

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Roscommon - Ros Comáin**

Ref: **681**

County: **Roscommon**

Mark: **351**

Category: **E**

Date(s): **03/07/2022**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2021 | Mark Awarded 2022 |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Community – Your Planning and Involvement | 80 | 49 | 51 |
| Streetscape & Public Places | 80 | 47 | 50 |
| Green Spaces and Landscaping | 80 | 48 | 49 |
| Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality | 55 | 40 | 42 |
| Sustainability – Doing more with less | 55 | 27 | 27 |
| Tidiness and Litter Control | 90 | 61 | 63 |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas | 55 | 34 | 34 |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes | 55 | 34 | 35 |
| TOTAL MARK | 550 | 340 | 351 |

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

You are linking in with a wide variety of agencies such as Roscommon County Council, Roscommon Chamber of Commerce, Mote Park Conservation Group, Roscommon Town Team, Roscommon Heritage Group and Roscommon Leader Partnership to support your activities. We agree that Facebook is more effective than maintaining a website and we commend you on your 1,000 followers ! Additionally, you are continuing to use more traditional formats to link in with the community such as the Church newsletter which is ideal in order to target all in the community. The local schools in Roscommon Town are doing very well with their Green Flag initiatives and well done to St. Comans who are on their 9th flag GC energy. We are pleased to see how proactive you are in getting young people involved such as local Girl Guides and the local Roma Youth Group in the Quad Youth Centre. We acknowledge your time and commitment in setting up the new charity bank account following the closure of Ulster Bank.

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

Well done on the commission of a new community based CCTV System for Roscommon Town. We wish you well with Phase 2 of the CCTV project to add additional cameras around the town. Congratulations on receiving grant aid of €100,000 for the Department of Rural and Community Development for the lighting in Roscommon Castle. We are delighted to see that you undertook to light up the castle blue and yellow to show solidarity with the large number of Ukrainian nationals. We see that Roscommon Town was awarded €136,000 to enhance the approach streets to the historic town centre under the Historic Towns Initiative 2021. We liked the work that was completed in Abbey street. This has eye appeal and leaves a positive impression on the town. The street murals are a credit to the artist Joe Caslin. They add vitality, creativity, and depth to this historical town.

You have some fine shop fronts which are well presented on Castle Street, e.g. Thomas A Murray, The Hollywood Bar. Other buildings however require attention such as Youth Work Ireland and the building opposite Rockford's. C. Doorley Bar and Time Pieces are two other shop fronts which are impressive.

The building on the corner between Church Street and Main Street needs attention. Stone Court Shopping arcade on the main street is well maintained however the 'Paul Byron' sign on the main entrance is not necessary. It is not inkeeping with the rest of the building.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasá agus Tírdhreachú:

The stone circular flower bed opposite the Garda Station is a credit to you. We admired the display of erysimum in the planters around the Bank of Ireland area.

The signage outside the square/Bank of Ireland is high quality and well presented. We liked the stone rectangular

planter boxes and the outdoor seating is also of a high standard. This has eye appeal, is practical and gives a fresh feel to the town centre. The William A Byrne memorial cross is clean and well maintained. The path surfacing in the square is safe and completed to a good standard.

We see that you have carried out new landscaping and installed railing at Loughnaneane Park Playground. This is well presented now and safe. We understand that Loughnaneane Park footpaths were resurfaced as part of Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme. This is a key amenity in your community for adults, children and visitors. We commend you on the work carried out here.

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

You have completed a remarkable amount of work at Convent Road Garden. This was indeed a true community initiative and we are glad to see that young people from the CBS came on board and built a new bug hotel and extra pollinator plants. Well done to members who built a compost area from pallets in addition to the waterbutt installed on the site. We understand that a solar powered pump is used to circulate the water. It is ideal that this amenity is situated so close to the school, providing learning opportunities for young people.

We had a most enjoyable visit to Loughnaneane Park. We commend you on the lobbying with Roscommon County Council to get a new railing and grass area outside the playground in the park. It looks impressive and we saw a multitude of people enjoying the play area with their children in addition to making full use of the outdoor gym. Well done. We liked the new bandstand/ entertainment space. There is a great view of the castle on the right-hand side from the top of the steps. Have you considered putting in a ramp so that there is wheelchair access to the top? We understand that Roscommon Tidy Towns assisted Bird Watch Ireland with their County Roscommon Swift Survey. The result was interesting with the highest number of Swift nests recorded in Roscommon Town. We are pleased to learn that the The River Jiggy Biodiversity Orchard Project is used regularly by the school for nature walks. We acknowledge your continued efforts in maintaining this orchard to a good standard.

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

We see that the group works closely with WEEE & Roscommon County Council to actively promote and advertise the annual WEEE Collection in the town. Well done. You are making great use of your Facebook page by promoting the products and services of Roscommon Produce Network. This online shop is impressive. You have been proactive in promoting their "Grow Your Own Spring Vegetables" project and we wish you well with plans for more self-sustaining initiatives.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhairreacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You outlined that due to the uptake in the property market, there has been an increase in auctioneer signs being left on site long after a property has been sold. We commend you on our efforts to combat this by bringing these incidents to the attention of Roscommon County Council. We are pleased to learn that the signs have been removed. The town was clean and litter free on the day of our visit. We see that you have provided litter cart and cleaning supplies to TUS workers. You have been proactive in organising weekly litter picking on the approach roads. You also found a way of managing this during Covid. Well done. We noted the signs and stencils on the footpaths around the town informing dog owners of their responsibility to clean up after their dog.

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

We wish the Residents of Antogher Court the very best with their plans to plant a mini-orchard of apple trees in the green area. We commend Cluain Fraoigh Residents Association on planting a wildflower meadow in their green area as part of Roscommon County Council Pollinator Plan. We admired the attractive display of flowers.

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

We commend you on completing the first phase of the Roscommon Town Centre Realm Enhancement Project. The work completed to date is indeed impressive. We are pleased that Roscommon County Council is cooperating with you on this with the provision of some planter beds that you have agreed to maintain.

Concluding Remarks:

Thank you for submitting your application to the Tidy Towns Competition 2022. We enjoyed our visit to your town and we were impressed with work completed in the town centre and the well presented shopfronts. We look forward to visiting sometime again in the future.