

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Kinnegad - Cionn Átha Gad	Ref: 213
County: Westmeath	Mark: 292
Category: D	Date(s): 26/07/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	41
Streetscape & Public Places	80	43
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	44
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	29
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	33
TOTAL MARK	550	292

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 Cionn Átha Gad. Thank you for this, your twentieth, entry to the Tidy Towns competition. I note the work done by the committee and volunteers over the year through regular meetings (how often?) and the use of social media and newsletters to communicate activity. A Facebook page would be a useful way to keep the town informed of ongoing activities and is also a good way to display work in progress. Your volunteer numbers could be increased through clean up events and working with the schools in the town. The local schools have been active in the past and the children in turn may get parents interested in your activities. The map was a useful sketch of the town but it was difficult to identify projects as new (N), maintenance (M) or future projects (FP), these need to be indicated. The numbers given on the map were not reflected in the report. You have good support from business and local residents groups and this is reflected in the activity throughout the town. It would help to give a sense of your aspirations for Kinnegad if you could present a plan for activities/projects over the next three years or so.

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

The focus of the committee on the main street has resulted in a streetscape that is pleasant and welcoming. The western end of the main street, street furniture, tree planting, floral displays, the Church, Bracken's, Granuaile, create a sense of a vibrant town centre. At the eastern, bridge end of the main street amore planting, a few trees would help lift this section.

Side streets are generally well maintained, the challenge of derelict buildings and sites is particularly evident along Athlone Road. Some of these vacant sites have the benefit of a mix of shrubs and insect and bird life in the short term. Plans to redevelop the old VEC building on the Mullingar Road as a library are welcomed. This will offer opportunities to promote education on sustainability and biodiversity in the town.

The proposal to link the plan with Main Street is welcomed. The park is a compact but vital resource for the town and increasing access and avoiding traffic would be to the benefit of all. While there are a number of cycle lanes these need to be linked up. In coming years this could be an action that also fits in with sustainable transport plans.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The park, as noted, is small but well laid out and maintained. Throughout the town there use of bedding plants adds to the quality of the town. Planting along the frontage of derelict sites on the Athlone road helps to soften the impact of these areas and is commended.

Is there a community garden in Kinnegad? I note mention of one in previous reports but not in the current entry.

Such an undertaking could attract people to work with the committee over the coming years and bring benefits to participants.

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

It is good to note that you are working with pollinator friendly plants in your planting throughout the town. The area of grasses and rushes that were allowed to grow at the Manorfield estate is a nice example of how no mow strategy works. A few swallows were observed in flight over the area.

You have no other information on nature and biodiversity in the locality. In this part of the competition you should be looking at ways to inform locals on the benefits of biodiversity and looking at ways to engage groups in supporting nature in the town and surrounds. This could start with a survey of garden birds in the town. Birdwatch Ireland run a garden bird survey starting in November each year (<https://birdwatchireland.ie/our-work/surveys-research/research-surveys/irish-garden-bird-survey/>) and this could be promoted as an annual event for the town. Other activities are outlined in the Tidy Towns Handbook.

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

The action on increasing public transport options for the town is welcomed. In particular I wish you luck with your ongoing work to reopen Killucan station. As noted earlier you should consider how to create amore integrated cycling network in the town. With so many new and existing houses and a large school going population cycling and walking should be heavily promoted activities in the town.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

There is good work being done on litter control. Daily litter cleaning is paying dividends and this is an activity that could be used to attract more volunteers for weekly litter picks in the summer months .Have you been able to identify the main sources of litter in the town and on approach roads? This information could help in making people aware of their role in reducing litter. Is the litter that is collected sorted and recycled? Has the level of littering declined over the past few years? All this information will help in reducing litter in the town. The National Spring Clean could be an opportunity to bring in more volunteer and engage with schools in the town.

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

Kinnegad residential areas were generally well presented. Trees at Manorfield have matured well and the area of wet grassland by the GAA grounds is a nice biodiversity feature.

On Main Street there are a number of well kept residential buildings that contribute to the quality of the town and the work of these residents is commended.

Continue with your work of supporting resident groups on their activities and well done on this. Are there any new or planned projects in this section of the competition?

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

The approach roads to Kinnegad are all well presented. Signage was clean and planting and maintenance of verges gave a good overall appearance and welcome to the town. A future project could consider replacing the old recycled tyres with either wooden or stone walled beds. The planting is attractive but the fading tyres detract from this good work.

Concluding Remarks:

Well done on your work in Kinnegad over the past year. I look forward to revisiting Kinnegad as your plans for the town take shape.