

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clonmore - Cluain Mhór** Ref: **38**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **347**
Category: **A** Date(s): **13/07/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	49	50
Streetscape & Public Places	80	49	50
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	45	46
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	34	36
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	22	23
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	70	71
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	33	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37	38
TOTAL MARK	550	339	347

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu don bhliain 2023. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Adh Mór! Welcome to the 2023 Supervalu National Tidy Towns Competition Clonmore! Your efforts in community involvement and planning have been truly admirable and showcase a dedication to improving the village environment and creating a sense of togetherness. The increase in volunteer numbers as well as diverse committee members and non-committee contributors reflects a shared dedication towards its development. Your participation with various agencies such as Men's Sheds, GAA, CE scheme and Carlow County Council shows effective collaboration. Consistent communication through parish newsletters, the Nationalist newspaper and WhatsApp groups ensures everyone remains fully informed and engaged. Your report was clearly laid out, I especially like the cover aerial shot – for next year see about reducing the overall size, indicating clearly whether it is a new or maintained project and aligning each project to the UN SDGs. Also do likewise on your map along with which category it corresponds to.

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

Clonmore Tidy Towns has undertaken an impressive range of projects that demonstrates their dedication to protecting and improving the village's history and appearance. Clonmore Community Hall's refurbishment and ongoing maintenance creates an inviting space for its community members. Furthermore, free WiFi in the hall provides invaluable connectivity between members. Village Heritage information displays at both the old post office and St. Mogue's graveyard are wonderful – the entrance gate needs freshening up though. I wonder about the graveyard sign location though – is it hard to access and read by those with limited mobility? Byrne's Pub was exceptionally well presented as were the two churches; this helps create an attractive village landscape. Your proactive approach to addressing derelict structures, such as dismantling of a mobile home and plans for renovating a small cottage, is commendable. The local post box needs freshening up as does the wooden post fencing. I thoroughly enjoyed my walk around your beautiful village.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The village was exceptionally well presented during my visit. Wonderful to see the CE Scheme back to work; they are so important to so many towns and villages throughout the country. Focusing on tree planting during National Tree Week and with Trees on the Land showcases your dedication to environmental preservation and community involvement. Gradual expansion of flowering bulb varieties and perennial planting throughout the village adds beauty and biodiversity. Securing funding through Carlow County Council Environment Grant for perennial plants shows effective resource management – grant applications are often an unseen yet time intensive part of TidyTowns volunteering. St. Mogue's Well was a wonderfully maintained and peaceful place where I took some time

to read the plaques and enjoy the sound of the water. The planting on the road to and around the RC Church was also maintained to a very high standard.

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

Your efforts in supporting biodiversity and environmental conservation are highly commendable, showing a dedication to making Clonmore a more eco-friendly village. Clonmore's inaugural Biodiversity Action Plan, with support from various expert groups and local entities, is proof of this inclusive approach; while active assessment and monitoring systems equipped with Bird Tables, TrailCams, Bat Detectors and Robinson Moth Traps stand as testaments of your dedication towards understanding and conserving local wildlife. Your ongoing Biodiversity Survey, now five years in, has contributed invaluable data to the National Biodiversity Data Centre, offering insight into the village's diverse ecosystem. The emphasis on tracking the increase of Small Copper butterfly populations as well as welcoming in the Great Spotted Woodpecker was wonderful to read. Registering with An Taisce Green Communities initiative demonstrates a proactive stance toward reducing your carbon footprint and increasing local biodiversity. Clonmore Tidy Towns approach to ecological balance through reduced mowing and wildlife corridor creation shows your concern for ecological equilibrium while still upholding the village's appearance. Involvement with Red Bog preservation efforts as well as bee and butterfly-friendly planting illustrates a holistic approach to conservation. Keep up the fantastic work in this category!

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

Wonderful to see such a small community demonstrate exceptional dedication to sustainability and environmental stewardship through several impactful projects. You have lead on teaching gardening skills to students, instilling an appreciation of local food production. Food security through seed saving is part of your drive to reduce waste while promote self-sufficiency. The village composting initiative is an impressive effort to enhance soil quality and reduce waste, while waste awareness represents your dedication to informing the community about recycling options. I particularly liked the introduction of reusable lunchboxes and bottles - an impressive gesture to eliminating single-use plastic consumption. Coupled with the book rental scheme as well as hosting School Bazaars are instilling this sustainability ethos in the adults of the future. Your efforts set an exemplary model that contribute significantly towards making our planet greener.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The village was litter and weed free during my visit – excellent work everyone! Your efforts in addressing various issues within Clonmore village and its surroundings are commendable and have produced positive results. Regular clean-ups with dedicated volunteers have done much to maintain its cleanliness and attractiveness; litter bins emptied weekly by Community Employment Scheme workers has effectively managed overflow; the establishment of a litter patrol subcommittee shows a proactive approach to dealing with litter on approach roads, while butt containers placed outside Byrne's Pub represents an effective partnership. Keep up the advocacy on missing signage – some things are outside your direct control, don't worry adjudicators won't let this affect your marking. On the day I did notice the need for some fence painting as well as most lampposts needing cleaning.

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

All residents deserve praise for their efforts in maintaining their homes and gardens. Congratulations on the installation of a defibrillator in the village center which ensures residents' safety and well-being. Additionally, the revitalisation of Glebe lands fencing and McDonald's house. With continued support and cooperation within the village, you will continue to do well in the competition.

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

Clonmore Tidy Towns have developed one of my favourite interventions as part of my travels this summer – the bicycle at the entrance nameplate is a wonderful example of the circular economy, community and art. Well done! The road markings for traffic speed control help to create safer environment for both residents and visitors of the village. Your pollinator/wildlife approach to verge strimming is an excellent initiative.

Concluding Remarks:

Your collective efforts have produced a great sense of togetherness and pride of place among village residents – keep up the great work.