

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Ballygawley - Baile Uí Dhálaigh	Ref: 2097
County: Sligo	Mark: 264
Category: A	Date(s): 03/07/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	38
Streetscape & Public Places	80	31
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	37
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	24
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	32
TOTAL MARK	550	264

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 Baile ui Dhálaigh. Thank you for your application form and supporting map. We note the absence of a TidyTowns multi annual plan. This can be a simple plan drafted by the committee setting out your targets under each competition heading and your timescales for completion. There are a good number of centres in County Sligo that would appear not to have a multi-annual plan in place so your adjudicator wonders if this is something that Sligo County Council and Sligo Leader Partnership could potentially assist with. You may be interested to learn that in several other counties support has been provided via the Local Development Company to work with TidyTown communities to provide training and the additional expertise and supports that may be required to help develop TidyTowns Action Plans. You have a small committee of four members supported by a few other volunteers. Do you get involved with the work conducted by Ballygawley Community Park Committee or the Music Festival committee? There would be synergies working together. It is good that you have a notice board erected with details of community clean ups but there are a lot of other areas where you could be communicating with your local community and wider stakeholders. Perhaps consider the use of social media to spread the word on the TidyTowns movement in Ballygawley.

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

The Community Park is an excellent facility with good walking paths and the outdoor gym. Some potholes in the car park could be filled in here or improved carpark surfacing would be a bonus. We happened to notice online that you intend to instal public lighting around the walkway and carpark, hopefully facilitating use on dark winter evenings. We noticed signs for your large-scale Ballygawley Music Festival and heard one of the festival committee members talk about the event on local radio while adjudicating in the County! This is a massive undertaking for your small community, and we hope it was a successful weekend of music and dancing and brought in the much-needed funds. It is great to get that community feel back again after the series of lockdowns. It is good news that a derelict house in the village is currently being renovated.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

You have mentioned the spring bulbs on the approach roads and your group looks after the various flowerpots and planters. They add welcome colour. Is there scope for additional tree planting in the Community Park? The TidyTowns unit have updated the handbooks for each competition category and perhaps it would be useful to familiarise yourself with them. There are lists of native trees and native shrubs that you might find useful. Edible landscapes and community orchards/gardens are being more popular within communities enabling people to come

together to plant and cultivate trees / vegetables for shared use. Handbook Link:
<https://www.tidytowns.ie/competition/handbook/>

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

We are glad to hear that you have cut down on mowing and mention limited use of chemicals and sprays. We would prefer chemical free maintenance. Most local authorities have signed up to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan so you will likely find a good response when you ask for assistance and advice in this area. You are strongly advised to visit www.pollinators.ie which has guidelines, downloadable resources, news and details on training. Have you sought good advice on dealing with these your biodiversity areas and local habitats and put a plan into action to disseminate information on your local flora and fauna?

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

Perhaps you feel a little overwhelmed with this category and given that you are thin on the ground in terms of volunteers it is hard to do it all. Is there merit in working with the Festival Committee to see if there are ways to 'green' the festival? There are resources available online at www.localprevention.ie such as a green festival plan. Another simple action could be in relation to water conservation - collecting rainwater in a water butt and using this to water your planters would be a worthy action.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We understand the scale of the task to continually keep roadside verges litter free. Do you participate in the National Spring Clean? If you register, you can avail of litter pickers and hi-vis vests etc from the organisers. There was a lot of litter at the community park, particularly at the shelter. Your large clean-up in May resulted in 60 bags of litter being collected – Wow! A great community effort to rid this rubbish and litter from your local highways and byways. Undergrounding of the wires should be in your long-term objectives for the village. Near the filling station there is a signage pole and it would appear that signs are missing (above 'slow though village').

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

We noted a nice water wheel feature at a private residence on the approach from Sooeey. Pay attention to property boundaries (walls primarily), particularly those adjoining the main thoroughfare. The fenced off derelict estate was noted but this is out of your control. Do you know if Sligo County Council is doing anything in relation to this estate? We visited Ríocht na Sí and thought it was well presented with planters and a good floral display at the front.

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

Since this adjudicator has last visited several years ago, you have been able to get the traffic slowed down with the solar powered pedestrian crossing lights. Stonewalls on the approach to the village look well. The farm gates across from the community park would look well brightly painted. It is good to keep the colour co-ordinated and as you have used blue for planters and seating it would be an idea to approach the farmer to see if blue farm gates could be facilitated.

Concluding Remarks:

Thank you for your continued support of the TidyTown movement and the work you have been doing for a long number of years in Ballygawley. As you rightly recognise it has been a tough few years throughout the Covid pandemic but rest assured that your planting and floral displays helped lift the spirits and nature became a source for solace for many, as lockdown rules heightened our appreciation of our local green and out-door spaces. Now is the time to give some thought about how you raise the bar in some of the competition categories. Best wishes for the year ahead.