

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Collon - Collann** Ref: **490**
County: **Louth** Mark: **312**
Category: **B** Date(s): **14/06/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	44	45
Streetscape & Public Places	80	44	45
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	44	45
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	31	32
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	11	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57	58
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	38	39
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	35	36
TOTAL MARK	550	304	312

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...

Thank you for your 2022 entry to the Tidy Towns Competition. Your colourful photographs give a good idea of the work that you carry out throughout the year. The accompanying map, although well set out was very generic and did not have any of your projects referenced or any legend. Projects should be numbered sequentially rather than starting at 1 in each category. Your committee of 8 members on your committee with a further 25 volunteers is very good to see and shows the commitment of the people of Collon. The appointment of a schools liaison committee member to link in with the Collon National School is an excellent way to engage with your local school. On adjudication day, a number of volunteers could be seen working away. The support from local businesses and agencies is encouraging, no doubt helped by your excellent communication strategy. The Little Stars event to thank children who have helped keep the village tidy is a great way of encouraging continued participation.

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

The traffic calming measures in place are a great start to making Collon a safer village. Well done for your continued lobbying for reduced speed limits through the village – having spent some time in the village, the need for further traffic calming measure was very evident to this adjudicator. The new pedestrian (puffin) crossing due to be installed this summer will no doubt be a great help in reducing speed further and making Collon a safer place. You have no numbered projects in this category which is a shame as there was certainly evidence of a number of areas that could be included even if only as maintained projects. The public spaces, especially market square, the shopfronts, paving, street furniture and boundary treatments had all obviously been maintained to a high standard. The beautifully repaired benches also deserve a mention – not only good looking but very comfortable as well. Congratulations on your successful grant application under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. We look forward to hearing about the progress of this project to create a playground and recreation area as well as a landscaped space and composting area in next year's application. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to create a biodiverse and sustainable area.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The newly painted containers were fresh and beautifully colour co-ordinated with the repaired benches. Sadly they had not been planted up on adjudication day but subsequent posts on social media showed the colourful summer bedding planting. Why not include pictures of the containers with the pollinator friendly bulbs in next year's submission? The "Collann" sign on Market Square is very nicely presented – well done. It is clear to see signs of planting of pollinator friendly perennials throughout the village and these will improve over time as they mature.

We look forward to seeing the self-watering troughs at the entrance signs next year which you have planned with funding from the Louth County Council Tidy Towns Project scheme.
The bee hotel looks spectacular – this is a lovely piece of work. You mention that you will trim and tidy the site after nesting season but have you considered leaving a portion of the grass uncut? This would give the insects more protection.

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

Well done for using only certified Irish and native seeds when resowing your wildflower beds. This is an important aspect for biodiversity in Ireland whilst protecting our native plants.
The Bulbs for Bees campaign is an excellent way to increase pollinating bulbs in the area so well done for reaching out and organising this. Please do include photographs of the bulbs in your next year's submission. Similarly do let us know how your project with Louth Barn Owl Project progresses.

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

This is a category where there is plenty of scope for you to increase your marks. It is a broad area and it is often helpful to divide it into the core headings of waste, water, energy, transport and climate action. Do also refer to the Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas and guidance.

You are repurposing unused pallets to create planters and your project for the playground and parish hall will hopefully enable you to create composting and rainwater harvesting facilities. Do update us on this project next year.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You organise a lot of litter picking and cleaning events throughout the year and it is paying dividends. There was little or no litter seen on the day of adjudication. In fact some young boys were seen crossing that busy road to put their litter in a bin so well done one and all. The only area of new litter was of some drink cans dumped on the wall outside the petrol station - perhaps the management could be persuaded to do regular checks outside the premises.

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

Your on-going communications with all residents associations is to be commended. Working together you have been able to maintain and encourage planting schemes to include wildflower areas and 'no mow May' of grass where possible. It is hoped that you will be able to continue with this process. There is scope to increase the biodiversity in these areas with more planting of shrubs, particularly native, trees and wild areas.
Many lovingly maintained houses were noted in the village. Those on Market Square were particularly well kept and there were some very colourful displays of planting along the terraces houses on the N2. No 3 restaurant was beautifully presented.

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

The upgrade of the N2 is excellent work with improved streetscape, bicycle parking area and improved pedestrian safety and both the Tidy Towns Committee and TII with Louth County Council are to be congratulated.
Most of the signs on the approach were the worse for wear, battered and dirty. Sadly they do not give a good first impression. Well done for your successful grant application to place troughs at the signs. This is an ideal opportunity to approach Louth Council County for new signs too. What a difference they would make. It is acknowledged that the volume of traffic driving through Collon makes the upkeep of these roads more challenging than for other villages. That said, the mature trees, clean and weed free roadsides and neatly maintained verges are very pleasing.

Concluding Remarks:

Collon is a lovely village to visit. Well done on all your hard work and good luck in the Tidy Towns competition.