

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Ballyheane - Béal Átha hÉin	Ref: 1854
County: Mayo	Mark: 280
Category: B	Date(s): 07/07/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	33
Streetscape & Public Places	80	37
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	38
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	28
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	34
TOTAL MARK	550	280

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 the 2022 Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your entry. We note you missed out in last year's competition Your entry with 14 pages of a PDF document including 1 page for the map and a half page plan, gives a detailed overview of the excellent central role Ballyheane's Tidy Towns (BTT) has in leading the wider Ballyheane community towards higher standards of environmental awareness and excellence.

The map is very clear with the individually numbered projects recorded on the map showing their exact locations. No photos were attached and these are a valuable aid in the adjudication.

You use Facebook (Ballyheane Community Council) as a communications channel with a very creditable 795 followers and use the weekly church/community newsletter to inform the community. For a small community this is a large number of Facebook followers which you can track to monitor BTT's continuing impact. A suggestion, include more photos of BTT activities in the Facebook page - which will also be a ready resource for next year's Tidy Towns competition application and a record of progress throughout the year.

The 3/5 year plan referred to in the new Tidy Towns Handbook is presented concisely as a list of 8 projects list - in future years you might indicate who is responsible and more details of timelines.

Your core committee of 5 supported by 20 volunteers constitute a good fraction of the total population and have made Ballyheane a progressive village.

You list an impressive 14 supporting bodies and have good links with the local National School and get help from Foróige.

In future years it would be good to see the relevant references to the UN Sustainable Development Goals indicated for each of the BTT projects, this is a useful practical first step in communicating the important goals (for Ireland and all humanity) as a start to Ireland's ambitious plan to achieve all 17 by 2030.

The excellent new Tidy Towns handbook available on the main Tidy Towns website (<https://www.tidytowns.ie/competition/handbook/>) is a source of new ideas and suggestions.

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

Ballyheane on the busy N84 is a charming small village in a rural setting. From the Ballinrobe side the first introduction to the village is the Biodiversity Garden on the left (including a nicely refurbished original water pump) with an additional eye-catching roadside colourful flower bed further along. On the other side of the road the circular picnic area, with well maintained street furniture, is located on a nicely trimmed green area. McEvilly's pub and the church with a visually striking and pleasing appearance are opposite the entrance to the Ballyheane Community Centre. The Community Centre, Childcare Service and the extensive Ballyheane AFC Pat Quigley Park are set

back from the road and the extensive excellent infrastructure is not apparent to the passing motorist. The new path around the pitch with concrete post and rail fencing on one side and wooden fencing and the other, is an excellent new addition with an eye-catching multicoloured seating arrangement and excellent LED street lighting all the way around the footpath.

The National School, Petrol Station and the Punch Bowl complete the main streetscape with the old graveyard just about visible across the road. The striking large BALLYHEANE sign set into a gravelled bed on a sloping embankment on the Castlebar side is a memorable experience. The 'Welcome to Ballyheane' village signs with the distinctive 'roof' and built in flower box looked very well indeed.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The entrances to the village looked well tended and the Biodiversity Garden on the left with an additional eye-catching roadside colourful flower bed located further along. On the other side of the road the circular picnic area, with well maintained street furniture, is located on a nicely trimmed green area. The two vibrantly coloured circular flower containers added to the scene. These containers were replicated at the other end of the village giving a pleasing unity. The flower bed in front of the school was also noted. The Old Graveyard is at an early stage of clearance.

The newly planted hedge around the picnic area was noted.

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

The Biodiversity Garden is a welcome locations for promoting pollinator hungry insects. This tranquil area with a well tended pathway, bird boxes and interesting explanatory signage is an excellent way of increasing people's awareness of nature. The bat boxes and planting around the Ball Alley are excellent. You might consider putting a wildlife mural on the outside wall of the Ball Alley.

The wildflower backdrop behind wooden fence (at the beginning of the new path around the pitch behind the Astroturf in the sports complex) was noted.

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

The continuing practice of using local material (wood chipping), using spare paint, growing plants in a local greenhouse, promoting the bottle bank and the clothes bank, reusable cups in Daybreak, water bottle refill at the soccer pitch, these are all commendable. These are all important starting points in the sustainability journey. For ideas, have a look at the Top Tips in page 8 of the Sustainability section of the Tidy Towns Handbook , available on line at the Tidy Towns website <https://www.tidytowns.ie/competition/handbook/>

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The village was essentially litter free and poster free on adjudication day with some very minor fresh litter (plastic bottle) at the bottle bank

Congratulations on keeping the busy main road N84 litter free despite the large daily traffic flow.

Participation in the National Spring Clean is commendable.

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

The flower boxes and containers added a welcome splash of colour. Residents should be encouraged to plant more pollinator friendly flowers and possibly consider an appropriate species of tree in the front garden to add visual and biodiversity interest.

The verges and paths around the village looked neat and well cared for.

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

The dry limestones walls on the approach roads and the well kept roadside verges were noted. The flower bed at the Derrew junction on the Ballinrobe Road was admired. All approach roads were well surfaced with excellent signage. Mentioned already the striking large BALLYHEANE sign set into a gravelled bed on a sloping embankment on the Castlebar side and the 'Welcome to Ballyheane' village signs with the distinctive 'roof' and built in flower box looked very well indeed.

Concluding Remarks:

Ballyheane is a lovely place to visit. The architecturally striking St Patrick's Church and the magnificent Community Centre and the extensive Ballyheane AFC Pat Quigley Park are excellent infrastructure often missed by the passing motorist. Consider linking up with other nearby Co. Mayo Tidy Towns Groups for support. This was my first visit and I look forward to seeing the village develop and visiting it again in the future.