

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Bunnamaddan - Bun an Fheadáin	Ref: 2217
County: Sligo	Mark: 243
Category: A	Date(s): 24/07/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	33	34
Streetscape & Public Places	80	27	28
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	34	35
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	19	20
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	11	11
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	49	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	31	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	32	33
TOTAL MARK	550	236	243

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

Thank you for your completed application form your village map and the mapping code. The photos that accompanied your application were helpful as was the list of maintained projects and new projects. Despite COVID restrictions and your committee of 5 have achieved a lot. It is good to note that you are beginning to return to normality and best of luck with your Annual General meeting scheduled for September.

While we appreciate your frustration with your efforts to attract new members, we are delighted to note a pride particularly over the past 6 years with your progress in this competition. The cornerstone of the Tidy Towns Programme is the preparation of a plan. A plan is crucial and should outline your actions and intentions for the forthcoming number of years. Such a plan should represent a shared vision of what the Tidy Towns competition can achieve for Bunnamadden. I would advise that such a plan be short, direct and realistic. In summary it should be a simple and easy document to read. Your plan should identify action areas answering important but simple questions, why are you working there, what you are going to do step by step, and who are your project partners. You have identified a list of project partners including Sligo County Council the LCDC and Pobal. Perhaps these organisations should be able to assist your committee in funding or preparing your plan. Communication is important and the range of communication methods used by your committee are vast and noted is a nice mix between modern and traditional methods. The strong partnership established with the principal and students from the local National School will help to ensure a bright future for Bunnamadden in this competition.

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

The center of your village has an attractive charm. Like previous adjudicators I also recommend consultation with Sligo County Councils Heritage officer in developing a conservation plan for the village. Neglected derelict buildings can detract from streetscape and it is great to learn of recent progress regarding 2 derelict buildings. Overhead wire-scapes can often give a cluttered feel, it was noted that most of the overhead networks have been under-grounded on the Ballymote Road future plans should consider extending these works through the center of the village. The mural at Wiggins corner has a strong historical significance in a prominent location as has the Ogham stone the information panels provide a strong educational value also. Signage can have a significant influence on our streetscapes that is particularly so with advertising signage. A significant amount of plastic corrugated advertising signage was noted on all approach roads and in the village core. Unnecessary signage should be removed as it causes clutter and detracts from the streetscape.

The picnic area recently completed is a credit to all involved. That project has a nice mix of both hard and soft

landscaping elements with a strong educational dimension provided through the information panels highlighting Bunninadden wildlife. The quality of the landscaping recently in the church grounds was admired with high quality workmanship noted. The Millers Inn public house presented beautifully. The information panels provided on the church grounds were found to be informative and well located.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Your committee have achieved significant success in this category where you continue to undertake a large amount of maintenance operations and develop new projects. Please consider the benefits of a planting programme and a plan for regular maintenance of planted areas to guide your efforts. I would advise this should be an important part of your TidyTowns Plan. The planting design should aim to continue to enhance the local biodiversity and the overall ecological health of the area. Noted is your efforts to maintain pollinator friendly planting.

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

It is great to see that your committee acted on some of the recommendations made by the previous adjudicator particularly regarding the use of nature signage in the area. Knowing and understanding nature and Biodiversity in your area is a key consideration in this category. Your strong partnership with the local school for the betterment of Biodiversity shows that your committee clearly understand this. Perhaps this strong partnership could be expanded to consider other habitats and species in your locality and what actions can be taken for nature and biodiversity. Your committee is in a unique position when it comes biodiversity awareness and are clearly one of the main driving forces in the village, keep up the good work.

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

Your committee has an important role in spreading the word. Previous adjudicators noted significant success with your Local school in the Green Flag competition and urged utilising existing partnerships to encourage further success in this category. I would also encourage developing partnerships, which is key to this category, consider seeking advice and guidance from the local authority's Environmental Awareness Officer. Environmental talks and awareness events like your national Spring Clean event provides great learning opportunities and your committee is in a great position to facilitate such events. This year's application noted your waiting to hear this year's green flag results hopefully continued success here.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The annual Spring Clean provides your committee with a good opportunity to spread the message about litter. I would encourage your participation in the County Litter league, as this can be a great motivator. Consider a special push to 'Clean Up' which can be launched in the lead up to TidyTowns adjudication. Your efforts to maintain the Bring Banks and the addition of CCTV is working as absolutely no litter was detected in this area on adjudication day. The litter prevention poster competition will create great awareness amongst local school kids. Having the winning poster turned into a sign will help to bring this important message home. As noted previously a significant amount of plastic corrugated temporary advertising signage was found on poles and fencing on all main approach roads to the village and throughout the village core.

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

The Gormley Villas housing development currently under construction is progressing well and will be a welcome development when completed. Its proximity to the village core and having the development served by a public lighting scheme and footpaths will create a strong sustainable link to the village. Flowerhill housing estate presented very well. The name plate is simple and effective. Consideration should be given to providing the name in Irish also as there is adequate space on the existing plate to accommodate both. Timber post and rail fencing is used to good effect throughout the estate. Individual gardens were admired for the quality of landscaping provided. The addition of the proposed footpath linking Flowerhill to the graveyard will be welcome particularly for pedestrian safety reasons. The previous adjudicator advised that consideration should be given to additional planting in some of the established areas this should be considered as part of any future plans. I note your ongoing requests for speed control ramps, I would advise considerations should be given to appropriate signage as a possible method of controlling speeding vehicles.

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

Approach Roads are very suitable locations for planting trees to form avenues that greatly enhance the appearance and provide a sense of arrival in a town or village. Such an opportunity exists from the junction of the L3401 on the Tubbercurry Road to the village particularly on the left-hand side. There are similar opportunities on the Ballymote road which could be achieved with a little co operation from Sligo County Council and individual landowners.

On the Tubbercurry Road the existing post and wire fence should be replaced with hedging or perhaps timber post and rail fence. The recent renovation of the water pump is effective, perhaps consideration should be given to relocating this pump to Wiggins Corner as this could provide a safer location for people to admire and use this pump, the addition of an information panel may provide a local historical context for the pump also. A mature Ash tree on the L4402 Achonry road was noted to have a severe infestation of Ash Dieback disease and should be removed on the grounds of safety. The hedging along this access road adjacent to the public footpath was found growing onto the public path and required cutting back. The timber Post and Rail fence would benefit from refreshing also. The new entrance signs look fantastic, well done to all involved.

Concluding Remarks:

Your committee has achieved a lot considering this is just the 6th year of your involvement in this competition. Bunninadden has a lot to offer and I urge your committee to continue to build on the strong links forged with your partner organisations. Congratulations to all involved.