

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Coole - An Chúil** Ref: **215**
County: **Westmeath** Mark: **291**
Category: **B** Date(s): **11/07/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	37	39
Streetscape & Public Places	80	39	40
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	40	41
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	23	23
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	17	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	32	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	36	36
TOTAL MARK	550	285	291

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. Coole's long history in the Tidy Towns competition is a testimony to the dedication of the residents and community over the past 40 plus years, well done on your continuing work. The committee and volunteers have done good work this year and the entry form details these actions and plans clearly. The development of the Facebook page with 255 members, the use of email to communicate in conjunction with a new noticeboard and newsletter will help keep the actions of the Tidy Towns committee to the fore. The survey of residents re plans for the future and the inclusion of children's thoughts as an aspect of the survey are welcome actions. The plan to develop junior projects is commended; this may help with getting the school on board with work in the coming years.

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

The streetscape, flowerbeds, maintenance of paths and walls are reflected in the generally pleasant appearance of the village. The post office, shop and community center are well maintained, the grounds around the church and the grotto and the maintenance of grass and planting enhances these areas. Your investigations re the old hospital are noted, for now it is in the hands of nature as is the old church building, maintenance of the boundaries to these sites should continue. Plants on the security fencing will enhance the area. The car park and buildings adjacent to the old hospital are well managed.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Sitting in a rural landscape you have an abundance of green spaces and hedgerows. Maintenance of the verges and the continued daffodil planting are commended. Your promised picture of the daffodil displays in spring will show us the fruits of your planting scheme over the years. I observed work in progress around the polytunnels and the community garden. This site looks and feels like a real asset to the community. The sports court needs attention and the plan to work with younger people in its future is a good one.

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

The work being undertaken on planting, use of perennials and saving seed for further planting is noted. The talk on the wildflower garden establishment should help with promoting your plans in this area in the future. Coole is surrounded by countryside and a wealth of habitats, some future projects to consider are surveys of bird species found in the area or the production of a habitat map for the village. Farmers may help with hedgerow management and may be interested in working with the committee on biodiversity in some places around the village.

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

The management of water resources by collecting rainwater is a good plan. Working with local farmers on the management of composting is also noted and welcomed.

Actions on energy management and saving should be considered by the committee. This might start with an audit of energy use in homes and businesses around the village. This would then allow you to identify what savings might be made through the use of LED lighting, improved insulation etc. and allow for progress in this area to be measured over the years.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The village was litter free on the adjudicators visit, well done, your weekly clean up sessions, postings to Facebook and the additional volunteering of new residents are paying dividends in the management of litter. The plan to reward children helping with a prize is a good one and will hopefully recruit more participants to the cause of keeping Coole tidy.

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

The houses and gardens throughout the village are essential to its appearance and character, the owners are to be commended for the work they have done over the year to maintain their appearance. Maintenance of the gym and play area by the CE scheme workers and their training in this management are welcomed. The Coole sign planted in box was looking well on the visit and plans for its future are timely.

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

The approach to Upper Coole from Castlepollard is enhanced with the refreshed Welcome to Coole sign, the verges, trees and hedges along this section of the road are managed to give the visitor a good first impression of the village. The approach roads are generally well managed, the work on grass cutting and planting in these areas, the cleaning of signs and stonework is commended.

Concluding Remarks:

Thank you for your continued participation in the competition, your work to date and your future plans reflect the dedication and enthusiasm of the committee and volunteers in Coole.