

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Adamstown - Maigh Arnáí** Ref: **2246**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **263**
Category: **B** Date(s):

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	34	35
Streetscape & Public Places	80	35	36
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	40	41
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	18	20
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	7	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	53	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	34	34
TOTAL MARK	550	253	263

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

Cuireann an moltóir fáilte roimh Maigh Arnáí páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta na mBailte Slachmhara 2022. We welcome Adamstown to the 2022 SuperValu TidyTowns competition – your 3rd year in the competition. Thank you for your clearly laid-out entry form including map and for your commitment to your place in these difficult times. Your helpful photos greatly assisted the adjudication process, though you might consider reducing them in size somewhat. Your active committee is trying to pick up momentum post-pandemic and get meetings back on track. Even so, you have had many achievements in the last year that hopefully will give your volunteers and wider community a boost. You have forged strong links with outside agencies such as Wexford Co Co, who provide funding and other supports. The secondary school Coláiste Abbáin occupies the most prominent site in the village so we're glad to hear that you involve them in your activities wherever possible. You also received the welcome support of local businesses such as Cullen's Gala shop/garage and are further helped by the availability of a Tus worker. The Family Resource Centre is another hive of activity and you are both working well together in terms of sustainable community projects. The community is kept informed through your active Facebook page as well as more traditional local channels. Congratulations on your recent Civic Award. Your time capsule will make for some interesting reading in 2072! You might consider putting together a 3-year Action Plan to help keep you focussed - identifying short-, medium- and long-term actions under each of the 8 categories delegated as appropriated. The Tidy Towns website is a useful resource with updated information such as the TT handbook at <https://www.tidytowns.ie/competition/handbook/>. Lean leis an dea-obair.

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

There is certainly an air of pride as one takes a walkabout your compact village. We certainly noticed the impressive primary school grounds and gardening exploits, more of which later. The church is another attractive village feature with planted borders further enhancing the overall appearance. The nearby graveyard is beautifully tended to, though we feel some of the unused area could be 'meadow managed' for biodiversity interest while still presenting an attractive appearance. It is good to hear that Wexford County Council has purchased a prominent derelict house, we would urge you to keep the pressure on and get updates as to what they are doing with it. The Community Hall is an impressive building with a lot of ground to maintain – was somewhat weedy towards the car park side. There are community funding grant schemes that would fund painting of this building and make a significant difference. Cullen's Gala maintains a very neat premises – the new railings are noted as are the floral displays to brighten up the hard landscape here. The sports injury clinic is fresh and inviting with mature planting ensuring it blends in with the landscape. Another highlight is the impressive and expansive secondary school, which enhances the village core through clever use of landscaping. On the approach road we noted the fine community sports facility with the GAA grounds to the rear. We like the Christmas wreath initiative – an important fundraiser

while raising awareness of your heritage sites at the same time.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

We are impressed with your efforts in this category. The lovely stone flower bed at the church was admired as was the stone trough setting off the freshly painted water pump opposite. There is a good mix of trees, shrubs, pollinator-friendly perennials and annual summer bedding throughout. We acknowledge your attempts to take on previous adjudicators' advice and to evolve to more sustainable planting. We note that you acquired two new benches in Summer '21 for your green area in July of 2021 and commend you for upcycling the original ones. A fine job was done on the timber planters, thanks to the valiant efforts of the Shamrock Men's Shed and Transition year students. Your Tus workers provide invaluable support in keeping grass areas mown. As mentioned above, the grounds and curtilages of both schools really enhance the overall appearance and provide a softening effect.

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

The community garden is a wonderful way of engaging with young and old in the community as is monitoring of the bird and wildlife in the area. Games and quizzes will catch the imaginations of your younger residents as will the new bird and bee houses. Is there a more permanent website or equivalent where the games/quizzes can be more easily accessed? Your continued tree planting programme with the support of Wexford County Council, is a good investment for future generations as is your awareness of making bee-friendly plant choices where practical. We positively note that the primary school is on board, with their no-mow initiative.

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

You are making good efforts across all areas of this category. It is interesting that you had to build the roof to supply the relocated rainwater tank! Hopefully the roof will be of practical use in other ways. The bike stands are a welcome addition for both locals and visitors alike. The little Free Library is a novel way of promoting book reuse and raising awareness of Reuse generally, hopefully it will be well used by the whole community. Do update us next time. Your efforts to upcycle were already commended. You are fortunate to have skilled residents happy to offer their time to the community cause. Is there any food grown in the community garden and how is it distributed? Composting is a fantastic way of diverting waste from landfill and putting it to valuable use in the garden – your efforts to promote it among the young children area commended. You might also briefly update as to any Green School achievements, for instance what theme/flag the school is working on and any key actions that link in with Tidy Towns?

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done to all who participated in your National Spring Clean event, resulting in a sizeable 100 bags of rubbish being collected! Hopefully you will see the amount of litter reduce as the years go on and people are more engaged in litter prevention. The types of litter collected can help you identify the litter black spots and challenges and perhaps you can run awareness campaigns on same? Do you have any other litter picking arrangements at other times of the year? We're not sure if your Tus workers pick litter as well as empty the bins? All bins were in good order and the village was very clean apart from a couple of drinks bottles at the crossroads. The Tidy Towns branded bin is in good order and on message!

Painting of items such as name plaques shows your attention to detail and drive to set a high standard. The overall impression is one of tidiness. The Transition Year students are commended for their various activities in tidying up the area.

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

Adamstown has some historical buildings of note such as the impressive 'Cullens' building and charming heritage derelict building across the way with its feature red doors and original sash windows. It is worthwhile engaging with owners to ensure these feature buildings are presented at their best. Adamstown has a small number of housing developments that are neatly presented as are individual homes along the various approach roads. We were happy to see that the outer section of green area at Fairfields is being managed as a meadow, in keeping with recommendations in the the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. Well done to all involved.

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

Your annual litter picking of your approach roads does indeed make a difference to the first and last impression people have of your village. Your beautiful stone walls and railings are appreciated by residents. Speed ramps are a welcome sight to slow down the through-traffic. The large bilingual village namestones add to overall impression.

Concluding Remarks:

It is obvious from your Entry and walking around Adamstown, that your participation in Tidy Towns has increased the local sense of pride and brought people in the community together. You should be proud of all your achievement in the last few years and we wish you well with future plans. Well done Adamstown Tidy Towns and keep up the good work.