

Tidy Towns Competition 2021

Adjudication Report

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| Centre: Swinford - Béal Átha na Muice | Ref: 361 |
| County: Mayo | Mark: 291 |
| Category: C | Date(s): 14/08/2021 |

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2021 |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Community – Your Planning and Involvement | 60 | 45 |
| Streetscape & Public Places | 60 | 40 |
| Green Spaces and Landscaping | 60 | 39 |
| Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality | 50 | 36 |
| Sustainability – Doing more with less | 50 | 23 |
| Tidiness and Litter Control | 90 | 49 |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas | 50 | 30 |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes | 50 | 29 |
| TOTAL MARK | 470 | 291 |

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.

Welcome to the 2021 SuperValu TidyTowns competition. Thank you for your entry and for your commitment to your place in these difficult times. Keep up the great work.

It is great to see that you have continued to carry out your work, albeit virtually through WhatsApp, Zoom and phone calls and then to outdoor meetings. It is great to see that you interact with so many organisations and agencies in your community, from local businesses, government organisations and NGO's. You have very strong Channels of communication including social media such as your website, Facebook and Twitter as well as more traditional use of local papers to include those that don't avail of more digital communication methods.

25 years is an impressive length of time to be involved with the Tidy Towns initiative, congratulations and we look forward to having you with us for many more years to come and it is great to know that it has helped instill a sense of place and pride to the residents of Swinford

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

You have been very busy in this category with a lot of new projects completed despite the challenges of the past year or so. Well done on the work that you have done on the Courthouse, it is fantastic to see a historic building such as this get a new lease of life and has been repurposed into a digital hub as well as Coronors Court. Empty and derelict buildings is a very serious problem throughout the country, and you have done quite a lot of work in this area. Your work at Brookville Avenue has some fine buildings that you have brought back to life, including the lovely Lyric cinema with its distinctive [ART DECO] architecture is very impressive and a credit to those involved in the local Tus scheme. Similarly well done on your work around the Pound Lane area, and thank you very much for sending in the very clear, colourful pictures that illustrate all the hard work that you have achieved in this category. It is great to hear that you are conscious of those with accessibility issues and that you have adapted kerbs and crossing points to facilitate these users.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

There are some lovely planters and hanging baskets be seen around your town adding some lovely splashes of colour and vibrancy throughout your town. It is good that you extending the hedging along the amenity park on the Kiltimagh road. The planters and flower beds all appear to be very well maintained and attractive. Congratulations in your participation in the "One Million Trees in One Day Project" and the amount of work you are doing and have

planned to continue to plant native trees in new locations, subject to funding. We note also that you are looking at doing more in the way of planting wildflowers and I am sure you will include pollinator friendly plants to help our bird and insect population.

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

We very much look forward to seeing the community garden that you are in the process of creating at the entrance to the Rathunuas housing estate, and great to hear that you have decided to plant native fruit trees, and it is interesting to hear that this is a pilot project with the intention of recreating it in other areas of your town, so best of luck with it, I am sure it will be a great addition and used by many of your residents. It is heartening to hear that your work with Swift Conservation Ireland in relation to the Swinford Swift population is paying and that their numbers are continuing to increase. Thank you for the work that you have done in the replanting of trees in Brabazon woods in conjunction with the Brabazon Park Trustees. Also, keep up the great work on the maintenance of the stream that you are carrying out with the East Mayo Angling Association, which is not just important for visual amenity, but also as you mention as a spawning ground for salmon.

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

The New low energy LED lighting on the Main St is a great initiative, as is the solar compactor bin that you had installed at the square. The up cycled old gold trolleys that you have transformed into litter carts look great and are a fantastic idea, and the fact that most of the materials (nearly 100%) are recycled is fantastic. Other initiatives that you are carrying out in this category include using harvested rainwater for all your watering needs, reuse of composting from hanging baskets and planters in flowerbeds as well as only strip mowing the verges on approach roads.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

It is fantastic to hear that you have continued with your litter picks in Covid conscious "pods" and that the Good Friday Spring Clean had over 70 volunteers, well done on this. It sounded as though this was a huge community effort with hello from the Gateway Hotel, and sporting clubs, and an astonishing 120 bags of rubbish was collected, so kudos to all involved, and it is great to hear that it wasn't just a litter collection, but that you also ensured to make sure you could recycle where possible.

You are making a very concerted effort to keep weeds under control along the kerbs and approach roads with the help of road sweepers owned by one of your volunteers as well as Mayo County Council. The resurfacing of the roads and footpaths at Brookville Ave and St. Ita's look very well. The new state of the art compactor bin will surely help you continue with your good work.

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

It is lovely to hear that all of the housing estates in the town have some sort of nameplate at their entrance, as well as being practical it also helps give a sense of place and identity, although it would have been nice to see some photographs of these residential areas and housing estates and the lovely mature gardens that you mention. It is fantastic that you have open spaces that cater for all ages from the children's playground at the Brabazon woods area to the new MUGA park.

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

you have done a lot of work in this category which is great as the approach roads in particular can make or break a first good impression for anyone visiting Swinford, or indeed just passing through and might then decide to take a break and linger awhile in your town. Some of the work that you plan mentions that you have completed includes the completion of the wall and fencing along the stream to the playground as well as landscaping, the construction of a new footpath between Woodlands estate to the footpath at the playground. There is also ongoing work on flowerbeds, the restoration of old buildings which certainly help improve the appearance of your streets.

Concluding Remarks:

Thank you for your continuing involvement with the Tidy Towns Competition and it is fantastic that you have managed to keep the momentum going in these challenging times and have entered this year's competition, even if it is virtual.

Also it was great to see your 5 Year Plan, it was very clear and well laid out, and I liked the positive DONE in red letters to show what you have achieved in recent times and there is a huge range of projects and ideas, and it is really interesting to see what you are planning to do in the short, medium and long term, so congratulations so well done and we look forward to seeing some of the project come into fruition in the future.