

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Carracastle - Ceathrú an Chaisil	Ref: 2185
County: Mayo	Mark: 253
Category: B	Date(s): 28/06/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	33	34
Streetscape & Public Places	80	34	35
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	31	32
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	24	24
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	17	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	51
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	28	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	29	30
TOTAL MARK	550	246	253

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. Your concise entry of a 19 page Word document with a 13 page appendix of photos, also including a separate 1 page for the excellent hand-drawn map gives a detailed overview of the excellent central role Carracastle's Tidy Towns (CTT) has in leading the wider Carracastle community towards higher standards of environmental awareness and excellence. You list 11 organisations/who support you. This is your seventh year in the competition and reflects good progress to date.

The map is very clear and links the individually numbered projects on the map showing their exact locations.

You use the Community Facebook as a communications channel with 905 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 CTT's continuing impact. A suggestion, include more photos of CTT 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 briefly referred to in the application but was not shown in the application as requested, this should be given a priority for next year's application.

Your core committee of 6 supported by 8 volunteers constitute a minority of the total population (reportedly 725 in the 2016 census). You could set an objective to recruit additional residents in CTT over the coming months. You get very good support from the National School and Foróige.

It would also be good to see the relevant references to the UN Sustainable Development Goals indicated for each of the CTT 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:

Davey's Bar and Shop and the nearby Community Centre looked very well and presented a pleasing aspect of the village. The stonework of St. James's Church looked very well. Scoil Iosa and the nearby Castlekidz Childcare Facility were well presented and well looked after. The measures to improve unoccupied derelict houses were admired. The unoccupied roadside cottage for sale needs some TLC.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The stonewalls are a feature of the village and set off the trees, shrubbery and the many flower planters and containers. The Cemetery is in a very obvious position and looks a little bedraggled. You could look at enhancing the landscaping on the village approaches particularly adjacent to the village signs. There are also opportunities to promote wildflowers natural growth in any of the grassy areas such as the south side of the cemetery.

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

You are at an early stage in addressing this important category.

The river is a huge natural resource that should be emphasised.

Look at the National Pollinator Plan and read the Nature & Biodiversity section in the excellent new Tidy Towns handbook available on the main Tidy Towns website (<https://www.tidytowns.ie/competition/handbook/>).

One suggestion is to avoid planting any wildflower seeds other than those you gather yourself, also by cutting the grassy areas once or twice a year and removing the cut grass, this will promote a natural restoration of real wildflowers. Have a look at getting some Irish Yellow Rattle seeds which will fight the grass and allow wildflowers to bloom! Don't forget to loosen the ties on the newly planted trees as they develop!

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

The Book exchange, craft fairs and street feast are novel ways of getting wider community involvement .

Scoil Iosa having seven Green Flags for care of the environment is an excellent achievement. The new wellness garden in the school was admired and a variety of vegetables were growing in the raised beds.

Promoting local artisan foods such as Dozio cheese is commendable.

For more 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.

Your regular clean-ups, participation in the litter league and the An Taisce Spring Clean up are commendable. The fact that the village was litter free testifies that your organisation and practical litter pick-ups is working well.

The recycling centre was neat and tidy but some discarded items were seen behind the bins. There was some broken glass on a nearby parking space. On the windy and rainy adjudication day, a large white plastic bag was on the road opposite the school, this was taken as an exception due to the weather conditions!

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

The main street looked well and reflected the distinctive aspects of a typical Irish village. The flower boxes and containers added a welcome splash of colour. St James's Drive houses were neat and tidy with a pleasant green aspect from the shrubs and trees.

As mentioned in previous adjudications, perhaps residents could be encouraged to have a small wild area to attract bees and insects.

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

The approach roads with the lovely stone walls were noted. The bilingual town-land signs were well presented and form a distinctive way of preserving the geographic heritage. Mayo Co Council are to be praised for the many cyclist awareness signs (a minimum of 1.5m space for the cyclist) on many village approaches and roads. The new footpath between the Community Centre and the Church was noted.

Concluding Remarks:

Carracastle is a lovely place to visit with the memorable church with the imposing cemetery across the road. The paved area in front of the National School is a really advantageous facility, nicely surfaced and painted. The new Hurling Wall and Astro turf pitch were stand out features.

This was my first visit and I wish CTT all the very best in their quest to further develop the village.