

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cahir - An Chathair** Ref: **634**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **354**
Category: **D** Date(s): **04/07/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	55	57
Streetscape & Public Places	80	47	48
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	45	47
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	41	42
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	25	25
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	38	38
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	41	41
TOTAL MARK	550	346	354

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

Congratulations on your many years of successful and medal-winning participation in Tidy Towns. The information contained in your excellent entry demonstrates that you have maintained great participation and positivity among the strong committee of 32 and among the numerous stakeholders and complimentary organisations. Thank you for the numerous examples and supporting photography. You have been particularly successful in working with schools and young people which is so important for the future. I am sure that the Dawn Walk was a great success with the Teen Cave. Your Pride of Place award was well deserved and your examples of how Tidy Towns has helped to transform Cahir must give great satisfaction to all those who work so hard on a voluntary basis across the years. You also provided a number of examples of how your group supports and participates in events that bring people together to have fun and enjoy Cahir, and all it has to offer. Well done to all concerned

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

Cahir is very lucky to have such interesting built heritage. It has a very unique character greatly enhanced by the castle, bridges, river, weir and a number of commercial and residential properties. Your endeavours over the years to restore and enhance the built landscape have been successful and the important infrastructure and amenities such as parking and toilets have made a visit to Cahir most enjoyable. The fully accessible outdoor gym is a great addition. The old railway station is a stunning property, and it appears very spacious. The Men's Shed will make great use of it and it is likely to become a visitor attraction in itself

I can guess that there was much work done to secure the RRDF funding for the town centre and I agree it is a game changer. The volume of large vehicles trundling through was not pleasant to witness and the old chestnut trees are looking very tired. Well done on securing the funding approval. Your ongoing efforts to improve shop fronts and unoccupied buildings make a huge difference. Cahir is a very attractive place to walk, shop, dine and chill. The Craft Granary was closed but looked great from the outside.

Keep an eye on materials such as loose gravel in the car park (planting beds) which is not compacted or stabilised. The overall impression made by clear signage, robust seating and clean well-maintained hardscape and buildings is very positive. Congratulations

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Congratulation on the numerous tree planting initiatives completed over the year. The range and quality of trees is truly impressive and the inclusion of non-natives species like chestnut and beech is a good addition to your native trees, hedgerows, and pollinator-friendly perennial planting. The choice of trees that support wildlife is not limited to native species and the decision to use larger specimens that require a bigger budget and much more effort and risk is also to be commended. While smaller trees are easier to work with, they can often lack impact and it takes many

years before they form a large enough canopy or head to make a real difference to biodiversity, carbon sequestration or noise/dust abatement. For the most part all your soft landscape was well maintained and attractive. Take care to remove plant failures, particularly in highly visible areas e.g., the dead Taxus/Yew in the main car park and ensure that planting around key signage is appropriate and weed-free e.g., the Inch Field. As you know, it is always advisable to opt for ground planting over use of containers and where possible dispense with large black plastic containers that are not in keeping with your beautiful heritage town. The Swiss Cottage, the Sensory Garden and the Inch Field were all looking splendid, and this adjudicator did get to enjoy the geese. The great effort being made nearby to weed the fenced off lavender beds was also admired.

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

Well done on the Green Flag award. You have successfully balanced public access and recreation with serious interventions that support biodiversity, the native trees, reduced mowing, meadow areas, etc are all making a significant contribution to nature.

The repaired canal wall looked great, and it was nice to see that access for wildlife was considered. By all accounts you are upskilling your team with training and attendance at workshops on biodiversity. This will pay dividends for years to come as we all figure out how best we can reduce our carbon footprint and support biodiversity in our communities.

You provide a long list of wildlife species that clearly you are committed to protecting and increasing. In conjunction with the National Biodiversity Data Centre and using some citizen science you could start to implement monitoring to show how your actions are positively impacting on biodiversity. The great work with Bunscoil na Cathrach, Colaiste Dun Iscaigh and ABP will yield biodiversity results for years to come. With some monitoring and photography, you will be well placed to document and demonstrate that all your hard work is paying off

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

Your group are very active across most areas where sustainability and the circular economy can be addressed. Your intergenerational bike initiative with trishaws is a fantastic way to increase sustainable transport while building social cohesion. Perhaps you can include images and data in the future. You have worked closely with ABP, Council and all stakeholder in clever ways to turn challenges such as recycling into opportunities for tree planting and rainwater harvesting into solutions for public toilets and you provide great data. Your recycling bins, the big belly bins and all areas that are highly trafficked areas are smart. So it is clear that your sustainable solutions around waste are not causing other litter issues despite the high numbers of visitors. The charity shop is very smart and well managed, and it is great to hear that the Men's Shed is playing an active role in repairing tools and other items. It would be great to hear more about food waste reduction/composting and energy reduction in the future, especially those efforts that home and business owners are making with support from the TT group. If you are applying the same level of creativity and commitment as that applied to water and packaging, they should be called out and acknowledged.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Cahir was spotlessly clean on adjudication day, free of litter and dirt, clean kerbs, clear of clutter and inappropriate signage or anything that would impact negatively on visitors or residents. All your activities were listed from spring cleans to regular litter picks, twice a day in busy times, awareness campaigns, signage, dog fouling measures, etc. Hopefully, your new co-ed primary school will continue with the Green Flag programme. Thank you for confirming that chemicals were not used to keep the kerbs clean and keep up all your efforts. You are maintaining your high standards under this important category, and it must be acknowledged that this requires a lot of hard work from many volunteers.

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

All areas looked smart and litter free with some nice planting and green spaces. Your success here is clearly linked to the integration of committees and residential groups and your investment in equipment and planting. You mention that tasks are set by goals, but the goals are not listed. It would be interesting to read them. The photography is very helpful, Beech Park and Highfield were very attractive. Please consider including additional information on the number of houses, housing schemes, etc and actions planned and those taken. More importantly, keep up the good work. Everything looked great.

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

All the approach roads were free of litter and well maintained during our visit. It was good to see the copious quantities of bark mulch used at the new bed on the Clonmel Road. The resurfacing of foot paths ensuring universal accessibility are important measures and it is good to hear that you are constantly monitoring and regularly communicating with Council. The resurfacing on Barrack Street was noted and was the approach to grass cutting and physical cleaning and sweeping – hard work but chemical free.

Concluding Remarks:

Cahir was enjoyable to visit, busy, buzzy but clean and attractive. Clearly, the TT group have played a major role in the town's beauty and biodiversity. Well done to all concerned

