

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Paulstown - Baile Phoil** Ref: **403**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **215**
Category: **B** Date(s): **04/07/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	35	37
Streetscape & Public Places	80	30	31
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	28	29
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	20	22
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	8	9
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	35	36
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	26	27
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	23	24
TOTAL MARK	550	205	215

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 Paulstown. I was so delighted to see that you have re-engaged with the Tidy Towns competition, this being your second entry since 2005. As you quite rightly said, there is now a renewed energy in the group. Sometimes a break can do the world of good but from all of us in TidyTowns, it's great to have you back! Many thanks for your 3-Year Plan; keep working on it in terms of annual actions which you can agree on an ongoing basis and then review at the end of each year. If you are finding it difficult to come up with longer term actions include broad areas you'd like to achieve an impact in. Your organisation has an interesting setup – being a subcommittee within the Development Association and then TidyTowns having representation from a number of other groups. This no doubt has helped you embed the TidyTowns message in a much more streamlined manner – well done! It will also help in leveraging additional assistance from your CE and TUS participants for those larger jobs as well as have boots on the ground ensuring the village is kept clean and tidy on a regular basis. You have reached out to and engaged with a lot of agencies, organizations and businesses. Make sure to keep this investment in networking up as it will reap rewards down through the years – for each of you. Your social media page is a hive of activity; showcasing local Parish events, businesses and local information. This is another task for community groups to shoulder but you've actively engaged with it and the local community must be very appreciative. Good idea to also use the local notice board, especially for those not on social media. Your Christmas and Easter events were also very thoughtful ideas to help foster a sense of community to new residents in the village – you certainly have been busy over the last 12 months. Your submission was clearly laid out, for next year please consider inserting the photographs (before and after is a good idea too) in the relevant sections under the text. This makes it much easier for the Adjudicator to review. Make sure to check out the SDG information on www.tidytowns.ie as well as the 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:

I can see how the Project Lifeline was your Flagship Project. Such a wonderful asset to the local community, well done to all involved. I had a lovely time at your Sensory 'Ladybird' Garden too. Facilities like this can make all the difference to families who have children with sensory needs. The Playground Group also are ensuring that facilities in the village are accessible to all so congratulations to you on leveraging this funding. The playground itself was very well maintained with a lovely mix of natural and structured play elements. Also, a great idea to a noticeboard here! There was a lovely Foróige Mural in the old shop window. The Church was well presented. The retail units by Oaklawns need attention. In the town centre could you see about reducing the impact of the derelict garage – not within your direct influence but perhaps something you could assist the owner with? At the GAA grounds it was

a shame that the seating was placed beside the propane tanks – could this be looked into and possibly moved towards the green space? Also there seemed to be a lot of random tyres around the grounds; is there a purpose for these e.g. used for training?

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

In this section you had a number of projects which were more aligned with other Sections, where I will reference and mark them. Whilst I appreciate many projects can overlap categories, try and pick the most relevant one e.g. illegal green waste tipping and National Spring Clean Week would be more aligned to Tidiness & Litter Control. Don't worry, you can always rest assured that an Adjudicator will just consider the project and award marks in the most appropriate Section. As the years progress you will see this and figure out the nuances! Your adjudication reports and the TidyTowns Handbook will be invaluable in this regard. Well done on leveraging the local expertise of a horticulturist. This will be invaluable going forward; especially for tree planting and adopting the 'right tree, right place' approach. The trees in the Lady Bird Garden should be staked – also could the area around it be managed for pollinators; bear in mind the immediate area around the new trees should be kept clear to give the trees the best possible start. The sculpture towards the bypass should have the grass cut around it and possibly graveled to make it more of a noticeable feature.

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

Managing grass cutting for pollinators and wildlife is one of the simplest and most effective biodiversity interventions a TidyTowns group can make. Well done. As with schools throughout the Country I have to give a huge shout-out to all the wonderful boys and girls and their teachers in Scoil Bhríde. They have been doing amazing work what with the sensory garden, vegetables, native hedge, ChangeX Pollinator Plan and so much more. It is schools like this that must make us adults take immediate similar action to tackle the climate and biodiversity crisis; we could all learn so much from them. I did note some Winter Heliotrope (an invasive species) at the new entrance by the GAA grounds. Once established it can be difficult to remove so an early intervention is advisable. Pocket Forests are a great idea and if only we all planted one it would greatly improve and enhance how wildlife can traverse the countryside through reducing habitat fragmentation. I would advise caution though in terms of planting density – as the pocket matures the trees will not have enough space to grow. On the way to the bypass there is an apple tree here that needs staking. There is a wonderful mix of wildflowers in this area – could it be managed less frequently? There is a pollinator sign here but it is not exactly managed according to the Pollinator Plan Guidelines.

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

Best of luck with your swap shop initiative. In the meantime refer to the TidyTowns Handbook, consult with your local Environmental Awareness Officer and look at other towns and villages social media pages to develop new projects. Another idea is to look at the winners of the Special Awards! These could be as simple as sustainability ideas circulated online to leveraging funding for more complex projects. Build your experience and capacity, slowly but surely. Communicate the sustainability message (reduced water consumption, energy efficiency in the home, recycling) on your Facebook page or other means of communication. Another option could be to seek funding or make your own water butts to water your flowers. Start small and build from there!

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

On the day of adjudication the streets and approach roads were litter free and mainly weed-free. Well done on advocating for the bins and managing them through your CE/TUS scheme. Dog fouling, I hate to say is an issue countrywide, but you are doing your bit in securing dispensers. Use your social media to get the message out too. In the GAA grounds there was some litter which was macerated by the lawnmower. Maybe your group could do a litterpick, or even better the club members, before the cut? There was also some old cable spools and debris that could be removed. The Project Lifeline plaque is also coming loose from the stone plinth.

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

St. Endas Terrace looked very well. The hedging at Marble Court Estate is coming on well though the planting at the entrance sign needs refreshing. At Cluain na Sagart the nameplate needs cleaning and could one side of the entrance (smaller side) be managed for biodiversity leaving the other larger area for recreation? There is also a dead tree here that should be replaced and strimming under the concrete posts – something perhaps your group could help the local residents with? The two estates without name signs is a shame, maybe use your lobbying power with the local authority to have this rectified.

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

The approach roads and streets were all well presented, especially the pollinator managed buffer zones close to the bypass. However, strange to do it here and not on the roundabout itself. The planting at the entrance sign (Carlow Rd) could do with some freshening up. You have shown the invaluable role that groups such as yours play in the local community through advocating for change. An example of this is the radar speed signs you lobbied for and successfully got installed thanks to local councilors and Kilkenny County Council.

Concluding Remarks:

Wonderful to have Paulstown back in the Tidy Towns family - keep up your great work!

