

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Carrickboy - An Charraig Bhuí	Ref: 477
County: Longford	Mark: 260
Category: A	Date(s): 15/06/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	26	27
Streetscape & Public Places	80	34	35
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	36	37
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	18	19
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	11	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	58	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	36	37
TOTAL MARK	550	251	260

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...

You have a small but active team suitable for your small village. We encourage you to continue to use both traditional and modern methods of communication. WhatsApp is particularly useful as a focused communication tool. Never give up on word of mouth and face to face as it is better for connecting us in a more personal way and much better for clarity. We hope that you can find a way to reconnect with Foroige and that you find other ways to engage with younger members of your community. Your 25 years of participation is evident, and we were impressed with impact you have made in what is a small village with a volume of through traffic.

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

We noted that the village was well presented, and both the service station and adjacent community garden were attractive and colourful. Your signage was well delivered, clean and clear and your water pump is well maintained.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The community garden is an ongoing project, and it is taking great shape. We observed the new plant bed under construction, and we were impressed with the use of recycled timber. The robust blue bench is very attractive, and it should last for many years. The lawn is excellent as is the fuchsia hedge. The community garden will be a great asset to the community when it is complete and if you can provide a good gravel/pebble hard surface that avoids the future use of herbicides it will also support wildlife and insects in search of food and shelter. More seating and picnic tables will be a useful addition in the future. I look forward to reading the history of the site sometime in the future. We also noted that the large, planted containers in the service station/shop were particularly colourful.

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

It is great to hear that you have two designated wildlife areas that are untouched. It would be good to highlight these on your map. We noted the use of pollinator friendly plants in the community gardens and the unmown strip of grass meadow along the approach roads/ditch – all are great to support biodiversity. If you can avoid chemical spray in the future this will help too. We also noted that invasive species are being tackled appropriately which was good to see

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

Thanks for information on the horse manure that you use for the garden plants – you are lucky to have it at your disposal. You might take a look at waste, water/energy conservation and or other sustainability initiatives in the future e.g., reusable or returnable coffee/teacups. Every little action that you take will make a difference and inspire others to do their bit

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

It is not a surprise to hear that litter is an ongoing challenge as you have a lot of traffic passing through. That said, your twice a year litter pick along with your regular litter walks are working well and we were impressed by the lack of litter. Our only recommendation here is give the signage a wash once a year also and to keep a close eye on opportunistic/temporary plastic signage as it can become an eyesore that detracts from your interesting street trees and the community garden

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

As you say, everyone in the area is looking after their own house, garden and entrance and there appears to be great pride in the presentation of homes and gardens

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

There is great attention to detail on the approach roads which were well mown and weed and litter free. The wildlife strip was doing its bit for biodiversity, and you have an interesting selection of trees. One or two appear to have been hard pruned and not recovered. You might consider some re-planting with replacements and allowing trees to achieve a more natural size and shape. As this is a busy national route you need to be careful with your selection and you should take advice in advance of selecting trees. More upright, columnar or fastigate varieties would fare better with large vehicles passing. The planting in a large stone bed also caught our attention and we would encourage this approach

Concluding Remarks:

Carrickboy is a small village dissected by a busy national route. Despite the constant flow of traffic, the Tidy Towns team have managed to create an attractive and welcoming destination making great use of street trees, shrubberies and the old school site that is becoming a very charming community garden. This adjudicator looks forward to future visits with interest when the garden is complete, and the history of the school is detailed on an information board