps could be built on?

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

On the day of adjudication the town was spotless, not one item of litter. I also commend the great work on dog waste and how you partnered with your Environmental Awareness Officer. Well done to John Lockes GAA club for helping with your litter picking activities. I wonder could the old petrol pump (opposite the entrance to the Fair Green) be made into a feature? A bench in front of St. Mary's Church could also do with a paint. Hoarding opposite the entrance to the secondary school is in need of replacing and is an eyesore. Road signage on Lower Bridge Street needs updating also – something to flag with your local area engineer.

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

It was evident you have the support of the local community as I saw a number of very well-presented houses. The trees at the Meadows Estate are wonderful – well done to all involved. Also, a special mention to the beautiful row of cottages on Green Lane.

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

Well done on your weed control and your commitment to no use of herbicide, encouraging others to follow suit. A town of your size has much to contend with but in general all areas were well presented. It would be beneficial to undertake an audit of roads, streets and lanes when developing your works programme each year. The limestone welcome signs are a wonderful entrance point to your town.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

I thoroughly enjoyed my adjudication of Callan. Congratulations to your committee and the wider community for working together to make your town a welcoming place to visit.