

Tidy Towns Competition 2021

Adjudication Report

Centre:	Newtowncashel - Baile Nua an Chaisil	Ref:	485
County:	Longford	Mark:	342
Category:	A	Date(s):	16/08/2021

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	48
Streetscape & Public Places	60	46
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	47
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	35
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	44
TOTAL MARK	470	342

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

Fáilte Chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 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. Thank you for your comprehensive entry form for this year's competition. It was beautifully illustrated with both aerial photographs and your hand drawn plan, both of which really allowed this adjudicator get a feel for the village in the absence of a visit. Your major project this year was your fountain and how great to see progress on a project such as this continuing given the constraints of the lockdown. The official opening seems to have been a great event to boost the community. We note the inclusion of your fountain and seating area under the Covid 19 Community award and look forward to visiting this feature which creates such a focal point in the village. It is a real landmark project and aids placemaking in its core position.

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

The fountain is a core project which will add so much to your streetscape as well as offering a resting spot and viewing point. We fully appreciate the time, planning and resources required to bring a project such as this to fruition. As you say it will be a beautiful setting for your future social and religious occasions and create a real sense of place in the village. The images of the work in progress and final setting of your peacock sculpture were lovely to see. The vibrant flower bed surrounding the peacock certainly sets off its colourful plumage to great effect. It is some achievement for your group to own three properties in the village with the resultant upkeep and maintenance responsibilities, so good luck with this. Keep up all the effort that is required to allow the village to be presented to visitors and residents alike in such an attractive fashion.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The bird eye images included in the application showed the lovely rural setting of your village. We hope the hazel hedgerows at the quarry are establishing well. Have you considered mapping the wildlife corridors in the village to ensure all new planting helps to further connectivity between your habitats? The all Ireland Pollinator plan website Ideas Hub web page has advice for communities to consider creating pollinator-friendly corridors through their local areas, creating foraging pitstops and safe shelter areas for pollinators. The Quarry, as you are aware, is a perfect sheltered and protected space for wildlife to thrive. This is a way to ensure all future landscape works carried out add to your landscape network and will be hugely valuable for all of your local biodiversity. We loved the range of sculptures in the village and the natural settings you have placed them in.

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

It is clear from your application that you understand the value of the habitats that surround the village. We thoroughly support your plans to concentrate more on pollinator plants to provide your seasonal colour. The revised Tidy Towns handbook has lots of advice on how to progress this approach to more sensitive landscape management. We note you use vinegar and water as an alternative to herbicides which is great for wildlife. Can you promote the conversion to more natural weed control throughout the community with manual actions or letting areas grow wilder? The use of your quarry compost area for free soil conditioners for all is great to see.

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

Your approach to the fountain project showcases your commitment to the circular economy using recycled and repurposed materials where possible. Keep up this approach with your future plans to use solar power for lighting in the area. How great to hear that more villagers are using active travel means to get about rather than reliance on cars. Your traffic management will help promote this travel pattern in a safe way. One of the positive outcomes of the lockdown was reduced vehicular traffic in many areas which allows more vulnerable road users walk and cycle in safety. Keep up the emphasis on this change in travel patterns and so help reduce local car journeys where possible. Is there a need for cycle parking stands in the village?

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Throughout the lockdown you have continued with your early morning litter patrols so well done to all involved with this. We would presume volumes of litter dramatically decreased over this period with fewer people on the roads. Keep up all your initiatives in this category.

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

The sensitive restoration of the old shop, the garda station and the old council cottage are admired and as you say, shows how new families have the potential to bring great energy to the village. Like yourselves we wish to add our voice to thank all local parishioners for all their effort and co operation during these strange times when we have all spent so much more time in our homes.

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

As a group one of your strengths seems to be in your ability to reach out for advice from many experts to advance your works. We are glad to hear that the local park ranger helped you adjust your roadside verge mowing strategy to benefit wildlife while still keeping the approaches to the village looking well. Keep up the pressure on the Local Authority to ensure all works to your roads are done in a sensitive way with respect for the local context when considering finishes and boundaries etc. and replanting any disturbed roadside hedgerows.

Concluding Remarks:

Newtowncashels long 42 history in the competition has helped cultivate your strong sense of pride in the village that is very evident from your application. From your application it is also clear that the last couple of years have resulted in changes of ownership and a new population mix. We are sure these new residents will only enhance the vibrant life in the village. We very much look forward to visiting soon and enjoying the view from your new village focal point