

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rosslare - Roslair** Ref: **258**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **346**
Category: **C** Date(s): **12/06/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	58	59
Streetscape & Public Places	80	41	42
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	49	50
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	37	37
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	15	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	67	68
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	37	37
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	38	38
TOTAL MARK	550	342	346

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

Fáilte Ros Lair 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 Rosslare to the 2022 SuperValu TidyTowns competition. It was a pleasure to visit your lovely village after an absence of several years. Thank you for taking the time to get your entry in to us and for your commitment to your place in these difficult times. Your entry included an outline village map, some helpful photos and a 3-Year Plan that is up for review once a new committee is established. We are sorry to hear that Covid had has a negative impact on the volunteering effort in Rosslare Strand, exacerbated by other challenges such as retiring group members. No doubt there are people out there in the community with interest and skills to push forward with Tidy Towns – the challenge is to recruit them and convince them to get involved. Other TT groups have gone through this difficult stage so it might be worth reaching out to them. Kilmuckridge TT carried out a focussed recruitment campaign in recent times. We acknowledge the further difficulties caused by your increased summer population. Some of these longer-term summer visitors have time on their hands and often like to play a small part in community activities. We wish you well and hope some new recruits can be found to take the burden off long-standing members and to inject fresh momentum and ideas. Your Wexford Co Co Environmental Awareness Officer is another good resource. Lean leis an dea-obair. Keep up the good work.

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

We note your comments in relation to the proposed upgrade of the Watersports Garden Area, which commenced in Nov '21 following receipt of €125k in grant funding. It is surprising to hear that there was no consultation with the local community. Is there another community development group in Rosslare Strand that you can link in with? We await with interest the completion of this project, no doubt it will further enhance what is already a lovely area of the village. We are delighted to hear that you have secured agreement to locate the village's first piece of public artwork here, in memory of one your recently deceased founder members. We look forward to seeing it in situ next time.

Rosslare Strand TT is responsible for the placing of two new recycled seats at the Cliff area and the car park. Also encouraging is the fact that two prominent derelict properties have been sold and we hope Wexford County Council's efforts to follow up on two other derelict properties will bear fruit. Do keep us posted on any updates in this regard. The Rosslare Community Sports Centre is a fantastic amenity – all maintained to a high standard. All was in good order at the playground – recent upgrades are noted. Some buildings that caught the eye for their good presentation included Rosslare Pharmacy, Centra Sharky's and the nicely landscaped Kelly's hotel.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

We acknowledge your struggle this year to carry out maintenance on your landscaped areas and green spaces. You managed to hire somebody to maintain the planters. The circular bed near the beach car park is beautifully presented as is this entire space which makes for a very pleasant picnic area. We love the brightly coloured community noticeboard where more colourful planting was observed. We note that the bed at Turners Shop received a major clean-up, with the assistance of the Community workers who also continue to cut grass areas including approach roads. We are delighted to hear that you received proper advice on the appropriate pruning and maintenance of your lovely Quercus oak trees – well done and thanks for the ‘before’ and ‘after’ photos. A lovely mix of planting was observed around the Community Sports Centre. We really like the benches back against the timber planters here. We read with interest the backdrop to the Rosslare Access-for-all Garden development, finally opened in 2017 – this area is still beautiful. The Mosaic Village Garden sign is very pretty – and fits in with the seaside vibe. The mix of pollinator-friendly perennials and colourful annual bedding around the edge of the car park really enhances the overall appearance.

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

You have continued with efforts to protect the Sand Dunes with Chestnut fencing. You might give a brief outline of what this entails and the extent of community involvement. This is a project that might attract the attention of potential volunteers if a call-out for hands on deck was made for a particular day? It would be good to find one interesting project to use as a ‘hook’ to get people engaged and talking. Asking people to get involved in a set project or piece of work is preferable than promoting the idea of joining a committee or going to meetings which often puts many people off. Rosslare has a beautiful strand and coastline teeming with wildlife. We acknowledge your comments in relation to dogs off leads. This poses a threat to wildlife as well as causing a litter and health hazard. Please continue your local campaign in relation to this matter and tell us how you address it. Your Environmental Awareness Officer will have good information resources you can replicate locally. If the local school has worked on its 5th Green flag theme for ‘Biodiversity’ it would be worth linking in with them and including key highlights here. The Grove biodiversity information signage was noted. We were impressed with sign to raise awareness of pollinator friendly planting near the beach.

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

No information was submitted under this category. We are surprised the ‘New 2 You’ shop didn’t get a mention! It would be great to get a rough idea of the volume of items that get a 2nd life here. Even if there aren’t resources to carry out any projects on the ground, there may be lots of things happening locally that can be included here, for instance an update on green schools’ activities at the local school? Any sustainability measures being taken by local businesses to cut down on use of packaging/waste/water/energy? There are lots of campaigns being run by Wexford Co Co Environmental Awareness Officer. Showing us evidence that you are promoting these through your local communication channels would gain you marks. It would be worth reaching out to the community looking for somebody to take the lead on a sub-group to mainly focus on this category? There may be a couple of people interested in signing Rosslare Strand up to SEAI’s Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) which can lead to funding for initiatives such as a community Energy Master Plan (or join up with a neighbouring village?). It would be worth seeking new volunteers to attend Wexford Co Co or 3 Counties Energy Agency’s informative information sessions, most of which are conveniently online now. Bike parking stands were noted at the beach car park. We wish you well.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We are sorry to hear that no annual clean-up took place next year. Hopefully your group can get it back on track next year with the help of volunteers. Can you provide a bit more detail on your efforts to get public and retail/hospitality support in relation to litter reduction? It is good to hear that the businesses took action and paid somebody to carry out clean ups of the village centre. Let us know next time if this continued in summer 2022? Could you promote the ‘two minute beach clean’ and/or ‘clean coasts’ – both effective An Taisce beach clean up initiatives? Again it would be great to find an individual to take the lead on just one such initiative? The bottle banks were relatively neat with just one piece of cardboard packaging found on the ground. The litter bins are in good order. The modern blue design blends in well with the coastal theme. The village overall presents quite a tidy impression. The wire clutter on the façade of IZ Moo detracts a little from an otherwise good presentation.

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

Rosslare Strand has a wide variety of residential properties – from contemporary homes to beautiful period homes along the main street. Having a high number of holiday homes presents its challenges to tourist villages but we have to say most residential areas of Rosslare Strand were presented to a high standard. Some consideration could be given to colour scheme on some newer properties along the Main Street. The entrance to ‘Southfields’ was admired. We would recommend you respond and give a brief update to key recommendations in previous adjudicator reports when making your submission. Does RTT engage with Residents Associations or have any representation on the committee? (or even in the communications loop?). Well done to all Rosslare Strand residents for another fine presentation.

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

It is encouraging to hear that Wexford CoCo have continued to make improvements in the footpaths around the Village. We hope that your ongoing lobbying of the Council in relation to safe beach access at Mauristown will bear positive results in the near future. The beach public car park is particularly inviting and clean despite being busy. The buildings here are fresh and inviting with seaside themes. The community is making the most of the lovely

views from the Strand Road with its benches and flower beds. The multi-lingual signage on approach to the beach is impressive. Traffic bollards allow for safer pedestrian access and prevent obstructive parking, particularly in the vicinity of the main beach car park/entrance.

Concluding Remarks:

Despite the challenges you have faced this year, Rosslare Strand is still performing well and is a beautiful place to visit. We would urge RTT to focus on the 'Community & Involvement' category and a recruitment campaign for the coming year and try and bring in a few new people to ensure all the great work to date can be built on and new projects commenced. Hopefully this report as well as some worthwhile recommendations in your 2019 and 2121 reports will offer some useful guidance. We wish you all the best this year and for the future.