

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Easkey - Iascaigh	Ref: 788
County: Sligo	Mark: 295
Category: A	Date(s): 12/07/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	46
Streetscape & Public Places	80	38
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	39
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	28
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	37
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	34
TOTAL MARK	550	295

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 Iascaigh. Leap Project Easkey is very welcome to the TidyTowns competition. We thank you for your entry. Participation in the competition forms a small part of your overall remit but we see the competition interlinked with many of your aims and objectives. We are unaware if there is a local community development plan in place. We would encourage you to develop one to help your group chart the way forward. In terms of the TidyTowns competition the cornerstone of the programme is the preparation of a plan outlining actions and intentions for the forthcoming number of years representing a shared vision of what the TidyTowns programme can achieve in Easkey. The LEAP Project has a fantastic number of committee members and a large cohort of volunteers which is positive. You also communicate very well via social media on a wide variety of issues. Furthermore, you are engaged with various local agencies and bodies which is great, and the communication structures are all in place. A plan to support your competition entry would help you go further. Have a look at other TidyTowns groups websites to see their plans, many of the higher scoring centres have plans online for viewing. We have also been asking groups to consider the Sustainable Development Goals in their activity planning. It is heartening to learn that the transition year students in Colaiste Iascaigh form their own Tidy Towns sub-committee each year to help you – this is a great idea and long may it continue. Despite the absence of a plan your committee are well established, have great lines of communication and have potential to rise to the challenge. Your adjudicator feels that an increase in marks is justified.

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

There are several well-presented business / properties in the village including The Castle Inn, Pudding Row Grocer, Rosie's Pottery Studio and the Swallows Nest. Signage to the front of Pudding Row café seems to have fallen with the old signage showing. You are fortunate to have the Church, community centre, Colaiste Iascaigh, the health centre, and playschool all located in the village core. The bright coloured Easkey Hostel really brightens up the streetscape. The wall at the play school would benefit from painting. The Bridge and surrounding trees are a lovely feature on the streetscape. There are several premises along the Main Street that could benefit from renovations or at least a fresh coat of paint, perhaps the mural at the Mounting Stone also. We thought that the lighting standards could also be painted. The 'Bullaun' stone is an interesting feature. Moss on the roofs of buildings along the Main thoroughfare is an issue.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

We enjoyed the walk along the River Easkey from the shore to the town. Along the river there is well maintained green spaces for the community to enjoy. Thanks to all those who supported your GoFundMe appeal as a result

you have erected eight benches along the shorefront and a further six benches have been refurbished and placed in and around the village. You have also been planting wildflowers around the castle area. Some of the seating along the River Walk would benefit from painting. Areas like the car park are suitable for enhanced planting with perennials and shrubs. There is a list of native shrubs in the updated TidyTowns handbook.

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

We visited the Poll Gorm and were delighted to be able to investigate the myriad of fossils on display in this area. You wish to develop your village into a 'must stop at' point on the Wild Atlantic Way and your adjudicator would have to agree that this is very achievable - you have a wealth of historical and sites of geological importance nearby and this helps to make your area unique and something different for travellers / tourists. Add to this the accolade of being one of Ireland's top surfing locations and you have a significant amount going for you. Have you carried out a habitat survey or developed a local Biodiversity Action Plan? This would be welcomed to ensure protection of the River Easky pNHA. You have mentioned that you hold Flora and Fauna Walks annually to teach local students to respect and appreciate the surrounding environment. A little more information on this would be useful. Signage to create awareness on the flora and fauna of the River Walk was noted favourably.

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

The recycling bank was noted, and the local school organise clothes collections each year. The Workshops teaching locals how to create their own peat free compost using seaweed is a good project given your location. There are lots of ideas you could take on board and promote. World Ocean Day is celebrated annually. Brands and business collaborate on projects and perhaps you could run a local event to create awareness and sharpen people's minds towards the fragility of our oceans. There are lots of initiatives to promote including: Choose to reuse when it comes to shopping bags and bottled water. If you have a good relationship with the local schools, it would be an idea to get involved in science week with them - climate change, citizen science and behavioural change topics could be explored.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You conduct a lot of clean ups including weekly clean-ups around the Roslee Castle area and the shorefront removing debris as and when required. You clean-up fly-tipping in the Bog land area in Owenbeg. We are pleased you are collaborating with the litter warden in relation to this, could CCTV be a viable option as a deterrent or is the location too remote. Dog fouling on the grass along the River Walk was noted in the vicinity of the insect hotel. Some prominent gable walls, such as beside the Post Office and at the entrance to Easkey camping site would benefit from attention. Would any of these be suitable for a wall mural to catch the eye? Graffiti is removed or painted over also as part of your routine work programmes.

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

Pay attention to property boundaries (walls primarily), particularly those adjoining the main thoroughfares. There were blue seats within the Riverbank estate appropriately situated to allow users to admire the views. The presentation of the garden area in Woodland Crescent deserves a special mention. Lots of interesting pieces on the walls – our favourite was 'Throw me to the Wolves, and I will Return Leading the Pack!' Areas have been left uncut in Woodlawn Crescent, perhaps a sign creating awareness of the pollinator plan would be useful here. Signage is free and downloadable; you just need to get it printed locally.

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

The surface of the layby near the Fairgreen estate looks rather rough and unfinished. The electric speed signs are a good traffic calming measure. Stone walls add interest throughout the village.

Concluding Remarks:

A great sense of community pride emanated from your application form. We enjoyed our visit to your lovely village; the weather was very kind to us, and we even squeezed in time to make a few quick purchases in Pudding Row. A breath of fresh air during our adjudication travels! Well done to all those involved in LEAP. We hope you find some of the comments constructive. They are aimed to enable you to go further in the competition.