

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Derryhaun** Ref: **2265**
County: **Longford** Mark: **294**
Category: **A** Date(s): **15/06/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	29	30
Streetscape & Public Places	80	31	32
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	43	44
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	28	29
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	16	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	67	68
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	31	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	40	41
TOTAL MARK	550	285	294

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 Tidy Towns for your tenth year. It is great to hear that the competition is very important to your community and that it inspires positive action in so many. You have maintained a strong committee and volunteer team and clearly your communication strategy is successful. Face-to-face direct communication will always trump social media as it builds proper connection and understanding. Thank you for sharing the report from Cloontagh national school. The photography is excellent. Those carrots must have completely dispelled the myth that all food miraculously appears in perfect shape on the supermarket shelves. The collaboration at board/parents assoc level, the children participating in the big clean ups, and the fact that the school has 5 green flags under its belt is clear evidence of a well-connected and well-informed community. The climate crisis behoves us all to take action every day and your children have an opportunity to bring their learnings home to their siblings and parents on a daily basis

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

It is interesting to read about the history of the residences. A Bord na Mona transitions to a new business their history and the history of the built environment will become more important. It was also great to see homes and gardens so well cared for and enjoyed with great pride. We visited the impressive 1916 memorial and admired the recently painted/varnished benches and painted planters. Keep an eye on signage, particularly signs with maps that become less legible over time

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The green space that accommodates the 1916 memorial is very attractive, with eye-catching shrubs and trees. Keep an eye on tree staking and tree tie adjustment to ensure that your trees continue to mature and enhance the location. It was good to note that you are continuing to plants with the pair of apple trees and small ash trees planted with white markers. Try to find non-chemical ways of maintaining grass verges and pathways so as not to undo the efforts made to support pollinators in close proximity

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

We were delighted to see the pollinator-friendly area adjacent to the memorial with signage, compost area and bird boxes. The plans to further develop this area and to create a hide for bird watching is commendable. In view of the changes i.e., the move to cease peat harvesting and to re-wet the cut-away bogs a repeat of the wildlife survey will highlight how species and their numbers have changed over the years

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

You have provided an impressive list of activities under this heading, from composting, taking cuttings, sowing seeds, moving to perennials from annuals, using local manure, etc. You also mention the feeding birds and provision of bird boxes which also tick the biodiversity box. Your collaboration with the school is very important creating a link and flow of information across the generations. Your pollinator space provides a great outdoor classroom along with the garden created in the school itself. There are so many actions open to you under the sustainability heading and we would encourage you to use your influence in the community to explore other possibilities such as water conservation, waste reduction and segregation and energy conservation. This would allow residents to take action in their homes and gardens and these can amount to significant changes that assist in combating climate change. A simple place to start is with water butts, incentivising all residents to participate

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You are working hard to keep your roads litter free, and we observed, at first hand, the challenge you have with motorists passing through. The approach you are taking is the best one, removing litter as quickly and regularly as possible forcing would-be litter louts to think twice before they litter a pristine rural area. Where there is litter left lying about more will follow. Other approaches can include cameras and signage but ultimately persistence is the only remedy. Talking with the pupils in Cloontagh national school is a great idea as is stepping up the patrols during the busy summer months. Keep up the good work

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

Your residents are clearly on board as champions of presentation and good horticultural practice. We noted the number of houses with beautiful gardens on display for all to see. You have created a beautiful place to live and to visit. It is lovely to hear your praise for the CE worker. This scheme is so important to Tidy Town groups across the country and as you say, during Covid and lockdowns, they did a particularly important job.

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

All approach roads were well maintained with a strip of mown grass and the rest left for pollinators. Overhanging hedges and brambles were not a problem. We noticed some rutting on one road that could be repaired before it causes a problem. We admired the planters under the signs and would recommend the use of mulches to reduce weed growth and maintain moisture while young plants establish and cover the ground

Concluding Remarks:

Derryhaun should not be mistaken for a simple crossroad on a rural road. There is an active community with strong links to the national school who are celebrating heritage, ecology and the beauty of nature. The apples grown from seeds in Cloontagh, now planted in your pollinator garden will not be forgotten by the children. The repurposed and reimagined bogs are fast becoming important amenities for visitors and hosts for biodiversity. You are ideally placed to link the history of the bogs with current use and the future. Keep up all the good work and congratulations on all that you have achieved thus far