

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Newtowncashel - Baile Nua an Chaisil	Ref: 485
County: Longford	Mark: 351
Category: A	Date(s): 15/06/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	48	50
Streetscape & Public Places	80	46	47
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	47	48
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	35	36
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	22	23
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	65	66
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	35	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	44	45
TOTAL MARK	550	342	351

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

Fáilte 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. Adh Mór...

Welcome to the Tidy Towns competition for the 44th time. We really enjoyed our first visit to your village. It is very apparent that your committee and large volunteer group have been very active over many years and Newtowncashel is all the better for it. You appear to be well organised with good communications integrating and collaborating with all those who can assist in enhancing the village and environs. Your pivotal role in the community is clear from your ownership of three important properties. Congratulations to all concerned. Your strong link to the national school and local children is enhanced by having the school secretary on your committee and the recently developed school garden is another great platform, along with the quarry park, for ongoing cooperation, fun and education with younger members of the community.

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

Thank you for providing a list of your buildings. They are varied and range in age and appearance. They combine to create a great sense of place. All appeared to be well cared for and maintained. We were delighted to see the new water fountain which provides an important focal point and a central location for gatherings. We noted the resurfacing of the main street and the new benching. With sports facilities, a playground, and the quarry park you have an abundance of amenities that make Newtowncashel a very special place for young people. Having the Thomas Ashe Hall at your disposal for the CE staff who can work on projects like bird boxes on wet winter days is another bonus. Undoubtedly it took many years of hard work to bring all this about. Regarding the quarry park, the handrail for the steep incline and the steel mesh for the pond, they will reduce safety risks and satisfy your insurer. While the hassle and cost associated with these matters may be frustrating it is important to heed the advice of experts. Alas, what was considered safe in the past is no longer considered safe in 2023

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

It is great to have some seasonal colour at the centre of the town using perennials and/or annuals and where these are pollinator friendly species that is all the better. Your mystery horticultural benefactor clearly likes colour too. The native hazel hedge appears to be well established and growing well. More street trees would add to the sense of arrival at the centre of the village and perhaps you would consider a ring of trees behind the water fountain which would add to the Photinia hedging and provide a sense of enclosure. While the bright red evergreen Photinia hedging does little for wildlife, native tree species support a wide array of birds and insects. A combination of water and bird feeders would bring a lot of life and activity to this functional space

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

Your efforts to support biodiversity are commendable. Bird and bat boxes make a difference where they attract occupants. Your mowing regime is important, particularly early in the year where there are fewer dining options for pollinators and indeed for all wildlife. Signage helps where residents mistake rewilded areas for neglected areas. If you mow narrow strips around edges of green spaces and occasional “desire lines” are mown as pathways it will become clearer to all and sundry that this is a deliberate biodiversity intervention

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

The use of water butts, centralised composting, and sourcing environmentally sound materials e.g., recycled plastic seating are all great examples of “doing more with less” You are also recycling in two locations and perhaps you can start to look at the metrics with the waste management company. A year-to-year comparison would be interesting to report. Other possibilities might include a look at energy, transport, and ways to support homeowners to do more with water butts, reusable cups, etc.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We were impressed with the levels of cleanliness in the village. Your approach and use of WhatsApp is working. We did not see any of the tell-tale signs of chemical spray so again your objective to avoid their use appears to have been met.

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

You made a reference to residences under the “approach roads” category, perhaps on the basis that there are no housing estates. However, this category also covers individual homes, set in the own gardens or along a main street. We are happy to report that there are many attractive homes and gardens in the area and that there is a sense of great pride throughout

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

All approach roads were litter free, maintained, and clearly signposted. As flagged elsewhere you have provided seating and lighting. Your recycling facilities is also a bonus for visitors, although the placement of these bottle banks can be challenging. You are providing facilities for both residents and visitors; an advantage over many locations as staycations become more the norm and we are all more appreciative of our immediate surroundings following two years of restricted movement

Concluding Remarks:

It was an absolute pleasure to visit Newtowncashel for the first time. We spent quite some time exploring the quarry park and commend you for the standard of maintenance – this is a “natural” space not lending itself to being highly manicured. As you reported, the atrium is starting to disintegrate. When it comes to rebuilding weaving living willow will provide a space with a much longer shelf life, but it will require regular pruning/clipping. Elsewhere in the village we admired the new fountain. It will likely grow in popularity as it matures and becomes more integrated into the landscape