

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clogher - An Clochar** Ref: **459**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **317**
Category: **B** Date(s): **31/07/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	43	44
Streetscape & Public Places	80	37	39
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	40	41
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	41	42
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	20	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	65	66
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	31	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	34	34
TOTAL MARK	550	311	317

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Fáilte Chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachrmhara Super Valu 2021. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn. Go raibh maith agaibh as ucht bhur dtacaíocht le linn na paindéime. Lean leis an dea-obair.

Thank you for your entry form and your map and your long-term plan. It would be really useful to highlight that there are two Cloghers in County Mayo, and the important Clogher was not featured on google maps! But we got here in the end, and it was lovely to explore your community!

You have a lot of assistance from the community, development groups, regional support bodies, farmers, and residents. In particular, you have a very good relationship with Holy Angels Primary School. Communication is important so it was good to see the various ways in which you share details of your work and activities. We couldn't find your page on Facebook so maybe next time can you also provide the address please? Is there a community noticeboard? Perhaps you could develop one maybe at the bottle banks, or the Community Centre?

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

How lovely to be able to sit around the open fire and tell stories of times gone by, and this is exactly what you do in your Heritage Centre! You're lucky to have different venues in the community including The Heritage Centre, the Community Center, The GAA clubhouse and The Public House.

The School and the Community Hall were painted a lovely colour – well done to whoever selected the palette.

The Drum Inn was freshly painted and looked bright and attractive.

The GAA building was freshly painted and window cills were carefully edged in the club colours. The nice planters here at the entrance made for a warm welcome. Is there a defibrillator available here as well? The car park wall was yet to be finished. Perhaps some ivy plants could be trained along here to soften the bare concrete look? What a good clubhouse and amenity to have for the area.

The Heritage Centre had a nice display of agricultural equipment and a famine pot. Floral displays toned in with the colours of the painting of the building. We enjoyed the fresh herbs and there was an array of vegetables growing in the polytunnel here.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

You've put a lot of effort into maintaining your public areas. The planting along the roadside floral bed at the crossroads was admired. And the planters as you approach this area also looked well. It was good to be able to read the heritage information and details of the area. We were surprised by the wealth of history in this area. One idea might be to plant trees around the cross-roads, but inside the field boundaries (if permitted). Some tall, elegant native trees here could help give structure and a strong sense of place here, without impacting traffic.

Many of the flowers used in your landscaping schemes were good for pollinators. You are encouraged to add more. There is great free guidance available on plants and flowers to choose that is of benefit to pollinators. www.pollinators.ie

The grotto was also nicely managed so well done for maintaining this area. The marks left by some car tyres doing handbrake turns here makes us wonder if this road junction should be narrowed.

At the rear of the school we saw raised beds and planting of interest. It is great to encourage growing vegetables and harvesting fruit and nuts from your own locality. Some native fruit trees were also planted on the road pass the GAA. This can all help important discussions on food miles, and taste tests for home-grown produce!

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

A major project over the past year has been the development of the new bog walks in the community. Bird and bat boxes have been provided. When we visited the weather was gorgeous and it was so peaceful no doubt many people would enjoy following the different loop walks around your community. We saw the information board about native woodland trees. Perhaps some more information could be provided on wildlife? On Facebook you could share details of eg. the first swallow see each Spring, or you could run a wildlife photographic competition?

You are aware of the legislation around hedge-cutting and encourage all to only cut hedges outside of the bird nesting season. You've also encouraged homeowners to leave small corners of their gardens uncut to encourage wildlife. Sadly last year there was a bog fire which caused extensive damage, so you again are raising awareness of dangers of live flames. Perhaps the school children could do a poster campaign and have these displayed?

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

The large bank of solar panels on the roof of the GAA was admired. On adjudication day you would have generated a lot of hot water!

We were delighted to read in your entry form that the produce grown in your polytunnel is used to help provide lunches for the active age group. You also share plants and seeds and support homeowners in the 'Grow Your Own' initiative.

Approaching the school it was great to see solar powered warning lights.
is there a bus service for the community? It was also great to read that you have hot desks provided so workers can work in the Community Centre rather than commute to work. You have facilities for up to five people. How do they book?

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done in taking part in your regular clean-ups.
The bottle banks were freshly presented – as was this stretch of Clogher.
Between the old and new primary school there was an old metal post with no road sign on it - could this be removed please? The field gate opposite the school could also be nice enhanced with some anti-rust paint. We were disappointed that the access code for the defibrillator was not displayed - could it be relocated at the front of the premises, so the wider-community are reminded of its existence here? A rusty candle unit at the grotto could be removed.

You are concerned with litter thrown from passing cars and we agreed there is not much that can be done about this but well done on your continued litter picking activities.

Take care with using old tyres for planters as these can degrade and introduce microplastics and heavy metals into the environment.

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

It was nice to see new homes being built around the Clogher area showing that there be more people and moving and living into the area. Younger families help sustain interest in different aspects of the competition. It was nice to read local information about Clogher Lodge also.

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

On different approach roads, we saw your 'Keep Clogher Tidy' signs. Well done on erecting these. A long-term action could be to have bilingual welcome signs for the area.

The way-marked trails were well defined around Clogher. Entrance points to the village were nicely maintained

including the wood and the milestone area. The stone walls around the Heritage Centre and other areas were nicely maintained and attracted you to the area.

Concluding Remarks:

We would like to congratulate you on your 13th year in this special competition. Despite being a quite dispersed , you have really created a strong sense of community in Clogher and are congratulated for your hard work over the last 12 months.