

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Clonegal - Cluain na nGall	Ref: 37
County: Carlow	Mark: 356
Category: B	Date(s): 29/06/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	51	53
Streetscape & Public Places	80	43	44
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	51	53
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	38	39
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	24	25
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	68	69
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	34	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37	38
TOTAL MARK	550	346	356

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

Fáilte roimh chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu don bhliain 2022. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Ádh Mór Cluain na nGall.

- Thank you for your entry to the 2022 SuperValu Tidy Towns competition. Your entry form was comprehensive and well laid out. The map attached was excellent, highlighting projects and areas in the various categories and their location.
- Clonegal has an active Tidy Village Association with a committee of 9 and an additional 27 volunteers – impressive.
- The Thank you card you send to volunteers is very well presented and it is a lovely idea.
- Meetings to set up Resident associations is important and will enhance community development.
- The establishment of Clonegal Community Voice is a positive action with the engagement of new people and an input in future development.
- The list of support agencies within the county and nationally is very impressive.
- The group uses all communication strands – newsletter, social media
- Well done on the 3 year plan – it is clear and ambitious.

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

- Clonegal has an old and interesting heritage with a strong streetscape with a mixture of private houses and business premises.
- The Main Street is very attractive, the avenue to Huntingdon Castle is an added bonus and an extra interest.
- The Riverside amenity, Wicklow Way Park and the Watch House areas have seats and information boards – perfect for the visitor.
- The use of flowering plants at the school and the edge of the Wicklow Way Park softens the streetscape.
- The Weigh House was newly painted and looked fresh. The surrounds of the 4 water pumps in the village are all in good condition.
- The Wesleyan Church, now in private hands, is well renovated.
- The carpark area at the recycling centre was spotless. The planters at the edge of the carpark were well planted but perhaps looked out of place – they are neither a boundary edge nor a continuous floral display. Also, the wheelbarrows at the rear wall of the carpark were nicely planted but again I was not clear on their purpose.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

- There are a number of small open spaces that add to the environmental and amenity value of the village.

- The Wicklow Way Park is a lovely way to end a long walk along the Wicklow Way with an information board on the walk. The park was in good condition, well planted with a lavender hedge.
- Ben Mullhall Park gate was locked on the day of my visit. Your plans to create a community orchard in the park and extend the wildflower meadows will enhance the value of the park and I look forward to a revisit.
- The tree survey you commissioned in 2019 is an important source of information. As Ash dieback is affecting ash trees throughout the country, the examination of ash trees and their replacement should be considered.
- Trees are a real investment in the future and it is good to see that you have identified opportunities for tree planting.

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

- Congratulations on winning the Natural Heritage and Biodiversity award in the Carlow Pride of Place.
- Clonegal Tidy Village has a strong understanding of this sector. Well done on the production of information leaflets to encourage the planting and retention of pollinator plants.
- Well done on the meadow areas in the village. There is an opportunity to extend the wildflower meadows to green spaces in residential areas if residents agree as laid out in your 3-year plan.
- Consider carrying out the survey prepared by All Ireland Pollinator Plan on gathering data to assess the impact of the good work that Tidy Towns groups do. Flower Insect Timed Counts are very simple and will help track the impact of actions on insect numbers and diversity as well as providing important data for the Biodiversity Centre.
- Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT Count) - National Biodiversity Data Centre (biodiversityireland.ie)
- The river Derry adds to environmental and aesthetic value in Clonegal.

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

- The recycling area is in a very good location, in the centre of the village in the carpark across from the church. The recycling bins behind a short wall and trellis were clean and litter free. It will be important to check this area on a daily basis to ensure that there is no dumping behind the trellis. It was clear on the inspection day.
- Scrappy the Robot, in front of a mural advocating Reduce, Reuse Recycling, looked good next to recycling area and highlights the sustainable message.
- Rehome unwanted items is a very good idea and I hope this will be initiative will be revived following Covid times.
- Again I hope you will be able to progress on the awareness of energy programmes, in conjunction with the Three Counties Energy Agency in the future.
- I note the strategy of reducing hanging baskets. Empty hanging baskets stands were noted in the Wicklow Way Park perhaps you are considering another use for them.
- Well done on the information leaflets you produced to encourage the minimisation of waste.
- It is also good that you are looking into transport effects and ways of reducing this. Good luck with your efforts.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

- Clonegal is litter free. An anti-litter sign was noted on the way into the village.
- Congratulations on being recognised in 2021 Carlow Pride of Place for 'litter free' status.
- Well done on targeting dog fouling as a litter category
- Well done on your efforts to reduce litter bins, this promotes the Leave no trace attitude and encourages individuals to take responsibility and bring their waste home.

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

- The residential areas in Clonegal are all in good condition and it is clear that residents take pride in their area.
- The residential areas were well kept with communal areas in good condition. A previous suggestion would be to apply a 'no mow' area in the green spaces, particularly in areas such as that in front of Valley View - this is a steep area and would not be used as a kick about area by residents. Mowing a strip of the area indicates to all that this is a planned policy. This approach could be used in other residential areas. I see you are already registered on the All Ireland pollinator website – there is information on pollinator friendly grass cutting on the site that you might useful. I note you have listed this as an objective for St Bridgets Terrace.
- Individual houses are all in good condition with some with excellent gardens.

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

- All the approaches to Clonegal were clean, litter free and inviting. The Watch House Village entrance is very colourful providing something for everyone – seat, floral display, information board.
- This road leads to the bridge across the Derry river another lovely site to linger.
- The bank in front of Valley View was cleared and I see that there are plans to plant that area. The trees in this area are ash and are suffering from Ash die back – a replacement plan will be necessary.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to visit Clonegal. The Clonegal Tidy Village Association have made a positive impact on the village. Clonegal has a 'cared for and looked after' effect. Your engagement with the wide circle of residents and

businesses along with outside agencies will ensure that you continue to develop Clonegal in a constructive way. We wish you the best on your journey.