

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Dungarvan - Dún Garbháin	Ref: 391
County: Kilkenny	Mark: 303
Category: A	Date(s): 04/07/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	36	36
Streetscape & Public Places	80	43	44
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	45	46
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	22	23
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	13	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	67	68
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	33	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	40	40
TOTAL MARK	550	299	303

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 Dungarvan. What Dungarvan doesn't have in population it certainly makes up for in participation – just under half the village support Tidy Towns, well done. This is no doubt a tremendous reflection of yer work ethic, enthusiasm and sense of inclusivity. I would encourage you to step into the world of social media to get your message out there. I know it can be daunting but there are Tidy Towns groups all over the country sharing their story and projects which may inspire you – equally your work will no doubt inspire others. Your map was clearly laid out which helped finding your projects. Your submission also clearly laid out projects marked as N or M. It would have been useful to have some more information on each project so we can assess how you approached it, lessons learned, obstacles overcome etc. This could lead to more points being awarded. Also, the absence of photographs was a pity. I know you handwrote your submission but in future photographs would be most welcome and along with the map make it easier on us Adjudicators to find projects. Make sure to check out the SDG information on www.tidytowns.ie as well as application form for the SDG Special Award which both have great ideas about how to align your activities with the Goals.

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

The village has a lovely character and I note the sale of two derelict cottages and the site – hopefully this will bring new residents and a facelift to the buildings. Your ongoing work in the village probably played no small part in the sale – an active Tidy Towns group is an asset to a town or village. The upgraded footpaths are great and no doubt a welcome upgrade. The church was very well presented but can I suggest you reconsider the placement of some benches, such as the one in the Disabled Parking spot – move to beside the bench by the post office box? The benches in the church grounds could maybe be placed in a circle or arc instead of all in a line which would encourage people to come and sit for a chat? The Village Hall looked very well, with lovely stonework facing the road. Walsh's and The Ouncel House were also very well presented.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Some more information here would have been welcome but it was evident on the day of adjudication you place great pride in your village with planters by benches, a new three tiered unit on approach and a well maintained bed adjacent the two story cream building (well done on the owners move to sustainable energy here with solar panels). Perhaps the planter outside Walsh's could be moved – the footpath is quite narrow here so may be causing an obstruction. Your raised Millennium Garden also looked well, but must be difficult to maintain – well done on your

efforts here. Perhaps remove the bucket of flowers from the water pump and place to one side – this will showcase the pump as the wonderful feature it is in its own right. Some trees around the back of the Village Hall can have their stakes and ties removed, one looks as though it may be dying. It was great to see the collection of old stakes around the back – all neatly stacked for future re-use.

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

You make a valid point here about the birdboxes – wildlife will always choose a natural area to nest. Perhaps continue to monitor the boxes and it might inform how you approach future biodiversity projects. For example you note that wild area at the back of the grotto is a haven for wildlife and have chosen to leave it as such. Other groups may have decided to keep this manicured – you have not, well done. The local wildlife certainly thanks you for this. Continued commitment to leaving areas rewild is most welcome – could it be expanded to other areas? Photos of these areas, particularly areas that are seasonal in nature, would have been welcome. I noted wonderful wildflower areas around the old church and graveyard; could this be expanded to around the newer plots but in a sensitive way. As the graveyard increases in size these areas may need to be reduced. The wildlife area beside the storage shed had lovely Oxe-Eye daisy. Remember to do your annual cut and collect and again see can this area be expanded.

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

You are a great example of communities investing in simple yet effective sustainability initiatives like Water Butts. Do homeowners allow you use this water – how generous. No doubt a result of how you are engendering a sense of community in the village through your volunteerism. Also well done for their commitment to recycling. I would love to see you take the lead on some initiatives – they need not event cost money. Perhaps a circular (by text or WhatsApp) on household sustainability measures people could take? Include as part of the parish newsletter?

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

On the day of adjudication there wasn't one piece of litter to be seen! Well done for leveraging free litterpicking equipment, Tidy Towns groups need to save money where they can. As mentioned in the previous section, don't underestimate the power of a local parish newsletter. See how it has benefitted the maintenance of approach roads! On the approach into the village there was some loose cabling on an ESB pole (recently tarmacked underneath), see can they tidy this up. There is also a redundant pole on the R446 across from the two semidetached cottages be removed? Finally, your Millennium Park sign needs freshening.

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

All homes with residents were well maintained, especially along the row of beautiful traditional cottages, a wonderful example of our vernacular heritage. These homeowner's commitment will ensure the derelict units will sell quicker.

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

The approach roads to the village were all well maintained including the lovely stone benches. However, they are at a location inaccessible by pedestrians with no footpath. There is a wide expanse of grass here. Maybe engage with your local area engineer to see if a pull-in bay could be created to encourage more use by picnickers or passing traffic for a rest stop. Also maybe place some more planters around your impressive stone entrance sign.

Concluding Remarks:

Keep up the great work Dungarvan, you have a beautiful village and one you should be very proud of!