

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Riverstown - Baile Idir Dha Abhainn	Ref: 417
County: Sligo	Mark: 351
Category: B	Date(s): 02/07/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	51	51
Streetscape & Public Places	80	47	50
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	46	49
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	37	38
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	23	26
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	38	38
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	35	37
TOTAL MARK	550	338	351

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 Idir Dhá Abhainn. Congratulations on this your 55th entry to the SuperValu National TidyTowns competition! Your adjudicator is heartened to hear the positive changes participating in the competition has brought to Riverstown over the years. Thanks for providing your three-year plan and supporting documentation. You are fortunate to receive good support from the community with clean-ups and village enhancement projects and have listed a plethora of businesses, agencies and organisations that have supported your activities through sponsorship, resources, funding etc. Keep up the communication with your stakeholders and consider expanding the social media platforms you use, perhaps the youth representatives on the committee to drive this forward. You could expand your TidyTowns plan to include the linages of your projects to the sustainable development goals.

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

The grounds of the Church and the neighbouring Riverstown National School are very well maintained, perhaps the grey wall cap stones at the school would benefit from a fresh coat of paint. The cycle infrastructure at the school was noted. Do many of the children cycle to school? The Community Hall looks well, and the more traditional hand painted signage in English and Irish was admired. We were pleased to see several high-quality shop fronts in Riverstown, including the butchers, the Post Office, Tommy Macs and Ivor Parke's paint shop. We enjoyed tea and cake in the Folk Park Café. The Folk Park was quite busy – it is great to see such a community driven project doing well. There has been a lot of up-grade works completed in the park and we got a reasonable understanding of the work you do here. Congratulations on the IPB Pride of Place Award which was truly deserved. Well done all. You have carried out a great deal of work on the Riverstown Heritage Trail. The signage is excellent, and the hand drawn map of the village was admired. We noted a number of the Heritage Trail signs during our adjudication including at the Folk Park and the shrubbery along Taunagh National School. We note that you are engaging with the owners of derelict and vacant buildings around the village. You recognise that the children's playground is due to be upgraded this is an area of the village that is now letting you down a bit. We hope you can progress with this project and re-vamp the facilities. Near the park, we liked a large mural that has been in place since 2020 perhaps. After a little research we understand that this mural celebrates a local female rugby player, Aoife McDermott. This has been missed in previous reports due to the competition not occurring in 2020 and the online adjudication in 2021. Your adjudicator thought this was inspiring to see and in line with SDG 10. Great to see the promotion of women in Irish sport. Millview House looks better than our last adjudication visit a good number of years ago. The Church of The Sacred Heart, Taunagh National School and the lovely bridge over the River Douglas are key buildings in the village that you ensure look well. We are delighted to hear that you have a professional colour plan

for the village and like the bold use of bright colours in places.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The post and wire fencing of the grass walk between the wildflower biodiversity garden and the village fort was noted. This is a lovely area in fort field and important to closely preserve our national monuments. The proposed seating will be a welcome feature, if sensitively and appropriately carried out. Upkeep of landscaped areas in the village is important and you are keeping well on top of this. The Community Park is maintained to a high standard. The defibrillator was noted at the GAA field and it is positive to have the Samaritan signage in such a prominent location frequented by a lot of the community. The area all around the Stenson Monument has become run down. It is not possible to walk to the monument. Your adjudicator thought this needed attention, as the Monument is included on your Heritage Trail it should be better presented.

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

The work you have done in conjunction with Pobal, Sligo Leader Partnership, Sligo County Council and the Local Community on the enhancement of the Biodiversity Field and Garden is welcomed. We are pleased that you understand the importance of your local flora and fauna but there is no need for inclusion in your application form, it would be more beneficial to map your habitats and areas of biodiversity importance in the village. Have you completed a Biodiversity Action Plan? This would help you focus on tangible projects and actions over the next few years. Some guidance and direction may be needed in this area. You mention that you have 'implemented an ongoing campaign, and continues to develop this, to raise awareness and highlight the importance of natural habitats to benefit biodiversity' but you do not elaborate as to how you do this. For example, do you hold activities with residents? Is the campaign online via social media posts only? Holding awareness raising events and getting community involvement in local conservation is one of the key considerations of this category. For example, you have told us that the Church of the Sacred Heart roof space is home to the protected Brown Long-eared Bat and we work with Wild on Foot Ecological Services to ensure its protection. – do you hold events to conduct counts, walk and talks, use of bat detector etc? Bat Conservations Ireland has a useful TidyTowns guide you may be interested in.

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

Children in both schools have participated in cycle training sessions in the community and many participate in a range of cycles and walks that are held for various charities throughout the year in our area. There is a Schoolbook Reuse rental scheme in Ardkeeran National School, how about establishing a uniform swap shop in association with the Parent Teacher Association also. This could be extended to the local sports clubs to include football boots and kits, hurls etc. The cost-of-living crisis might encourage more people to get involved in reuse of resources and the sharing economy. You have set out a comprehensive approach to how your community is working towards sustainability as demonstrated below by your actions in relation to Water, Transport, Waste, Energy, Climate Action. You have the backbone of an excellent Community Sustainability Plan. Your adjudicator suggests that you pull this information out into a separate report and submit with you application next year with an update on your progress. A high number of residents were frequenting the Bring Banks on the day we visited so it's good to know that recycling is high on the agenda in Riverstown.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Litter control was excellent on adjudication day. This is testament to your litter patrols, involvement with the two national schools in the National Spring Clean and the wider community involvement in regular litter picking. There is a redundant pole at the entrance to the TidyTowns hut that should be removed. The gates at the GAA pitch entrance would benefit from a fresh coat of paint as would the water pump on the Castlebaldwin Road.

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

There are lots of good residential houses in the village. We visited Cherry Tree Park, Brookfort, and Brookfield Close. What is happening with the vacant houses in Brookfield Close, perhaps include a brief status update next year in your application form. Weeding along the kerbs is required also, particularly in Cherry Tree Park. Some boundary walls could be given a re-fresh in Brookfort. The grass area within Culty Lough estate is quite bare and would benefit from a planting project, perhaps the addition of a shrub bed. We noted the solar panels on a roof near McDermott's Bar. We didn't notice any other solar panels or renewable energy instalments / initiatives in the village. The former Methodist church looks idyllic beside the river. Continue to engage with residents and encourage residents to take care of their boundary walls and fences.

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

The digital speed sign was noted favourably, more villages should have these as a deterrent to breaking the village speed limits. There is scope to make field gates all consistent in style and colour in the village (from GAA pitch to the TidyTowns Hut) for example. There were not too many noticed but this would be a nice touch and would lend to a co-ordinated feel and add character. There is a 50 kmph signage on the approach road that needs to be straightened. The Heapstown Road approach looks well and the before and after photos are useful to get an understanding of the work involved.

Concluding Remarks:

You are going from strength to strength in the competition. To reach the next level in the competition you need to be even more ambitious. Ensure that your work programmes are well informed and seek advice from experts, when necessary. Ensure that you hold events to raise awareness and build capacity at a local level of environmental, biodiversity, sustainability, climate action issues.