

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

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| Centre: Mountcollins - Cnoc Uí Choileáin | Ref: 463 |
| County: Limerick | Mark: 314 |
| Category: B | Date(s): 13/06/2022 |

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2021 | Mark Awarded 2022 |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Community – Your Planning and Involvement | 80 | 40 | 41 |
| Streetscape & Public Places | 80 | 41 | 42 |
| Green Spaces and Landscaping | 80 | 43 | 43 |
| Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality | 55 | 41 | 41 |
| Sustainability – Doing more with less | 55 | 22 | 22 |
| Tidiness and Litter Control | 90 | 59 | 60 |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas | 55 | 31 | 32 |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes | 55 | 32 | 33 |
| TOTAL MARK | 550 | 309 | 314 |

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Fáilte Chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu 2022. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn. Go raibh maith agaibh as ucht bhur dtacaíocht le linn na paindéime. Lean leis an dea-obair.

Welcome to the 2022 SuperValu TidyTowns competition. Thank you for your entry and for your commitment to your place in these difficult times. Keep up the great work.

Mountcollins population is 202 and you have a committee of 12 members with another 20 volunteers. We note you are a participant since the beginning. That is a proud record. You hold monthly meetings and weekly meetings in spring and summer, and you have very good links with Limerick County Council and several other groups, including JP McManus who is a big supporter of Tidy Towns. You communicate through newspapers, newsletters and social media and the school is involved in clean-ups. Your special project for this year is the new driveway to the church and graveyard as well as new pathways. Many thanks for your map which is nicely prepared. However, the layout of the village is different from what is shown on the map and that confused us somewhat. We suggest you ask the Council for a base map which would be more realistic, and you could use it for every year by photocopying it and marking the projects relevant to each year. We note from maps that there are two Mountcollins in Limerick. One is called Mountcollins Broadford. Thankfully, you indicated on your map, the distances to Abbeyfeale and Tournafulla which helped a great deal.

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

In the past year, you have improved the Community Centre, GAA complex and other parts of the community. We visited the complex which is very large, and no doubt accommodates plenty of cars. We noted the existence of shrub beds along the boundary with the road, but it would be nice to add some landscape treatment within the car park and especially at the wall of the Community Centre. You take care of soccer pitches, the school, graveyard and wildlife garden and made it fully accessible for young, old and disabled. That is a fine achievement. You also maintain stone walls and painted walls, railings, etc. along the village and restored three village pumps.

The Grotto is located in one of the most perfect location we have ever seen in Ireland, and you keep it in very good condition. The new driveway to the church and graveyard looks very well. It is interesting that there are no gates attached to the piers. We note some trees near the church appear to have died and suggest they be checked. If they are dead, they should be removed before they become dangerous. We also note that a map of the graves in the graveyard was erected. Other works included restoration of village pumps and your success in having the County Council purchase an unfinished house in the village. Across from the garden of remembrance, we noted the sign on Reilly's Hall which was a venue for dancing from the 1940s to the 1970s. We visited the Children's Graveyard and noted the sign. Is it intended to provide further demarcation on the site in respect of the actual burial site. We wonder why this site was chosen for the burials – there must be a story to tell about the history of the

place.

We visited the local school, which is not shown on your map, nor is it mentioned in your application. Admittedly, the school is not in your village and is in fact 1.7 kms one kilometre away – we wonder why that is the case. We note it was built in the 1940s so perhaps it was because a site was donated by someone. The school is well painted and there is a fine playground. It would be nice to add some planting either shrubs near the building or trees near the boundary.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The Grotto area of the village is your pride and joy and we note it was originally built in 1968 and restored 50 years later in 2018. We visited the Garden of Remembrance at the crossroads, which is also called a Wildlife Garden. It is a pleasant little park but we wondered about the function of the raised hard surface area in the middle with the National Flag flying on a flagpole. We took note of Malus Profusion, a crabapple and a holly bush that is planted there. Another thing we noticed was the dumping of grass clipping in the undergrowth of the planting and suggest that it would be better to mow the lawns more frequently and not collect any clippings or if they are collected, then compost them in a special composting area from where they can be used as a mulch. Another alternative is to reduce the mowing frequency and allow wildflowers to develop. Some of the planting is encroaching on the pathway so we suggest that pruning or cutting back of these plants in winter would be in order.

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

We admired the wildlife meadow beside the graveyard which apparently was previously a derelict site – well done. The information boards on nature and history were also noted. The planting of oak trees is a great idea because they can live for 1,000 years and contribute a great deal to supporting all forms of wildlife.

You have a rich natural area surrounding your community and it is important to promote an awareness of its many traits and to map these habitats. Appreciating your local wildlife resources is vital in order to achieve under this category. In this regard researching and raising awareness is more important than 'doing' at the early stages. Biodiversity is under threat globally and sadly Ireland is a part of this trend. Habitats of value include specimen trees, hedgerows, treelines, streams, woodlands and wetlands. Try to list the plants and animals to be found there and recognise their significance (native, protected, or alien invasive?). This information can be fun to gather and can involve the schools or other interested parties. Raise awareness through holding events such as hedgerow walks or bat walks. Contact the Irish Wildlife Trust for more information. For more information on project ideas under this criterion, we advise consulting the revised handbook which is available at the following link.

<https://www.tidytowns.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Nature-and-Biodiversity-in-your-locality.pdf>

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

All litter collected by your teams is segregated for recycling purposes. You have a bottle bank which is well maintained and nicely screened. We note that grass from football pitches and the graveyard is composted. We are surprised because generally, if the pitches are regularly mowed, there is no need to remove the cut grass – it can be left on the ground – that is what is done for the 700 pitches in the Dublin area. You can also use mulch mowers which break up the cut grass even smaller to speed up its decomposition. You used recycled timber to make flower boxes and you save on paper by texting each other. Other activities mentioned is the promotion of SEAI grants and you are part of the North Kerry/West Limerick Smart Villages Project.

This category is about tackling the growing waste mountain that is creating problems of pollution, unwanted land use, and the use of dwindling resources. It is a global and a local problem. To save the Earth we need to move quickly to a zero-waste society. Your town can play its part by first looking at the volume of waste that is generated. The emphasis here really needs to be on reducing the volume of waste produced rather than recycling (which is taken for granted). At this level of the contest the adjudicator wants to see innovation in tackling bigger issues of food waste, plastic disposal and energy use. What are homes and businesses doing to tackle these?

There are several other measures that your town can take in regard to sustainability. Contact your waste contractors and try to find out what is being thrown away and armed with this information you can start to think about how waste can be reduced. Regarding water usage, self-watering hanging baskets are a help in reducing the amount of water used and also the task of watering. Other waste minimisation projects include encouraging the re-use of water bottles and coffee mugs at school and at work. In response to an overuse of chemicals for weed control, many useful products of the past are no longer available and therefore communities are encouraged to use other means such as hoeing to maintain weeds. These activities will highlight the fact that you are focussing on this category and when you develop more projects in the future your marks will increase.

For more helpful tips and case studies from other Tidy Towns entrants please take a look at

<http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>

For more information on project ideas for this criterion, we advise consulting the revised handbook which is available at the following link. [https://www.tidytowns.](https://www.tidytowns.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Sustainability-Doing-More-with-less.pdf)

[ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Sustainability-Doing-More-with-less.pdf](https://www.tidytowns.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Sustainability-Doing-More-with-less.pdf)

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhairacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You participated in the annual clean-up on Good Friday. Your litter squads check the village on a weekly basis and footpaths are regularly swept. You also check the recycling bank on a daily basis and have a new litter bin from the Council. Road signage is regularly cleaned and fly posters removed. Well done on all of those efforts – we found Mountcollins very clean and tidy.

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

At the junction of Lower Road and Knockulcare, there are some fine big houses which could be considered a village centre, even though the Community Centre and the church are not at this location. It is from this point that we enjoyed the view downhill towards the grotto – it is very inviting. In general, these houses looked well and there are hanging baskets with flowers which add enhancement. The Radharc na Ghleanna sign is very nice and we admired the small houses in this area. Well done on the erection of a new sign at the entrance to Cabhsa Cois Abhann housing estate. We noted the attention given to painting walls and fences, railings and gates in the village.

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

Unfortunately, the welcome sign is almost hidden by overgrowth of vegetation. Otherwise, you do a great job in maintaining hedges, sweeping streets and collecting litter – well done.

Concluding Remarks:

Over the years, you have taken great care of Mountcollins village, and we hope you know that it is much appreciated. Keep up the good work and we look forward to receiving your application in 2023.