

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Moneygall - Mhuíne Ghail** Ref: **930**
County: **Offaly** Mark: **307**
Category: **B** Date(s): **10/07/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	42	42
Streetscape & Public Places	80	40	41
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	41	43
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	27	29
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	22	24
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	56	57
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	33	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	35	37
TOTAL MARK	550	296	307

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 TidyTowns competition. Thank you for your entry and for your endeavours and commitment to your improving your community. Best wishes for the future.

Moneygall was very tidy and looking very well in the sunshine during the adjudication visit, a credit to your TidyTowns committee of six people assisted by four volunteers who have been working together for over a decade to enhance your village. You hold regular committee meetings and some public meetings to try and encourage more people to join your group. You have developed good working relations with the county council, other state bodies and organisations active in the area and this can be noticed in the projects completed in the area. You actively promote the TidyTowns activities through traditional means and through social media and have been collaborating with the local school to encourage the students to participate in your activities each year; in years to come hopefully many of these young people will become members of the TidyTowns group; even if they move to work elsewhere, they are much more likely to become involved with TidyTowns wherever they live.

The latest version of the TidyTowns Handbook is available on the website - it includes plenty of suggestions for suitable projects to consider for future years.

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

The work completed by your group over the years is evident as soon as one arrives in the village – the main street through the village is well-maintained, tidy and inviting. The businesses have made a great effort to brighten up the village by enhancing their premises and are commended for that. There is a fine stone wall on the R445 approach from Barak Obama Plaza and a mixture of house styles along the Main Street through the village. Many of the buildings are in good condition and well-presented with only a few exceptions; perhaps the owners of the few might do some work to improve their properties and help your efforts. The church, school and other buildings are well-maintained, and the public places were found tidy and litter-free. The community gym and playground were tidy and in very good condition. There was no water in the wishing well which would probably ‘annoy’ younger visitors if they wished to use it!

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The green spaces are maintained in good condition and the permanent planting that has been completed throughout the village is of a very good standard; perennial plants and shrubs have been used which are less dependent on daily watering during dry spells and will last for many years rather than needing to be replaced annually. The community garden is a fine space in the village and its proximity to the playground means that adults could enjoy

the community garden while their children are in the playground. The picnic area on the outskirts of the town with conifers, pink and white roses which were in full bloom during the visit was tidy and very well-maintained. Planting over two hundred native trees at Rathcarn Estate will benefit the residents of the estate and the village both in amenity value and biodiversity value.

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

The community garden has a good range of plants to encourage and shelter wildlife and the picture boards help explain what creatures and plants people might see in the garden. This is a great project for the younger and maybe not-so-young members of the community to use, and the engagement with BirdWatch Ireland is very useful for both parties. Two hundred native trees planted at one of the housing areas in the village will have a significant value to nature and biodiversity in the village for many years to come – native trees support many more species than non-native plants; this will encourage pollinators, insects and wildlife to live in these habitats. The creepy crawlies towers allow the younger members of the community to observe the creatures without having to disturb the habitat around the hotels.

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

Harvesting rainwater to use on the plants and planters is a simple but very effective sustainability action to take. The proposed composting toilet hadn't arrived by the time the visit took place so it will be of interest to next year's adjudicator. The installation of solar lights at the GAA grounds and the community walking track is a great addition to the sustainability of the village, especially given global uncertainty over energy supply and costs. Similarly, the new street lighting will have an impact there too. The use of the willow prunings to make fencing panels is another simple but very efficient sustainability measure. Hopefully your engagement with the SEAI Sustainable Energy Community project will yield good results in future years; you are currently examining a range of activities to improve your sustainability so please update us on progress in your next submission.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The whole village was found to be tidy and practically litter-free on the inspection date. Your litter-picking activities have been a success and the 'Adopt 1km' is yielding dividends. Your ongoing collaboration with the school helps as the children participate in litter picks and other activities; their raised understanding of their surroundings will also glean rewards in reducing littering caused by them. Recycling the litter at the bring centre is a great idea, even if it takes longer than just throwing the black bags into the general waste category (sustainable too!) During the visit, the planted areas, footpaths, paving, and road edges were found to be largely weed-free; there was no evidence of dog fouling during the visit, probably due to the awareness campaign. The bring centre was tidy with no evidence of illicit or lazy dumping at the location. Some of the signage near the bring centre was becoming a bit overgrown so it might be good to clear the disabled signs and the fire assembly point signs.

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

The residential areas and streets in Moneygall were found to be very tidy and it is obvious that the majority of the residents take pride in the village and their own area. Initiatives such as 'no-mow May' and the planting of trees/shrubs/perennials at entrances and/or within the estates enhances the appearance of the estates; in turn this should encourage the residents to maintain their own areas to a higher standard. Reducing the amount of grass cutting (e.g., no-mow, wildflower areas) frees up time for the committee and volunteers to undertake other improvements; it also reduces costs such as fuel for lawnmowers, all contributing to a more sustainable environment. The baling of hay at the Rathcarn estate each year is another simple but very effective sustainable measure.

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

The adjudicator found the approach roads to the village tidy, well-maintained and generally litter-free. The signage was clean and clearly visible. The ongoing changeover to perennial and shrubby planting schemes is commended and enhances the appearance of the roads as you approach the town, while improving the habitats for pollinators, insects and other creatures. The picnic area was particularly attractive and would be a great draw to someone looking for somewhere to stop and enjoy a bit of lunch or just a quiet seat in an attractive place. The very wide margins on some of the approach roads might lend themselves to a mown strip nearest the road/footpath with some less regularly mown grass and wildflowers nearer the ditch/hedge.

Concluding Remarks:

The visit to Moneygall revealed the level of activity and attention to the maintaining the village that visitors would notice even if they didn't have the advantage of having the application form and good hand-drawn map to guide them. Your efforts continue to make progress annually and it is obvious that you have an active and engaged community and volunteers. We look forward to receiving an application from you again in 2023.