

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clonegal - Cluain na nGall** Ref: **37**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **362**
Category: **B** Date(s): **13/06/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	53	54
Streetscape & Public Places	80	44	45
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	53	54
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	39	40
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	25	25
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	69	70
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	35	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	38	39
TOTAL MARK	550	356	362

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 2023 Supervalu National Tidy Towns Competition Clonegal Tidy Village Association! This adjudicator was greatly impressed with the extensive list of supporting agencies, councils, bodies, businesses, and local groups. This attests to a longstanding commitment to collaboration and partnership. You employ a range of effective communication strategies - including a website, social media, newsletters and local newspapers. Involvement of the National School and local residents' in projects like clean-up days illustrate your dedication to cultivating a sense of ownership and pride within their community. For next year consider aligning the UN SDGs per project, not at the end of each category. I think there is scope also to be more succinct in some categories and projects to reduce the overall size of the submission e.g. removing the historical/building information from upfront and placing in an appendix, if necessary. Well done on your map – very clearly laid out.

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

Clonegal deserves great credit for their work in maintaining its streetscape and historical sites. Your efforts reflect a dedication to preserving both heritage and beauty of the village. I noted that most buildings were very well maintained, adding to the aesthetic appeal of the village. Your groups initiative in maintaining vacant houses shows you care for maintaining visual appeal in the community. While you face some challenges, your positive approach and focus on preserving heritage for future generations is commendable. I must give particular mention to Sean O'Duinn, PJ Dunne, your local school and Foodstore. There were so many beautiful little nuggets around the village it is hard to know where to start but all the public seating, sculptures and riverside setting made it a most memorable visit. The gate by the Hanging Stone could do with a paint and the nameplate opposite the school needs a clean.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Your landscaping is most impressive and maintained to such a high standard - congratulations. It is no wonder you won Gold in the Entente Florale competition. I appreciate your frustrations but remember the children would not be interested if it were not such an inviting place – I would take it as a compliment. At The Grotto, the decision to plant lavender and wildflowers instead of bedding plants exemplifies an environmentally responsible approach. Riverside's maintenance, as well as the educational information demonstrate your commitment to both education and community engagement.

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

Your commitment to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan in supporting pollinator-friendly practices and increasing biodiversity within the community is wonderful to see. Engagement between Carlow County Council, farmers, and other communities is one of the your greatest strengths, building positive relationships and collaboration will help you achieve your goals. Producing informative leaflets about pollinators and pollinator-friendly plants aids awareness-raising, while support of potential beekeeper initiatives and attendance at workshops demonstrate proactive efforts at conserving pollinators species. I was very impressed with the pollinator road embankments on two approach roads. Well done on all the work in this category. With the roll-out of Biodiversity Officers in local authorities this could be an important resource for you going forward.

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

Clonegal deserves praise for their positive efforts to advocate for enhanced public transportation, reduce waste, and preserve conservation. Production and distribution of informative leaflets encouraging waste reduction and decreased plastic usage are good but in themselves require resources – could this be done online or through posters in central locations? I absolutely loved "Scrappy," such a wonderful initiative. The Facebook Group Page dedicated to finding homes for unwanted items was a great idea, please do investigate ways of relaunching it. I noted your water conservation efforts through water butts and reduced hanging basket usage – if the poles are no longer needed consider removing them.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Once again you deserve praise for the proactive efforts in maintaining a clean and attractive environment – not one piece of litter was noted by this adjudicator. Your team of litter pickers work tirelessly to keep the village and approach roads free from litter that mar their surroundings. The discreet approach taken through the "Green Dog Walker" application form demonstrates a considerate and constructive approach. Great to see residents and visitors being encouraged to act responsibly when leaving litter behind in public spaces. The Bring Centre receptacles could do with a clean and the illuminated sign by Tala needs replacing. Aside from that all other aspects of the village were spotless.

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

You have the full backing of local residents with all homes and estates well presented. The pollinator embankment and formal landscaped entrance to Valleyview is wonderful as is the presentation of all homes on Main Street. In Moyacomb Meadows there is an absolutely outstanding home with front garden on the right as you enter. Some of the tree stakes here can be removed.

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

Clonegal Tidy Village and its community volunteers should be applauded for their outstanding efforts, especially given the numerous entrance roads leading to the village. All your approach signs were visible and cleaned – no further comments needed here, outstanding!

Concluding Remarks:

You are very fortunate to live in such a beautiful village and the community are very lucky to have such a dedicated Tidy Towns Group. Keep up the great work.