

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Claremorris - Clár Chlainne Mhuiris	Ref: 514
County: Mayo	Mark: 296
Category: D	Date(s): 19/06/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	40	42
Streetscape & Public Places	80	38	40
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	39	41
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	32	35
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	16	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	53	55
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	27	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	34	36
TOTAL MARK	550	279	296

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 excellent entry. You have been entering the competition for many years. Your entry comprised of six separate items with a 16 page of a word document application form, an 8 page collage of photos, two separate maps, and a project list. Note that the strict application requests that these be incorporated in one document - keep it in mind for next year.

The map is very clear with 9 New (N) projects and listed and 6 Maintenance (M) projects covering the various categories, recording the consecutively numbered projects on the map showing their exact locations. The adjudicator noted that these numbers differed somewhat from the separate project list with 25 projects listed. This could be standardised in next year's application.

You continue to enhance your communication across the community in many ways. You use Facebook as a communications channel with 1484 followers (up from 1307 in your application) as well as using the weekly church/community newsletter to inform the community. The Facebook pages gives a clear, interesting and up-to date record very useful as a reminder of progress made.

You have an impressive list of 22 supporter groups which support Claremorris Tidy Towns (CTT).

The 3/5 year plan requested in the application was not found - this could be a simple list of projects already underway together with planned/future ones.

Your core committee of 7 is aided by 15 volunteers. As requested in the application form, you have identified a specific project where particular effort was applied since July 1st, 2021 - the plastic caps street mural now on the Railway Bridge.

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

The rather complicated road traverse through Claremorris might distract the passing motorist somewhat from taking in fully the many notable aspects of the streetscape and public places. The main square, with judiciously planted trees in their new pollinator friendly beds and beautiful and colourful planting in the saucer shaped planters on the nicely paved area in front of the Credit Union is an excellent asset.

The newly rejuvenated premises including Haven Pharmacy, Sunbar Beauty and PJ Byrnes Public House stand out. Heaney's Hardware, Scallywags and O'Brien's Bar also added positively to the streetscape.

The two and three storey Main Street was resplendent the traditional lamp standards, wire free vista, hanging baskets and a pleasant blend of colourfully painted premises made for a pleasant memory on a rainy day.

The continuing progress with three significant derelict/semi-derelict sites near the town centre should further improve matters.

The newly planted Patrick Cassidy Road is developing as an attractive public space marked out with black architectural bollards and classic style street lamp standards.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

There is a pleasant quality aspect to landscaping and green spaces in Claremorris. The care and attention is obvious. There is an emphasis on pollinator friendly planting and a continuing movement to add to the planting of flowers and trees. The lakeside McMahon Park (Clare Lake) with a looped walk is a gem with the interesting curved abstract sculptures, an interesting duck population, neatly trimmed grass and very good explanatory signage. The Claremont Road/Ave new link road has accommodated several pollinator friendly beds as is the case with the newly planted Patrick Cassidy Road verge. The Active Travel new planting on Chapel Lane and at the entrance to Supervalu will develop into a nicely presented landscaped area.

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

CTT have put effort into this category over the last number of years. The Land of Giants on-going project, with emphasis on nature, now has the striking new large individual wood sculptures depicting an applegarth, a butterfly and an acorn.

The lakeside McMahon Park (Clare Lake) with a looped walk has excellent display boards depicting the flora and fauna. The new Mayfield Lake looped walk with the lovely carved wood sign at the entrance, with its paved pathway and boardwalk is an outstanding additional amenity and should be the focus of additional CTT projects and measures to educate and inform the population. The walk is another way of getting people closer to nature and appreciating the natural heritage. The National Tree week participation and the Sherry Fitzgerald sponsored Bugs, Bees & Native Trees initiatives are commendable. We look forward to hearing more about the ecologically sensitive restoration of St Johns C of I graveyard.

The wildflowers at Brookhill and at Claremont Road/Ave. were also noted.

The All Ireland Pollinator Plan requests all Tidy Towns groups to include a Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT-Count). FIT Counts are very simple – you watch a patch of flowers for 10 minutes and count how many insects visit. It is a very useful tool for TT groups to measure change in their local biodiversity. Especially when they have taken action already for pollinators, by carrying out FIT Counts throughout the year and across future years will help track the impact of their actions on insect numbers and diversity as well as providing important data for the Biodiversity Centre.

Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT Count) - National Biodiversity Data Centre (biodiversityireland.ie)

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

The Plastic Caps Mural is an excellent output from cooperation with 5 primary schools, Claremorris Mens Shed and Mayo Co Co. The objective was to encourage people not to throw away their plastic and to reuse the plastic and make it into something interesting and uplifting for the town, and this was fully met with the striking colourful mural on the railway bridge on the main thoroughfare through the town.

The support of the newly installed cycle pathway near Supervalu should help stimulate interest and awareness in cycling as sustainable transport mode.

The new Water Stations planned for Clare Lake/Children's playground should further enhance your 'Tap Map'.

These are all important starting points in the sustainability journey. For additional 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/>

One suggestion, consider joining as a Sustainable Energy Community: <https://www.seai.ie/community-energy/sustainable-energy-communities/join-the-sustainable-ener/>

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The town was litter free on adjudication day. Congratulations on keeping busy main roads N60 litter free despite the large daily traffic flow.

The involvement of residents associations and Ukrainian visitors in litter picking and is excellent as is participation in the National Spring Clean 2022. The volunteer Litter Champions for the Clare Lake, Land of Giants and Mayfield Lake gives an innovative aspect to the mundane task.

The dog fouling measures with painted pavement signs were noted.

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

The main street looked well and reflected the distinctive aspects of a busy Irish town - your continuing work to improve the visual aspect of the town is commendable. The flower boxes and containers added a welcome splash of colour. James Street, Main Street and D'alton Street caught the eye with the freshly painted buildings. The mural on Kilcolman Junction was admired.

Hosing estates were generally neat and tidy but some looked somewhat bare. Residents with empty front gardens might be encouraged to plant an appropriate species of tree to add visual and biodiversity interest.

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

The approach roads were well surfaced with good signage and verges trimmed appropriately. The new Claremont Road/Avenue link road is a useful new addition.

The ESB service box with the colourful sunflowers was delightful.

The new flyover on the N17 should assist traffic flow and provide opportunities for appropriate tree planting and landscaping.

Concluding Remarks:

Claremorris is a lovely town and an interesting place to visit. The results of many years of hard work were apparent.