

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Wellington Bridge - Droichead Éoin	Ref: 901
County: Wexford	Mark: 280
Category: B	Date(s): 11/06/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	36	38
Streetscape & Public Places	80	39	41
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	40	41
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	25	26
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	13	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	31	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	38	38
TOTAL MARK	550	272	280

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

Fáilte Droichead Eoin 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... We welcome Wellingtonbridge Tidy Towns back to the 2022 SuperValu TidyTowns competition – your 7th year of involvement. We enjoyed visiting your village for the first time. It is good to hear that the Tidy Towns journey has been a positive one for the community with some good visible results to date. Your hand-drawn map shows your current projects. It was a little difficult to follow as a lot of items clustered in a small space. The map need not be to scale so perhaps you could enlarge the village centre piece to clearly distinguish where different projects are located. More than likely, the adjudicator has never been to your village before. The photos were most helpful. Your active committee of seven holds monthly meetings and is closely linked to the Parish Development Group. You receive plenty of support from several local business, clubs and organisations as well as outside agencies Wexford County Council and Wexford Local Development. Any engagement with Inland Fisheries or your Communities Water Officer with regard to the river? You are well connected to the wider community through social media (Facebook and Instagram) as well as the more traditional means such as your newsletter and posters. Approaching the schools to link in with you on relevant projects is very worthwhile. Thank you for including a copy of your Tidy Towns Plan dated 2018. We look forward to seeing an updated Plan next time. Designing and organising an inclusive community event around the turning on of the Christmas lights is a real positive achievement and the community looks forward to it becoming an annual event. Keep up the good work.

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

The completion of major works at Little Sea is a major achievement for the community – with some planting to be completed. You have worked closely with Wexford County Council on this. The opening up of this stretch of water as a Blueway will be a fantastic boost for Wellingtonbridge in terms of attracting visitors to the area. Ballylannon cemetery gate has been replaced and other upgrade works carried out for safer access. Wellingtonbridge has a mix of shops and larger businesses, in the main presented to a good standard though a few too many signs on one or two. We love the traditional signage 'General Merchants' sign at SuperValu – great to see this impressive heritage building still in active use. The post office is a charming building opposite the neat and contemporary car sales building. It's a pity the cars have to take up the green area and block the view of the river. It would be nice to have some picnic tables out in the open as opposed to under the heavy shade of the tree. It would be easier to keep them clean. Tír na nNóg Bar and Restaurant looks well with its welcoming window boxes. The 'Lemon & Lime' café is fresh and neat. Your efforts to engage with Wexford Co Co and property owners in relation to derelict properties are positively noted.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

On our approach to the village, Wallaces' home value is an imposing property with attractive landscaping that enhances the overall approach. The nearby 'Managed for Wildlife' sign was noted. On the Main Road, the layby close to the playground could do with a tidy up. We are impressed with the Butterfly Sculpture on the Carrig on Bannow Road and we see from your photos that you have done quite a bit of landscaping work here. The nearby curved footpath is a nice detail. Thank you for your update in relation to previous adjudicator's comments under this category. The riverside area near Costcutter is really lovely – we feel the village could 'face' the river more and minimise the clutter in the vicinity. The new flowerbox near Costcutter looks well. Your efforts to plant native trees such as holly and apple are commended.

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

It is good to hear that your participation in Tidy Towns is raising awareness of your local biodiversity, better still that your committee members have found the time to attend biodiversity courses to give you the knowledge and tools to further promote it. The river is the jewel in the crown and offers so much to the village. It needs to be appreciated more and you are in the process of doing this. We read with interest that part of the Corach river contains both an SAC and a SPA – important conservation sites.

The Barnowl project is a good way of engaging with young and old in the community as are your efforts to liaise with the local school children in relation to this and the building of the bug hotel. We are impressed that the boxes too were made by a committee member. Some spraying of chemical sprays was in evidence – this should be discouraged where possible.

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

We are impressed by your attempts to reuse and upcycle items – pallets used to construct the 'Christmas tree' and the bug hotel for instance. This category is about reducing our use of all precious resources, thereby lessening our environmental impact. In addition to waste prevention, this also looks at water, energy and travel. We admired the artist's creation of the butterfly sculpture made from recycled metal – a very new addition according to your entry. It is fantastic to hear that you have at least one enthusiast to promote the concept of 'repair' and giving an electrical item another life. Your water butt enables you to use rainwater to water flower pots. Do you compost grass and hedge cuttings? Having a plant swap day is a good idea, just be vigilant that no invasive plants, pests or diseases are passed around inadvertently. Biosecurity is a big issue nowadays, just something to keep an eye out for. There weren't any bikes parked at the bicycle stands; maybe this is something that can be promoted in future years? It would seem that Wellingtonbridge is a good stopping-off point for the various cycling routes that are well signposted from the village.

Check out the Tidy Towns handbook for further inspiration <https://www.tidytowns.ie/competition/handbook>.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

It is heartening to hear that several residents keep an eye on the litter situation when out on their walks. The village was relatively clean on the day of our visit. Tidy up efforts at the bottle banks are noted although unfortunately there were a few bags dumped there when we visited. The nearby Coachmen's shed could do with freshening up. As you have acknowledged in your Entry, the plethora of different temporary signs is an issue causing clutter on the roadsides. We acknowledge your efforts to find a solution that everyone is happy with, such as a central area where businesses can advertise. Nailing signs to trees should be discouraged as it can cause damage. We were disappointed also to see some kind of utility box nailed to a tree on the riverside, not a good idea. The box itself could do with cleaning.

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

The presentation of residential areas is high. Please mention your Tus worker in the 'Community & Involvement' category. St John's Court is very neat as is The Willows. Could a portion of the grass area here be left grow to meadow? (with perhaps paths mown through it for interest?). Corach Ave is fronted by a fine open green space with planting to the roadside. Please tell us a bit more about how you engage with various resident's groups and offer support/encouragement to look after their own areas.

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

Two further pedestrian crossings are planned for your busy village. We also note that you have plans for two fully accessible bus stops. The sight of the old railway track, buildings and iconic pedestrian bridge is quite dramatic for a first-time visitor, especially when the original signposts are still in situ – heritage symbols now. This is an important part of the village's history and perhaps there could be more interpretation around it? It would be great to see the old railway line put the good use in the near future – perhaps there will be a Greenway extension? The Wexford Road has a beautiful tree-lined approach. The tourist information sign needs an upgrade as does the worn 'Bannow Drive' sign.

Concluding Remarks:

It is heartening to hear that participation in Tidy Towns has improved your local environment and brought people in the community together. You have a lovely village and you are rightly proud of. Well done Wellington Bridge Tidy Towns and keep up the good work.

