

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Askamore - An Easca Mór** Ref: **144**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **306**
Category: **A** Date(s): **20/07/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	50	50
Streetscape & Public Places	80	44	45
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	40	40
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	24	24
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	14	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	68	69
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	30	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	32	32
TOTAL MARK	550	302	306

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

Fáilte go an Easca Mór 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. We welcome Askamore to the 2022 SuperValu TidyTowns competition. Thank you for your concise entry and for your continued commitment to your village. We note that you have redrawn your Tidy Towns adjudication boundaries as you have moved from Cat B (pop 650 in 2021) to Cat A (pop 199 in 2022). That is perfectly acceptable if you have good reason? We would have liked to see a few photos of your recent projects included in your entry form. We would suggest that you differentiate your text font from that in the entry form so that your information doesn't get 'lost' in the existing text. Please also provide the name of your Facebook page as we were unable to locate any tidy towns -related posts. You have good links with the school and local creche and are assisted in your activities by the Rural Community Support scheme. Do you have any engagement with Wexford County Council, Wexford Local Development, Wexford Walking Trails or other organisations? Who did you link up with regarding the Heritage signage? Is there a Tidy Towns or Community Plan to inform your actions? Are local businesses supportive in any way? Keep up the good work. Lean leis an dea-obair.

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

The new Heritage Trails signage at the Community Hall is clearly laid out and visible – this was also noted and adjudicated by last year's adjudicator. Please provide clear timeframes for your work so that we can award you marks accordingly. The Community Hall is a fine facility and looks very well. Having a fully accessible public toilet facility is a welcome improvement. We visited the upgraded toilet behind the church but it didn't look like recent upgrades had been carried out? Are the 'church toilets' and 'community toilets' the same project? The playground was being enjoyed by local families and was clean and in good order. We admired the 'hand prints' mural and the outbuildings here and nearby water pump. Are there any plans for that Doran's building that you know of? Have efforts been made to contact the owner regarding the presentation of the building, treatment of windows etc? The grotto is beautifully maintained.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Le Chéile Park is a highlight with lots of different elements going on – from bog garden to native fruit tree planting. It is well maintained while not being overly manicured. Flower containers around the church perimeter provide a welcoming splash of colour. A flower-bed of mixed perennials within the church grounds caught the eye, another corner bed near the grotto is well maintained. The two simple floral displays at the grotto work well here.

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

It is great to hear that there is such a local interest in bee keeping and bee hives. Do keep us updated on how this is helping the community to be more sustainable. We did indeed notice that parts of the park are left uncut in order to promote biodiversity. Pollinator and butterfly– friendly planting was noticed near the park entrance.

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

The sight of the organic raised beds and polytunnel impressed the adjudicator. Is this Tidy Towns or another community group? It is wonderful that the resulting produce is freely available to the community. Is this promoted word-of-mouth? Are you growing vegetables? Everything was covered with plastic when we visited so we weren't sure. The ample compost area displays some good awareness information. It was nice to see the 'drinking water' highlighted as it is important that we all reduce our use of plastics. Do you harvest any rainwater for use in your gardening/planting schemes?

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The village was very clean on adjudication day so well done to all Askamore volunteers who monitor this throughout the year and as part of Wexford Co Co's 2k road clean-up. The litter bin was in good order with the simple messaging 'Take your litter home'.

Askamore presents quite a tidy appearance. A few items on the wall behind the litter bin might be removed. The empty hanging basket poles stand out for the wrong reasons. Their appropriateness should be considered in the longer term as empty poles lend a somewhat cluttered appearance. As highlighted by your previous adjudicator, you might consider more a more sustainable option such as tree planting as an alternative? A landscape plan for this entire area should be considered in due course, when a suitable funding scheme allows.

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

We noted one housing development – Waterside Close – in neat order with potential for further landscaping. Askamore has a number of one-off homes with attractive gardens that further enhance the village appearance. Well done to all residents.

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

No information was provided under this category heading. Local walks are clearly highlighted on timber posts and at the impressive Walking Trails sign. Fingerposts to various local amenities are a little difficult to read but useful nonetheless. The entrance to 'Le Chéile Park' is bright and welcoming. A suitable rural colour scheme might be considered for a few nearby gates. The expansive graveyard car park is quite bleak in comparison with the surroundings and deserves some consideration for future plans/funding applications – an opportunity to enhance the public realm here at the centre of the village. (see recommendations in 2019 report). A well-maintained footpath exists between the church and community centre.

Concluding Remarks:

Your ongoing efforts to make Askamore a better place to live are appreciated. The recommendations of this report should be taken on board in addition to those in your 2021 Adjudication Report. Well done to all involved with Askamore Tidy Towns and best of luck with future projects.