

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clogheen - An Chloichin** Ref: **637**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **312**
Category: **B** Date(s): **21/07/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	42	44
Streetscape & Public Places	80	40	42
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	40	41
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	30	31
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	15	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	36	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37	38
TOTAL MARK	550	303	312

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

Congratulations on your strong entry to Tidy Towns 2023. You have provided a detailed application and it is interesting to read that despite your involvement since 1958 there is still a large, dedicated group of active committee members and volunteers. Whatever may have happened in the over the decade it is clear that the current group are committed, collaborative and achieving great results. Your ability to work well with younger members of the community is a particular strength and the project that you have identified, the Reigh burial ground, creates another interesting point of interest for visitors and residents. You are widely supported and integrated into the wider community, and you are actively lobbying to ensure that every derelict or unoccupied building is tackled. You are working in a planned way and making every effort to include new member of the community. Well done to all concerned

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

You have a streetscape that would be the envy of many villages but more importantly you are striving to preserve and improve where appropriate. Your built heritage includes many important buildings, and it was gratifying to see that none were neglected. While many of the projects and structures that you refer to were completed over recent years others are ongoing and it appears that you will continue to make improvements to the build landscape. On adjudication day it was particularly attractive around St Pauls, the playground and the new toilet area. While, I concur on the idea of the mural, the painted walls, the hanging grow bags looked great with their mix of Begonia, as did the benches, information signage, bins, water pump, bicycle parking, etc., Other than an encouragement to be selective about temporary signage I could only find reasons to be impressed with the care and attention to detail shown about every aspect of your streetscape, the Men's Shed, Street lighting, weed-free kerbs, clean signs, etc., The impressive Hiker statue, washing of signs, repair of stone walls are better included in here rather than the greenspace category

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The planting of ten hawthorn trees at the memorial garden, the introduction of perennial planting at three locations, the planting of alder and beech and the planting of spring flowering bulbs are all great examples of greenspace and landscape interventions. And of course, nearly all of the plants named are beneficial to pollinators and/or native wildlife. Other than the daffodils, that look great, but typically being so highly bred they do little to support pollinators. You could also detail all the great work that you do to provide seasonal colour in the village. This looked great on adjudication day. For future development of the planting at the Hiker sculpture you could consider a great focus on scree-type plants. The large box-style planters at the church gate are unnecessary when you have great natural stone pillars and wrought iron railings. The church grounds looked great. Please be clearer on what is new (n) and

done in previous years (m) but more importantly keep up the great work

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

The information you provide under this category is very interesting but much of it would be better included elsewhere, so for example the many interesting examples of architectural heritage could be included under streetscape. You have employed the expertise of biodiversity specialists who have helped you to put a plan together for the future and you provide several examples of their advice and several examples of actions that you will take. These include the erection of signage on wildlife species, planting wildflowers, surveying moths, planting a community herb garden, using a reduced mowing regime in some areas, and many more. While it would be great to better understand what new actions you took over the last year it is more important that your group are equipped with the best knowledge available to them before embarking on new “biodiversity” projects. So often the focus is on bug hotels and perennials rather than protecting important places and spaces such as the one you mention, a wall with a thick covering of ivy or an area dense with bramble or nettle.

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

You have included a long, impressive list of actions, principles, policies, organisations, etc and many of them are linked to sustainability and the circular economy. It is not clear whether anything listed is a new action for 2022/2023 and I can see many mentioned by last year’s adjudicator in 2022. Of course, many of these actions must be repeated, becoming ongoing regular actions year after year. You have an opportunity to focus on this category in future years in order to add marks to your tally but more importantly to instil more urgency in the community around the climate crisis.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Clogheen was spotlessly clean and tidy on adjudication day, and it is no surprise to learn that you have two senior and two junior members dedicated to daily litter patrols. Your approach appears to be very methodical sweeping paths before the road sweeper comes to the village. You have specifically alluded to taking down temporary signs and having defunct poles removed. I noticed a few signs causing a bit of clutter, but they were all important in terms of upcoming events. Keeping kerb weed-free without the use of chemicals is much more labour-intensive but so important. Well done.

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

All residential areas were free of litter, tidy, mown grass, weed-free and some have colourful planting. Where residents are interested in making further improvements please consider the following; ensure that signage is not obscured by planting, clear grass away from base of trees and circle with a good layer of mulch, where there are spaces for additional trees take the opportunity to plant bareroot next winter in the largest sizes affordable, reduce mowing regimes and create more meadow areas to support biodiversity, when planting spring bulbs avoid daffodils and tulips and opt for species that support pollinating insects. The Tidy Towns handbook as a list of excellent suggestions.

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

All approach roads are impressive, litter free, tidy verges, welcome signage with flower beds are colourful and weed-free. The spring clean and the efforts to maintain cleanliness on route to the Vee have paid dividends. There is a sense of unspoilt nature despite the high numbers of walkers. The Hiker sculpture is a good landmark and similar large pieces on other approach roads might be worth considering in future years.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to visit your beautiful village in its scenic setting. If you put the application form to better use it should be easier for the adjudicator to distinguish between new projects and those that are maintained. It is important that all your hard work is acknowledged and rewarded. Well done to all concerned.