

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Coney Island - Inismulclohy	Ref: 1232
County: Sligo	Mark: 322
Category: A	Date(s): 03/07/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	43	43
Streetscape & Public Places	80	40	41
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	39	40
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	42	45
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	14	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	67	68
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	36	37
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	33	34
TOTAL MARK	550	314	322

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 Inismulclohy. Thank you for your application form and supporting information. It felt like a mini adventure setting off from Cummeen Strand across Sligo Bay at low tide past the stone pillar as per your instructions. We choose a lovely day to adjudicate Coney Island and were able to enjoy several of the local sights. Well done to the part time families / inhabitants for taking the time each year to plan and conduct maintenance works on the Island and future enhancement ideas. Would you consider establishing a Facebook page to engage with your stakeholders?

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

The fresh appearance of the pub really stands out and we were greeted at the door by a friendly dog sitting in-between two pots of blooming lavender. Unfortunately, the tide times did not allow us time for a quick visit! You have told us that the new seating which we noted has been recently erected and allows for social gatherings during the summer months. The stone slipway at the Pier would appear to need some repairs but we gather you have highlighted this to Sligo County Council to action. The old post-box looked well, and you paint and maintain this annually.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

We love that your green spaces are rugged and wild, yet you also have nice touches of planting in buckets and lobster pots which really catch the eye. We enjoyed the scenic walk up to St. Patricks Chair and while we were in the right place (we Googled) we did not locate it, but we did see some of the Islands flock of sheep! Perhaps some signage along the walk for the Whales Grave and the St. Patricks Chair might be useful. We did see the photos on your very informative wildlife information board.

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

You have started to implement a plan with emphasis on prevention of erosion at Kate's Beach, we seen that the cars were parking in the correct area during our visit, so the erection of wooden posts and rope is helping to prevent the dunes from erosion and collapse. Perhaps a sign to raise awareness to visitors of the issue of coastal erosion and the need to protect the dunes and the surrounding flora would be useful. Are you involved in the SCORE project being led by the School of Engineering & Design at IT Sligo? Perhaps you could get involved in some citizen science and feed into this project in a small way.

You are also embracing the recommendations of the Pollinator Plan and we noticed several areas planted for

pollinators. You have been erecting bird boxes and intend to erect bug hotels. Have you considered a habitat map or developing a Biodiversity Action Plan under this category? Perhaps you could speak to the Atlantic Technological University to see if you could share the intertidal bird survey with the Council and/or other specialist who could use the data to incorporate into a Biodiversity Action Plan. Perhaps you could speak with the ATU to see if a student would be able to devise a Plan for you as part of a future thesis project. The actions by the landowner to plant small native orchard is apt under this category. We recognise the great work you did last year in planting 350 trees on the island and are pleased that you are reporting that they are thriving. You are doing well in this category, but your adjudicator feels that some professional direction would really help you and the Island flora and fauna to excel!

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

We did not notice water butts or rainwater harvesting but you tell us that you do this on a small scale to conserve your groundwater supply. We are interested to know if you get a refuse collection on the island, do you take all your waste and recyclables back to the mainland? It is good that householders are home composting and using the compost then to enrich the flower beds and gardens. As the number of electric vehicles will continue to rise is there a need for a publicly accessible EV charge point on the Island? Have the residents considered a Grow Your Own communal vegetable plot or does the transient nature of island life not facilitate this. A community owned polytunnel to grow plants, fruits and vegetables is another idea that your community could embrace. Members of Sligo County Council Climate Action team could also help you come up with actions relative to climate resilience perhaps.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The set-up that each household maintains the area around their home is working well and you supplement this with larger clean-ups assisted by regular island visitors. Several coastal centres have the #2minutebeachclean beach stations in place. We note the inclusion of support from Clean Coasts on your entry. They have several resources online for community groups: <https://cleancoasts.org/enjoy-protect-guides/#community> that you might consider to be useful.

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

You have told us that the owners of the large three storey house at the entrance to the Island live abroad. This could be such a wonderful residence. Many houses looked well and in-keeping with the Island. Some residences have moss on the roofs that could be removed. The Bath House art studio was admired. The newly erected galvanised gates were noted.

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

The water pump along the roadside is nicely maintained, the shed directly behind it detracts, perhaps the owners could be encouraged and supported to repair and paint the wooden fascia of this shed overtime.

Concluding Remarks:

Congratulations on 12 years of participation in the competition, over this time you have been working to enhance and protect the natural beauty of Coney Island. It is a special place, and we were delighted to visit, so much so that we hope to return soon to enjoy outside of adjudication duties. Continue to raise awareness amongst visitors about the need to conserve the Islands uniqueness.