

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyoisin - Baile Oisin** Ref: **2238**
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **231**
Category: **A** Date(s): **16/07/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	21	22
Streetscape & Public Places	80	28	28
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	26	28
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	22	23
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	9	9
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	31	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	33	34
TOTAL MARK	550	225	231

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... It is always exciting to see a new community in the Tidy Towns and you are very welcome to the 2022 competition. Thank you for your completed application form and a brilliant hand drawn map clearly showing your village area. The photos were great to see in their respective categories also. You have a committee of twelve and have harnessed the support of 115 students – it really is a 'school affair'. Having schools involved in the Greens Flag Programme is always a benefit to a community. So well done, all of you in your endeavours. We see you have received grants and advice from Monaghan County council and communicate via emails, letters and school website. With such a small community your visual presence will be noticed and encourage others over time. We would advise you to look at the Tidy Towns handbook which has a wealth of knowledge for new groups entering the competition.

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

There are a few buildings in the village which add to architectural character of the area – the church, school, childcare centre and special needs centre. The newly repaired fencing is appreciated and on-going maintenance is important for presentation in this category. The fence between the church and Errigal needs refreshing. Sections of green areas can be managed to enhance biodiversity by adopting an appropriate mowing regime. The recycling banks on the main thoroughfare take from the surroundings and would be better placed in a less obvious spot if possible. It's great to see more picnic benches and there has been a lot of work in relation to power washing. Watch the possible over-use of herbicides. There seemed to be a lot used along the green areas across from church and beyond.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The school biodiversity, formal gardens and pond area are beautiful and must make a significant contribution to creating public awareness of the wildlife around us - the new fencing a good safety addition. With the Lockdowns most communities in Ireland increased their appreciation of their surroundings. The interpretative Panels (in English and Irish) about the local river and wildlife are well informed. The planting of 12 trees which were sponsored by ABP will enhance biodiversity & sustainability. The Sensory Garden at Errigal Truagh Special Needs centre is a well-designed space and bringing the smells, the sights and the sounds alive on paper – is very difficult. The trio of roses out-front in pink, yellow & white were admired. Great to see you are working off a Biodiversity plan and received expert help - this is to your credit. We are all for less pesticide use and greener weed control and we suggest you engage with residents in relation to these issues on website, poster campaigns etc. Congratulations on the many and varied activities and we applaud the work of everyone involved.

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

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

The schools continue their worthwhile actions to reduce waste, travel, water and energy. We know they are sending the message home also. The upcycling of old railway seat to create attractive display in the formal garden fits well under this category as does reducing the amount going to landfill. We look forward next time to hearing about specific projects you can implement if its safe to do so. We urge you to consider running awareness events to encourage the wider community to get involved in these initiatives. Ask the Environmental Officer in your local authority for ideas for this category or have a look in the Tidy Towns handbook where other communities share their fantastic projects.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

It is great to know that regular litter patrols are carried out by the school and we commend the 'picker pals' for going the extra distance. Super work boys and girls and many thanks for organising a spring clean of the area. On the day a small amount of litter was found on the grass area close to church. However, your 'Don't litter our beautiful countryside, shame on you' signs were visible confirming your ongoing commitment to tackling this problem. The recycling bank was tidy as we had hoped. Well done to all involved.

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

Both Oisínbrian and Oisínvale are newish developments that are maturing nicely and well maintained green areas. More tree planting in Oisínvale Housing estate on open spaces would enhance this area. Getting residents involved will help your work immeasurably. We find in Tidy Towns having a competition for estates like 'Best Garden for pollinators' really improves the area.

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

The approach roads into the village are well maintained. The roads are clearly marked and signs clean and visible. The village signage is an exciting initiative and we look forward to seeing the outcome in future visits. Once again your commitment for improving works is clear in your efforts for the carpark and church and hopefully the committees request for funding will be granted soon. All these individual projects will help enhance the environment of the village.

Concluding Remarks:

We enjoyed our visit to Ballyoisin this year and were impressed by the quality of projects completed and proposed. You should be proud of the excellent work done and we look forward to seeing further enhancements in the coming years.