

Tidy Towns Competition 2021

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clonegal - Cluain na nGall** Ref: **37**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **346**
Category: **B** Date(s): **25/08/2021**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	51
Streetscape & Public Places	60	43
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	51
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	38
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	24
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	68
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	37
TOTAL MARK	470	346

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu 2021. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn. Go raibh maith agaibh as ucht bhur dtacaíocht le linn na paindéime. Lean leis an dea-obair. We extend a warm welcome Clonegal Cluain na nGall to the 2021 SuperValu Tidy Towns competition. Thank you for clearly presented Entry Form that clearly explains what your committee and community has been working on in recent months. The photographs are particularly helpful for the year that's in it. Despite many of your Tidy Towns activities coming to a halt, this has not stopped the community from staying busy with other community-related activities. This indicates your commitment to your place during these difficult times. Hopefully your meetings, community clean-ups and other activities can resume shortly. We wish to offer our condolences regarding the recent passing of one of your key Tidy Village committee members. Clonegal Tidy Village Association has strong links with other community groups, school, businesses and outside agencies such as Carlow and Wexford County Councils and County Development Partnership. You have a strong communications campaign to all sectors of the community. We are a little confused that there is very little activity on the Tidy Village FB page whilst the other one, while very active and informative, is named after a web page?! Your website is active and up-to-date – well done to those who maintain it. You might clarify next time. The 'thank you' card idea is simple yet deeply appreciated. Thank you for submitting your 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan and well done to the committee member who compiled it. Keep up the great work.

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

Your community shows an appreciation of the unique built heritage that surrounds you. Thank you for the photographs. All the key buildings look fresh and inviting. We commend your efforts to preserve the traditional character of the streetscape. The long-term closure of many due to covid restrictions is a challenge for the village as a whole. The Weaver's cottages are truly special, painted in fitting colours and we hope to see their doors reopened soon once restrictions ease further. It is good to hear that your walking tour (available online since 2018) is as popular as ever. Initiatives such as these serve to highlight to locals and visitors alike the historical significance of your key landmarks. It is lovely to hear that the Coach House has been renovated. As a private residence? The freshly painted Weigh House looks well as does the new stone wall at Watch House.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Clonegal sets a high standard in this category and you really make the most of areas for landscaping. At the Forge stone area and brightly painted historical water pumps, planting is fitting for the surrounding and nicely maintained. The newly planted grotto looks well. Other areas maintained by volunteers include the grounds of both churches, bottle bank and riverside amenity area. You have quite a few areas to maintain. We acknowledge your comments

in relation to the Weaver's cottage, these don't visibly detract from your streetscape so that's not a major issue for Tidy Towns purposes until things get back to normal. We are delighted to read that your Tree Survey was completed in late 2019. Is there any follow up action for the community group arising from the survey? We take it the brass wire sculpture and the associated flower bed are both new since your last entry? It's not exactly clear from your submission. Either way, it looks stunning and enhances this beautiful area even further. Well done for selecting plants that are both permanent and pollinator-friendly. We look forward to taking a 'sos cois abhainn' there in the near future. Is the 'River Derry – from source to Slaney' a new initiative? Please include timeframes in your entry. We admire your efforts to plant and protect your native trees and hedgerows. We note your recent native planting on the Parkbridge Road

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

Clonegal is rich in biodiversity and natural habitats. You are acutely aware of the special nature area that is the River Derry and environs and ensure there is as little disturbance as possible to this unique area. Your 'Habitats and Biodiversity' Report commissioned some years ago still remains valid to guide you in your plans. Your ongoing efforts to promote actions in the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan are lauded. This excellent document is practical and easy to follow. We like 'the meadow on the main street' concept. It is an interesting way of starting a conversation anyway! Let us know the feedback as time progresses. Could you extend it to another area in conjunction with the residents? You have done some excellent awareness campaigns in recent years in relation to this category. Again, we are assuming that these were pre-2019 as you don't list any as a current project? Please provide clear timeframes and keep the information in your submission current. We love the concept of planting fruit trees in memory of deceased loved ones and wish you success with that future project. We observed a similar project along the riverside park in Clonmel recently. You continue your meadow management regime at the impressive Ben Mulhall Park. We hope you source funds to plant your yellow rattle soon – you might secure a small grant for this, such as the Community Environment Action Fund or similar?

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

You show good awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) and the promotion of same. Some good initiatives have been implemented over the years with other good ideas coming out of your survey. Hopefully some more of these can be implemented soon? We note your comments in relation to car-pooling in current times. The Ring-a-Link is a fantastic service to have on your doorsteps and reduces the feeling of isolation for those who don't drive. There is no need to provide detail or initiatives that you submitted before, of course you can briefly refer to them if relevant. Also try to avoid generic information. There is a risk of cluttering your Entry Form and the adjudicator missing the key points regarding your recent work. Let us know how you get on with raising awareness of energy programmes, in conjunction with the Three Counties Energy Agency.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Efforts to maintain your busy and attractive bring centre are acknowledged. The frequency of illegal dumping here is most frustrating but you are doing everything you can to overcome these challenges. Credit must go to your committed team of 'litter pickers' who ensure Clonegal maintains its litter-free status for all to enjoy. On a positive note, you say there is very little general littering. Removing most of the street bins has removed the problem of people illegally using them for household waste. Dog fouling is a major nuisance everywhere. Well done for organising a campaign around this, with the support of Carlow County Council.

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

Well done to all the residents of Clonegal for the pride and care they take to present their homes, boundaries and open areas to the highest standard. Clonegal has a good mix of housing developments, village street homes and one-off homes along approach roads. Thank you for the wonderful photos that show the high standard that is maintained along with care of planted areas and ongoing planting of native trees. Perhaps more of the Watch House Village green space could be managed as a meadow? Biodiversity pilot project? It is such a vast area. Well done to all your proud residents for a wonderful presentation.

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

Thank you for the photographs that enable us to visualise the high standard of your approach roads. We assume that you have researched your wildflower seeds carefully as it is a tricky situation mixing introduced seed into the native hedgerow. Signage is in excellent condition. Tree planting further enhances the good impression.

Concluding Remarks:

It is indeed true to say that Clonegal Tidy Village Association and the wider community are preserving the built environment, the history, the culture and heritage of the village for future generations. Thank you for the descriptive and visual tour of your beautiful village that you are so rightly proud of. Well done to all involved in this year's submission and volunteer activities. Keep up the good work and strong community spirit.