

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Colehill - Cnoc na Góla	Ref: 1371
County: Longford	Mark: 249
Category: A	Date(s): 16/06/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	30	31
Streetscape & Public Places	80	29	30
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	27	28
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	23	24
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	16	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	28	30
TOTAL MARK	550	239	249

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... Congratulations to your small but hard-working team who have maintained the community's efforts to develop and enhance the village. The Clar funding will, as you say, be transformative for the area at the Colehill Cross junction. This is only your 7th year in the competition and already you are making significant improvements. We would encourage you to use whatever communication platforms work for your small community and continue to put the efforts in where they count e.g., safety and welfare of children and families.

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

Clearly you have worked hard with Council representatives and local landowners to secure significant funding and the necessary permissions for the major improvements planned for Colehill Cross junction and the new pathway/cycleway from the school down to the Hazelwood housing estate. Linking the school with this residential area and creating a small green amenity is a game changer for the community and while it is still on the drawing boards it takes focused commitment and a lot of time to secure funding and approvals. So well done to all involved. The map and drawings provided were excellent making it easy to identify other impressive built features such as the thatch cottage and the old pump stand. The cottage appeared to have been recently rethatched and it looked very smart. Continue to speak with the HSE about the redundant medical centre. This is a great opportunity to turn something unattractive into a pleasing feature

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The delays to new green verges and the stone planters are disappointing and must be a great cause of frustration. In the interim we encourage you to work with your existing green spaces. Perhaps you can add some more pollinator-friendly bulbs to the existing daffodil and allium planting e.g., grape hyacinth, snowdrops and crocus. While the stone planters will be very attractive, plants thrive when planted directly in the ground. Perennials can be planted and bulked up for dividing when the new stone beds are in place.

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

We observed the native hedge rows and grass verge that supports greater biodiversity, and it is great to hear about the wide range of fauna spotted locally. Continue to keep a watchful eye for non-native invasive species and encourage land/garden owners to end the use of chemical control of herbicides, especially close to the school, where we must talk the talk and walk with the walk with the next generation of community activists. The school also

provides an opportunity for classes to design and build bug hotels and bird boxes that can be placed around the school and on the Long Avenue

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

Your approach is the correct one – be careful about plant selection that causes too much future maintenance. Use thick application of mulches on new planting, use high planting densities in small beds that cover the ground. While only seasonal/bedding plants used in containers require ongoing watering, try to use water harvested from water butts and if feasible create a compost for a future supply of growing media. As you know sustainability is a broad topic and when time/resources permit in the future you can look at energy usage and waste reduction and segregation.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We are working on a safe assumption that your community litter pick planned for early June took place before our visit in mid-June as we were very impressed with the cleanliness levels. Keep an eye on temporary signage and kerbs and you will continue to impress. Your equipment and vests are being put to good use. Keep up the great work

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

We recognise your challenge in the absence of a resident's association in Hazelwood and your efforts to have a fence replaced to the front are noted. It is to everyone's benefit, including those just passing through, if the entrance to the estate is enhanced. Some tree planting here would make a significant impact. We also observed that some existing trees need attention, adjustment to stakes and tree ties. We observed many private front gardens belonging to residents that looked well planted and maintained, despite poor weather conditions for many weeks in advance. These all add to the sense of place and pride in the community

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

All approach roads were clean and well maintained. The resurfacing and widening work appeared to be successful. While you already have a long list of planned actions and objectives one suggestion that you might add to the list is the planting of eye-catching colourful shrubberies/perennials at the base of the Colehill signage entering the village. The planned stone beds will be a huge addition but noting the high volume of traffic through your community, everything that you can do to encourage motorists to reduce speed will make Colehill a safer and more comfortable place to live

Concluding Remarks:

The Colehill community should be very proud of the achievements to date. This is a small up and coming community that has shown great enthusiasm for enhancement. Make the most of your location and when you have successfully completed your planned projects take time to celebrate your community before embarking on new projects.