

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## ***Adjudication Report***

Centre: **Tramore - Trá Mhór**

Ref: **228**

County: **Waterford**

Mark: **346**

Category: **F**

Date(s): **14/07/2022**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2021</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2022</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	45	47
Streetscape & Public Places	80	44	45
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	47	48
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	34	36
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	20	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	67	69
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	37	38
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	41	42
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>346</b>

### **Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:**

Fáilte chuiig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu don bhliain 2022. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hionrála 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! With up to a thousand volunteers to call on through the year, Tramore TidyTowns must qualify for the largest group in Ireland! This surely reflects a tremendous community spirit but also probably many grateful tourists and summer visitors perhaps wanting to give back a bit because Tramore is such a pleasant place to visit each summer. You also have a very impressive list of supporting bodies – this is such a vital part of TidyTowns and a key to long-lasting success. Despite not having an actual Junior TidyTowns group, you clearly have a great relationship with many different groups of your Tramore residents and they are included in so many of your projects and activities. This bodes well for future Tramore TidyTowns membership! You mention your plans for a Sensory Garden but this years adjudicator does not have access to your previous entries so we don't know what those plans are! Make sure to include them for next year's adjudicator.

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

The Tramore streetscape was a lovely surprise for this adjudicator who had not visited the town in a number of years. The pedestrianised area seems to be a great success. We loved all the various pops of colour with the different houses and businesses along Main Street and all the side streets along the way. There were also some beautifully planted pots and beds noted with pollinator-friendly planting – we loved the co-ordinated Verbenas with the purple bench, wall top and concrete planter outside the Credit Union and the orange and red daisy mixes in the planters at the Main Street and Patrick Street junction – giving wonderful examples to all of how pollinator-friendly container planting can be done. What a shining example Tramore could be next year if all the planting was done this way replacing the unsustainable and pollinator-unfriendly Petunias and Begonias as seen at the top of the town and the seafront! The newly restored Railway Station building is absolutely beautiful although it is a shame that the wonderfully crafted new sash windows at ground level were behind bars – hopefully this will change when the building comes into use. We look forward to hearing what are the plans for the building's use in your future competition entries – our fingers are crossed that there will be a strong element of community use for this prominent building.

### **Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasá agus Tírdhreachú:**

We noticed several pollinator-friendly flower beds along the roads of Tramore. We loved the herb and fruit bed beside the Family Practice medical centre – a gorgeous (and contextually relevant!) co-ordination of greenery into the urban setting. The grass area at the seafront park has been let grow longer but few wildflowers seen but this

process requires patience – particularly as we're guessing this area was only recently re-seeded as part of the park development? If this is the first year then several mowings and most importantly removal of the cuttings will weaken the grasses and allow the flower species to thrive. Some times it can take 3 years for this to happen in a fertile grassy area. See the various helpful videos at [www.pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie) Perhaps this area might lend itself to a couple of group plantings of small trees or shrubs? We visited Doneraile Park and saw the areas of ground managed for wildlife. The rest of the grass was very tightly mowed – perhaps there's scope for short wildflower meadows here, just mown every 3 or 4 weeks thus allowing the shorter flowers such as dandelions, daisies, speedwells, clovers and selfheal to blossom whilst still short enough to comfortably walk over. Lovely to see a wild mallow plant left to flower on a verge beside a bench. These pretty flowers were extensively used for their healing properties in the past in Ireland so this plant might be telling you a story about Tramore's history! The Strangers Garden is a lovely idea and a nice splash of colour as one drives into the town. It's great to have a space like this for various community events. Well done on the areas of wildflower meadow on the big, wide verges going up the hill towards the racecourse – we were just wondering if there is any scope to make the areas a wee bit bigger? We arrived at the gates of the Lafcadio Hearn Gardens at 6pm on a warm summer's evening and were very disappointed to find them closed. The town was thronged with visitors - might there be a way to extend the garden's opening hours for the long summers evenings as is done in other town parks around Ireland?

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

Well done on the opening of the new bird hide. This must get great use and lead to even more enjoyment of walks along the lovely coastline here. Have you had any community events to tie in with it such as a guided bird walk and community picnic? It might make for a nice community event during wintertime when there'll be some really interesting birds visiting Tramore! Great to hear of your 'Let dandelions Bee' campaign and congratulations on your prize-winning at the St Patrick's Day Parade! This is another facet to the role that TidyTowns can play – a vital one about spreading awareness of our Biodiversity Crisis in your locality – as you know well this is not something that is just happening abroad but right on our doorsteps! Another point worth mentioning here is the important role TidyTowns groups can play in ensuring that their wider communities are aware of any local conservation areas. At Tramore you have a very large Special Area of Conservation – the Tramore Dunes & Backstrand SAC which contains a number of species and habitats of international importance. Check out the maps section of [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie) for more details and spread the word locally.

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

You have the most fantastic list of re-using and recycling materials that is carried on throughout the year at various community events – please include a few more illustrative photographs with next year's entry! Your recycling of bikes (sorry pun was intended!) sounds like a wonderful project – hopefully it could be copied in lots of other places around Ireland – it makes so much sense. We were hugely impressed with the little rain garden on Main Street – this is the first time this adjudicator has come across such a sustainable urban drainage system integrated into an Irish town's Main Street. It looks wonderful but we were wondering is there a plan to give some information about it as most people probably walk past without realising its powerful and sustainable function! We noted the re-use of old tyres as planters and even a Christmas tree! Whilst this is laudable thinking about re-using things, unfortunately old tyres are not suitable because as they degrade over time they leach nasty chemicals into our local environment so it is best to have them recycled at the appropriate location – your Waterford Environmental Awareness Officer will be able to advise you on this. This fact is not widely known as many tyres are re-used as planters around Ireland but it is another example of how TidyTowns can lead the way and create awareness locally about such issues. It's so heartening to hear of the students and teachers at Ardscoil na Mara taking action for Climate Change – the sense of being able to make a difference is so important for our mental health quite apart from anything else. Well done on the low level lighting along the entrance lane to Doneraile Park. These are less intrusive for photophobic wildlife such as bats than tall light standards whilst still safely lighting a dark lane.

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

We visited Tramore on a hot, busy July day with many visitors and tourists about, but the town was looking very tidy. You clearly have a great system up and running that keeps on top of the litter problem which seems to follow most humans about! Also it's clear that you have a huge community effort going into keeping your beautiful beach clean and the Blue Flag award this year reflects this. You should all be very proud! Many thanks are due to yourselves and Waterford City and County Council for your persistence in avoiding the use of pesticides/herbicides in relation to weed control. This is such an important environmental issue in Ireland where the indiscriminate use of these chemicals does untold damage to our local environment. Well done in your efforts to outdo the crows and seagulls from pulling litter out of the bins. It's a common problem. This adjudicator has come across a town that may have come up with a solution as they have noticed a real difference simply by using bins with only one entry point – this seems to inhibit the birds as the bin interior is too dark. It might be worth pursuing! Also well done on your innovative 'Paw patrol' anti-dog-fouling events! No shortage of imagination in Tramore TidyTowns!

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

You have great liaisons going on with the many different residents groups in Tramore. This is great to hear as Tramore TidyTowns has a wide area to cover. You mention giving out wildflower seed bombs which is a lovely idea but unfortunately the use of commercial wildflower seed is not recommended as a biodiversity action for a number of ecological reasons including the unwitting introduction of species that do not belong to a habitat and sometimes areas of valuable grassland habitat can be cleared in order to introduce the said wildflower seeds. The All Ireland Pollinator Plan has lots of guidance and information about this topic on its website. However, the generous gifts of great pollinator-friendly annuals such as sunflower and nasturtium seeds for people to use in their garden

flowerbeds or plant pots is a great idea with no unfortunate, unintended ecological consequences!

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

We noticed the uncut meadow areas along the road verges on the Ring Road and around the various roundabouts. These really tell the visitor a story about how biodiversity is a priority in the town you are approaching! Well done on this. The picnic area on the Waterford Road is great with the planting maturing very nicely and lots of clovers in the grass here forming a great area of short wildflower meadow. Also we loved the planting in the verges here close to the pedestrian crossing and the different characters of several roundabouts as they featured different planting schemes.

#### **Concluding Remarks:**

We really enjoyed our visit to Tramore as there was so much to see and admire all around the town on a warm summer's day. Keep up your wonderful work and all your innovations – they will get you far in this competition!