

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Collooney - Cúil Mhuine</b>	Ref: <b>807</b>
County: <b>Sligo</b>	Mark: <b>290</b>
Category: <b>C</b>	Date(s): <b>11/07/2022</b>

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	41	42
Streetscape & Public Places	80	38	39
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	38	39
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	29	30
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	20	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	53	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	34	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	29	31
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>290</b>

### 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 Cúil Mhuine. Thank you for your application and your recently updated TidyTowns 3-Year Plan 22-25. We believe it will help you chart the way forward over the next three years and many of your Year 1 projects are well underway. You have a very small committee of three people for the size of the town, although you do tell us that other people support and volunteer although may not necessarily be on your committee. You must have been enthused by the addition of four volunteers this year – such positive news! We know it is hard to get volunteers nowadays, but we would suggest representatives from the local businesses, housing estates, school, churches etc would ideally be involved and feeding into the TidyTowns programme in Collooney. Perhaps some of the community will read this and offer their support for the year ahead! Special thanks go to the businesses that provided donations towards the ride-on lawnmower. Continue to keep up the good lines of communication via your Facebook page and your TidyTowns dedicated phone number. Hopefully via the likes of Foróige or perhaps transition year in the local secondary school you could get some teenagers involved.

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

You have concentrated a good deal of time on the underpass project this year and we really admired the wooden salmon sculpture. We like that its significance relates to the river that the salmon travel up to the salmon ladders at the falls in Collooney, your idea of a small plaque to explain will help create awareness of the significance of your local river. The park is a great community asset and was very busy on adjudication day. St Pauls Church of Ireland and Church of the Assumption both add great character to the streetscape of the village in their respective locations. We note the work conducted by Collooney Village Development Committee in relation to the Court House development, but your application didn't give much information on the plans for the building. We are pleased to learn that Quigley's Pub has been allocated a grant under the Historic Structures Fund for 2022 - Historic Shopfronts to support the conservation and refurbishment. Quigleys is a very distinctive and detailed building and is recognised by the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage Survey "is a rare survival of the family-owned, multi-function, business which was once common in Ireland". Several local businesses including Cullen's and Nook, were looking well with fresh coats of paint. Could you encourage a colour scheme in the village? We note that the Owenmore Inn building has had improvements carried out. The wall mural is eye-catching and in keeping with the village depicting the river and the Teeling Monument.

### Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The Fairgreen garden area is very overgrown and seems to have gone to the wayside since a previous adjudication

visit circa a decade ago. We note that plans for this area are currently on hold - such a pity, as it is a communal green space that the community could be enjoying. We thought that it may be possible to walk from the playpark to the church grounds but discovered this is not the case. Could additional walkways be opened up as a long-term plan. The Grotto area is very well cared for and looks tidy. You have been planting seasonal plants to add year-round colour in various places in and around the village. We wish you well with your plans under this category.

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

You have been concentrating on enhancing the area for pollinators this year which is very laudable. Perhaps you could also erect some awareness raising signage that is available from the All Ireland Pollinator Plan website to let the local community know. Coolaney/Rockfield have developed their own signs too which may be of interest to you. We like the planting boxes at the bottom of your directional signage that you have planted with with bidens and bicopa and perennial erysimums. Bear in mind, this category encourages committees to raise understanding and awareness of the natural amenities in your area with visitors and the local community. Engagement through wildlife walks and talks, dawn chorus events, etc usually appeal to young and old. Perhaps you could consider organising such an event in the coming months to fulfil such requirements.

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

The green flags at St. Pauls National School were noted. Scoil Mhuire across the road is getting an extension, perhaps they have been getting energy efficient lighting and other sustainable building ideas which you could incorporate into your application form. The water butt is noted, and we feel you should seek to increase the number of these to conserve water. It is also good that you are making sustainable choices when procuring seating and TidyTowns related assets, street furniture and the like. It is good that the local shops support the Conscious Cup campaign by offering a reduction when a reusable cup is used. Have you many e-car charging points in the village, we noted charging points at the station only. Encouraging more sustainable forms of transport come into this category. We think you have scope to increase your activities in this area significantly. An idea that comes to mind is working with both national schools and their Parent Teacher Associations to set up a yearly uniform swap shop. A word of caution - there can be some issues with a community composting facility perhaps you would consider a large-scale introduction of home composting supported by home composting training in conjunction with your local environmental awareness officer. We note the plans set out in your Plan but feel you could be a little more ambitious.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

A redundant pole could be removed at the Bus Stop on Barrack Road. The Bring Banks were clean and tidy apart from a box and bags left behind. Perhaps a post on your Facebook page to encourage users to take these home after use would raise awareness of the issue. Car parking is a bit haphazard in places. A car was parked on the footpath at the square outside McKim's Hardware. Owenmore Gaels GAA club is another great asset to the community and well-presented however we noted three tyres on the footpath across from the grounds which appeared to have been there for some time. You have removed a number of litter bins in the village and report that this is working well. Special thanks are due to the lady who lifts litter each morning while walking her two dogs. While you conduct regular weeding we noted kerbside weeds at the bridge and along the kerbside on the way to Owenmore Gaels GFC grounds– we recognise it is a never ending job.

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

Ensure name signs are in place at all housing estates, one was missing in Owenmore Drive (?) perhaps. There is scope for biodiversity projects and increased planting provision in estates such as Radharc na gCaisleán and Riverwalk estate. It is good news that you can recommence with your Tidy Estate competition after a cessation during the pandemic.

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

The welcome as you exit the dual carriage way is very eye-catching. On Barrack Road we thought that some of the signs required cleaning. You got great assistance from Genesis Auto Valeting and Power Wash and MP Hire this year and were able to clean several paved areas as a result – well done to all involved. The before and after photos show the transformation! The proposed Toberbride to Collooney Active Travel route will bring many benefits and we look forward to hearing how this project progresses.

### **Concluding Remarks:**