

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Cheekpoint and Faithlegg - Rinne na Sige	Ref: 951
County: Waterford	Mark: 287
Category: B	Date(s): 14/07/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	50	53
Streetscape & Public Places	80	34	35
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	38	39
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	29	30
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	12	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	49	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	30	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	33	34
TOTAL MARK	550	275	287

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. Welcome to the 2022 SuperValu TidyTowns competition. We thank you for compiling and sending us your entry, and wish you every success in your future work. Good luck! Many thanks for your sample Community newsletter and Information pack. They give great insights into how the Cheekpoint and Faithlegg community ticks and your strong community spirit is very evident – as you know this is something to treasure! Your three year action plan was very comprehensive if a little unclear because it referred to the 2016-2019 period. Using this plan as a template in order to update to a current plan would be great for your 2023 entry. You clearly have lots of co-operation going on with other local groups and a whole host of volunteers to call on – this tells a huge amount in itself considering your locality's relatively small population. It's also really great to see your long list of supporting groups and organisations – this kind of support network is vital for the success of many of the TidyTowns group! We are not surprised that you were included on the #CommunityWorks! List for your Bereavement Pack and Christmas hamper initiatives – these demonstrate an admirable level of thoughtfulness and care within your local community. It's always good to hear of TidyTowns liaising with their local schools where potential future members will come from! The pumpkin project sounds terrific – make sure to include photos of the Hallowe'en pumpkin show for your 2023 adjudicator! Also you laudably mention recycling the pumpkins by composting them – what about a cookery competition? Pumpkins are a very versatile type of squash for cooking!

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

The streetscape of Cheekpoint and Faithlegg is very charming with a host of different building styles to enjoy despite the village's small size. The various roads leading to the harbour area feature many beautifully kept homes and gardens. Your work at Dobbys Field with the playground is something to be proud of, it was being so well used and enjoyed on adjudication day.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

This was your adjudicator's first visit to Cheekpoint and the waterfront area is a fascinating spot to see the confluence of the mighty Barrow and Suir rivers happening right in front of your eyes! The picnic area here is great with a lovely short wildflower meadow noted with lots of pretty wildflowers growing in amongst the grass – we saw daisies, clovers and buttercups. There is scope for some more planting at the lovely harbour-side grotto using colourful pollinator-friendly perennials, bulb and shrubs. Maybe some of the green-fingered locals could supply some cuttings and splittings from their own garden plants – sustainable and cost-effective! Herbicide use was

evident on path going just behind grotto which is a shame to see - detracting from the beautiful bed of colourful hydrangeas there. See www.pollinators.ie for help with explaining locally why its use in these instances is not recommended. We noticed your lovely stone walls, it is great to hear how you are looking after them. You have liaised with the IWT in relation to their biodiversity value but you will also get help from your Local Authority Heritage Officer in relation to their built heritage value. We loved the splashes of colour from the various yarn bombing installations around the village. It's very unfortunate that you still have not been able to find a CE Scheme worker to help you out. This does mean that a lot of work is left down to volunteer time which is not sustainable or fair. Keep highlighting this issue and especially if it pertains to work that you are just not able to achieve within your community and your future TidyTowns adjudicators will take note.

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

You have big plans for the Snowhill area and talk about restoring it to its original state as a wildflower meadow. Have you had professional advice in relation to this? You refer to a 'Bio Diversity Plan' but did not include it in your submission – is it one that you carried out yourselves locally? Have you considered getting a professional Local Biodiversity Action Plan carried out? There are currently several sources of funding for such projects available to community groups. Your Local Authority Heritage and Environmental Awareness officers will have information on these. Indeed, we love your idea for a public bird telescope and funders such as the Community Foundation for Ireland are following up on the funded BAPs with funding for specific biodiversity projects so there is surely a way to fulfil this great idea! The Snowhill area is currently doing what most land in Ireland does if left alone – reverting to woodland. The brambles and willow scrub that is there now is the intermediate stage between grassland and woodland. It is in itself habitat that is very valuable for biodiversity but understandably the local community are seeking to have this space for amenity use. As you have shown already with your harvesting and sowing of locally gathered bluebell seeds, you have an understanding of working with what you have here naturally and not introducing commercial seed into a wild habitat. The All Ireland Pollinator Plan website at www.pollinators.ie has lots of helpful guides and videos on the topic of creating good wildflower meadow/grassland habitat. Ideally you could end up with a variety of wildflower meadow types at Snowhill with tall ones and short-flowering ones and lovely grass paths mown in between. You could have lots of added interest with the grass paths and mow spirals and mazes. Also the idea of incorporating a community orchard and fruit garden is a wonderful one – especially where you incorporate re-existing mature fruit trees such as the damson. We noted the tall wildflower meadow at Dobbyn's Field looking very well during our visit. Make sure to make use of the National Biodiversity Data Centre's recording app both for recording invasive alien species such as the Japanese knotweed but also your red squirrels, deer, bluebells, primroses and birds. TidyTowns groups can play an important role in raising awareness of this app as it is one that everyone can use. We reckon that your recycling centre must be one of the prettiest in Ireland with its gorgeous planting in front of the screen. It had a fabulous show of the very pollinator-friendly *Verbena bonariensis* on adjudication day!

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

You demonstrate a good awareness of sustainable issues and how they pertain to your local community and we're delighted to see that you are in the process of bringing an SEC project to Cheekpoint. This is a really worthwhile exercise that has helped many other TidyTowns communities around Ireland. The TidyTowns Handbook will also have more ideas and guidance for you. As for many biodiversity issues, a lot of this category is about creating awareness of the issues in your locality and making locals feel enabled and empowered to make a difference. Your collaborations with your local Men's Shed group have been most successful. The noticeboard is very robust and handsome standing at the crossroads. It's a clever move locating the free library at the back where it's nice and sheltered. The proposed Active Travel Plan is an excellent one – with the pedestrian being of prime importance as it will make life easier for them all through your locality. Increased numbers of faster cars has sounded the death knell for pedestrians on country roads so your proposed paths will make a huge difference as you're already noticing with the new path on the Faithlegg side of the school. We look forward to seeing how this project progresses.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done on your Litter Pick in May – a great way for the community to work together. Your flexibility in suggesting people could nominate their own area is a good idea too, thus allowing all to help. Congratulations to the very artistic pupils of Faithlegg N.S. on their super eye-catching posters! Well done also to Waterford 31st Beavers for their help during Clean Coasts Week. A tough job but certainly one that focusses the mind on our litter problems. Keep up your deliberations in seeking help with dealing with dog fouling. Perhaps reach out to fellow TidyTowns groups across the country, who unfortunately all have to deal with the same problems, to see what solutions they have come up with.

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

The Residential category always involves overlap with other categories when dealing with villages and small towns. This is nothing to worry about, your adjudicator will always distribute the marks where they see fit and you are being awarded a mark in this category because your residential areas all looked so well on adjudication day reflecting a pride and love of your locality as well as great community spirit. The TidyTowns Handbook is always great reference material for the different categories with plenty of ideas and suggestions.

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

The Barrow Estuary view from the newly fenced path is absolutely breath-taking! So yes, take care over your planting plans – both from the potential view blocking perspective but also the path blocking perspective and the

need to be mindful of wheelchairs and buggies. There is potential for the use of tall, narrow planters with ivy, honeysuckle and nasturtiums which will cover and tumble over the fence with great biodiversity-friendly flowers and fruit but not grow tall and block the amazing view. Please note these plants would also be ideal for camouflaging the reservoir security fencing too. Good to hear of your future plans to erect place name signage – a very important heritage project ensuring the conservation of local names. Make sure to keep up your tradition of also using the Irish names as they can tell so much about the landscape history of your locality.

Concluding Remarks:

You are carrying out great work in Cheekpoint and Faithlegg which clearly has great community buy-in. Keep it up, making sure to reach out to your colleagues in other TidyTowns groups around the country who will have great experience to share as well as wonderful camaraderie. We look forward to our next visit!