

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carrigadrohid-Killardrish/Carrig an Drohid-Cill an** Ref: **1808**
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **336**
Category: **A** Date(s): **07/06/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	41	42
Streetscape & Public Places	80	48	49
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	40	43
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	38	40
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	19	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	64
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	38	38
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	39	39
TOTAL MARK	550	324	336

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 chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amachanseo. Adh Mór. thank you so much for your entry into this year's competition. Considering the small population in your village, you have a healthy number of 12 Committee members with up to 20 volunteers to assist you with your work.

It is also lovely to hear that this includes a diverse range of people, including younger members of your community, including one school pupil engaging with the TidyTowns as part of his work towards the Gaisce Awards. You also engage with a wide range of clubs, organisations and businesses, and use a variety of social media, community notice board and free magazines to reach out and spread the word of everything that is happening. There is evidently a strong sense of community and camaraderie in your village and the community 'Street Feast' sounded like a great event, and good luck with your plans for future Christmas markets.

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

Carrigadrohid castle is a striking feature of the town complemented by the lovely old stone walls to be found throughout the village as well as the bridge, and great to hear that you are in communication with Cork County Council in relation to the future and preservation of this importance part of your heritage. Also well done on the work on the reinstatement and maintenance of the charming cobblestones along parts of the footpaths.

Mick Lynch's cottage looked charming, and I loved the name signs to be found throughout the village at various houses and businesses, harking back to the present and past use of that building such as The Forge, Post Office or Barracks. I also noticed a lot of the information signs throughout the village informing about your local history such as the Castle, the Easter Rising, and Nell Dinan's House etc. and where everything is located.

Again, the Grotto area was immaculate with fresh looking paintwork, and other work carried out included the work on the castle gate which looks very smart indeed now

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The 'triangle' flowerbed in the centre of the village looks very smart indeed and acts as a nice focal point to this area, and great to hear that you are conscious to use pollinator friendly plants in your

schemes, as well as making sure to have plants that will provide colour and interest all year round. The riverside walk is fantastic, due to the hard work of yourselves and the GAA club, and lovely to hear how much thought that you have put into the finish of it and also the accessibility, and the possibility of extending it in the future, really great work!

The Wildlife of Carrigadrohid signpost was very informative with good illustrative pictures of various creatures such as the Red Fox, badgers, and Grey Heron etc. to be found in the vicinity. There is some lovely flower beds and landscaping to be found in the village, which complements the lovely stone walls, and it is a good idea to look at more permanent planting and alternatives to hanging baskets and planters as this can be more sustainable in the long run as well as being easier

to maintain. The old red water pump beside the Apple Tower caught the eye, and while it is important not to 'gild the lily' it might be a nice project to see what can be done to enhance this area even more, perhaps some planting or a small bench?.

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

You live in an area that is full of flora and fauna, and are doing your bit to ensure that these thrive through the use of pollinator friendly plants throughout your flowerbeds and hanging baskets and other floral displays as well as having several 'bee hotels' throughout the village.

It is great to hear that you have plans to plant some native trees during the winter and we look forward to seeing these in future years as they develop. The Sunflowers School Project sounds lovely, and will help encourage a new generation of gardeners as well as raising awareness of, and welcoming the new members of your community that have moved from Ukraine. It is good to see that you also practice 'no mow May' and keep some of your grass verges 'wild' to help with biodiversity. The wooded area beside the Castle GAA pitch is a wonderful amenity area, and good to hear that you are working to improve the vegetation and biodiversity in this area, and also great work on the 'wild areas' at the riverbank. It was fascinating to hear about the Barn Owl nesting site at the Castle, and good luck with your search for additional nesting sites.

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

There is some good work being done in this category, with the key principles of 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' being at the forefront of your work. A lot of practical measures are being done in order to reduce waste as well as being as self sufficient as possible. This includes local green fingered residents propagating cuttings from their own plant stock in order to donate to the Tidy Towns group, and you have received plants such as roses, geraniums, herbs, as well as daffodil bulbs which is fantastic.

Work being done in this category includes recycling of materials, as can be seen in some of the seating in the village, composting, the use of water butts, as well as recycling clothing including GAA jersey's to help prevent waste and unnecessary landfill waste.

As mentioned before, fantastic work done on the restoration of the lovely stone wall at the East of the village. Your plans to upgrade your Christmas lighting display with energy efficient bulbs is noted. A great source of information is the website of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland which gives practical information on energy efficiency as well as what grants are available for initiatives such as solar panels, retrofitting, electric vehicles etc.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The village looked absolutely immaculate on the day that it was visited, very well done to all those who are involved in ensuring the cleanliness of your environment, it is obvious that those who live in Carrigadrohid take great pride in keeping it clean. It is great to hear that the younger residents of the village are also getting involved with students at Canovee National School being involved in litter pick-ups, which will not only help in keeping the village clean, but hopefully instil a sense of civic duty and pride.

A lot of work being done in this category with weeding, painting, litter picking, cleaning as well as maintenance work being carried out, including at the castle area. It is also very impressive to read that you have picked 25km of local roads!

You mentioned in your entry that there has been problems in the past in some areas with some scrubland becoming a dumping ground so well done on tackling this so effectively. Apart from an empty plastic bottle near the bridge there was little litter to be found.

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

There were some lovely residences to be found in the village, and all looked in very good condition and well maintained. Good work on the lovely hanging baskets to be found throughout the town that you install every summer.

Along with many villages and towns in Ireland there is unfortunately some empty and derelict houses to be found, but good work in minimising the negative visual impact of these by painting and enhancing these as best you can whilst a more permanent solution is found, such as the 'Mollie Cahill's Shop' building.

The very attractive looking stone nameplates were admired, well done on these.

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

Fantastic work on the restoration of the stone wall on the approach to the village on the R618, and especially for trying to utilise as much of the original stone as possible.

The stone Carrigadrohid sign at the bridge complete with inset of your name along with etched picture of the castle was most attractive looking and a great first impression to your village. One very minor quibble is that the signs beside it detract a tiny bit from this visually. Obviously these are important as they point out dangers and information about coarse fishing, but maybe at some stage in the future these could be moved slightly, just something to think about.

The painted boat as you approach the village is a good idea, but would possibly benefit from some TLC to reinvigorate it a bit.

Concluding Remarks:

It was an absolute pleasure to visit your village for the first time, and great to hear that the 15 years that you have been involved in the competition have helped you to make plans and help develop it for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike. Also, you are to be commended for your vision of working to enhance the village in sympathy with your natural surroundings.

Wishing you the best of luck with this year's competition and all your future work.