

# Tidy Towns Competition 2023

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Bullsmouth - Bhéalbhuiláin</b>	Ref: <b>2277</b>
County: <b>Mayo</b>	Mark: <b>220</b>
Category: <b>A</b>	Date(s): <b>20/06/2023</b>

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	28	30
Streetscape & Public Places	80	26	28
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	28	30
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	15	17
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	10	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	40	41
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	30	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	28	30
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>220</b>

### 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 Super Valu Tidy Towns Competition for 2023. We thank you for your entry, and wish you all the best in all your future work. Good luck.

Bullsmouth – Béal an Bhulláin, a very small village with a population of 30 people – has entered the competition for the first time last year. You have a committee of 4 members with support of another 10 volunteers.

- You have a very small knit community which meets on an ongoing basis throughout the year and more formally on an annual basis.
- Support is received from Mayo PPN, Cleans Coasts, and the Tidy Towns unit.
- You communicate with the public by personal contact and word of mouth.
- Local school children help with maintaining the cleanliness of the area and participate in making suggestions for improvements.
- The voluntary work undertaken by your committee includes the ongoing maintenance of roadside verges to allow members of public to walk safely. There are dangerous bends and the road is narrow and in places this prevents two vehicles passing. An embankment was removed and blended in with the existing road verge to create a safer walking route.

The coloured aerial photograph provided with your Entry Form showing the main features of the village was of very good quality. The quality of the application form was good. It is always beneficial to include some before and after photos highlighting projects carried out under each category. The Bullsmouth Tidy Towns Plan 2022-2025 plan was positively noted – perhaps include some target dates on the plan so future progress can be monitored.

The adjudicator's assessment is based on a recent site visit and the contents of the application form, which is suitably concise at 11 pages long - well done. The text used on the form was easy to read - it would be beneficial in future to use a different style font to distinguish it from the text already on the form.

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

- The adjudicator called to Bullsmouth on a sunny day in mid-June. The small car park area in the vicinity of the concrete slipway was visited and the views available towards the coastline here were outstanding. There are a number of Currach boats parked in this area together with associated fishing equipment and materials and perhaps an area could be set aside where these can be stored in a neat and tidy fashion. The provision of cycle stands in this area were positively noted. As noted in last year's report it would be a good idea to provide an information sign on the history of the area and perhaps an explanation as to how Bullsmouth got its name. The National School

could perhaps assist with this project. The school premises and one or two other nearby properties would benefit from re-painting in the not-too-distant future.

### **Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:**

- The floral displays and name stone on the approach to the village together with the placement a recycled plastic bench, provided a very attractive welcome to the village. This splash of colour along the road give a great sense that the local community care greatly for the area in which they live.
- Reducing your use of seasonal bedding plants for your floral displays is an important initiative for your committee to consider in the future. Colourful perennial and pollinator friendly plants e.g. Alstroemeria spp. can be used to very good effect as an alternative to the flamboyant but labour/water/energy-intensive annuals such as Begonias and Petunias.

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

- It is apparent that quite a lot of invasive species have established themselves in the Bullsmouth area, including rhododendron and Gunnera. It would be desirable to look at ways to try and eradicate or at least control the spread of these invasive species and no doubt Mayo County Council will be very helpful in this regard. Some spraying of herbicide along roadside drains was noted, albeit outside the Bullsmouth Tidy Towns catchment. In this regard, an information campaign on the importance of local biodiversity and non-use of herbicides in the area, could be initiated across the wider community.
- It is noted that the road verges and hedges provide important habitats for local biodiversity. It is pleasing to note that you have replaced the old tyre planters with new floral boxes as suggested in last year's report – the new planters looked very well.

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

- It is noted that you have joined Clean Coasts as you have a small beach which leads into a bigger neighbouring beach. The initiation of measures to facilitate members of the public collecting rubbish from the shoreline while they walk, is a very worthwhile development.
- As a new committee, your main focus under this category could be on effective resource management, such as waste recycling and energy usage. In other communities 'Solar Meitheals' have been initiated where householders have worked together to reduce the cost of the installation of solar panels on their properties. These are used to heat water and to charge electric cars etc. Waste recycling is important and perhaps a community composter can be established to provide a source of sustainable compost for your floral displays.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

- It is noted that you continue to litter pick any rubbish along the roadways during regular litter patrols and it is planned to organize bins for gathering rubbish during the Innishbiggle Festival in August.
- On the day of adjudication, the village area was found to be completely litter free - well done. The adjudicator feels that the tidiness issues at the slipway, can be resolved without much difficulty.

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

- It is noted that you have placed seating at a number of locations on village which is maintained and cleaned regularly.
- Private residences on the approach to the village are generally well maintained and presented with attractive boundaries adjoining the road. Some additional native hedging could be planted along timber post and rail boundary fencing erected along the road, as this fencing will deteriorate over time and the hedge planting will be a more attractive and beneficial long term solution.

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

- The approach road to Bullsmouth is characterized by very lush natural vegetation along the road and tidy roadside margins. The margins are maintained to a very good standard to ensure the safety of road users and to provide a neat presentation on the approach to the village. This maintenance regime is very acceptable and if you can control the invasive species, this will encourage greater biodiversity over time.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

It was a great experience to visit Bullsmouth for the first time this Summer. The simple map and concise application form made the adjudication of your village a real pleasure. Your committee is working diligently with the entire Community to improve your local area. We wish you well with the implementation of your Bullsmouth Tidy Towns Plan 2022-2025 and every future success in the competition.