

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kinvara - Cinn Mhara**

Ref: **960**

County: **Galway**

Mark: **301**

Category: **B**

Date(s): **05/07/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	46	47
Streetscape & Public Places	80	42	44
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	38	40
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	29	31
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	21	23
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	31	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	30	31
TOTAL MARK	550	291	301

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. Thank you very much for your application to this year's competition and for providing your Three Year Plan, map, as well as including some fantastic photographs. You have a very healthy number of 12 people on your Committee as well as an additional 63 volunteers, with very regular meetings, as well as being active of the Kinvara Community Council. The work that you do appears to involve many of the organisations, clubs and businesses in Kinvara, as well as close relationships and support from many government agencies, such as the Men's Shed, the Dolman Group, Galway County Council as well as the many environment groups.

I really enjoyed seeing the photographs of your community in action, which shows really well how much work you put into your village, the pride you take, as well as what looks like a healthy amount of fun and craic as well. This is evident by the number of festivals and community events that you have throughout the year, and make sure that these are carried out in as sustainable manner as possible. Great to hear of the influx of new families into the village, and well done on the work that you have done to welcome Ukrainian refugees and the sunflower planting.

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

There were some extremely vibrant and striking shops and premises to be seen in the village such as Siar., Healing Harvest, Conoles, and Wild Beans which had a subtle but stunning soft green colour scheme, as well as The Secret Garden, not to mention the Merriman Hotel with its reputedly largest thatched roof in Ireland. The colourful murals to be found throughout the village were charming and added vibrancy. The remembrance plaque and the landscape around it looked well, though I thought the red no entry sign placed here detracted slightly from its appearance. The pollinator friendly planting to be found throughout the village was admired, and there are some gorgeous planters and hanging baskets to be found in the village, including one beautiful display outside what looked to be a residential house on the hill up towards the village main street. The slipway area looked well and the pollinator pots were admired, and well done on your work on the Quay area, including the addition of a wheelchair bench, a lot of work being done in this category

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Great work on the five-year planting plan for your flowers and shrubs, and for trying to increase the number of pollinator friendly planting, not to mention the tree planting at Funshin, and the huge amount of work that must have gone into the Kinvara Ballindeeren Tree Project, with over 2400 native trees planted. The tree audit is a fantastic idea, and was good to see the additional trees planted in the Hollytree Garden. The Quay area looked very attractive with a very attractive information board, planters and cheerful bright red benches. The Memorial Garden area

looked very well on the day that I visited, as did the Community Centre Garden.

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

A lot happening in this area as well, the Hollytree Garden Biodiversity project was spotted, along with the bug and insect hotel, and pollinator friendly zone.

The results of your tree audit should be interesting and help you to inform future planting in this area to help ensure biodiversity, as will the mini forest learning lab in conjunction with BurrenBeo. Thank you also for providing the table outlining the planting plan for the Miyawaki tree project, this was extremely interesting to see.

Other work being done in this category includes your biodiversity talks project, the use of organic manure, the use of native plants and input into the local Galway County development Plan, as well as the Galway Biodiversity and pollinator Plan for 2022 to 2025, great work!.

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

The Plastic Free Group is a wonderful initiative, there is so much waste caused by both the production of plastic products, as well as the disposal of them, especially with bottles of water and the likes of disposable coffee cups etc., and this merger will I am sure be very beneficial to the village as a whole. Good work in this category on trying to be more sustainable including the use of native trees and sourcing locally and from Reforest Nation, using your own compost, and to encourage local businesses to be more sustainable. Good luck with your refillable coffee cup campaign, and also with your plans to install a water filter tap in the village. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland is a great source of information on how to be more energy efficient as well as often providing grants for both businesses and domestic dwellings, and we will be interested to hear the results of your application for funding of an Energy Master Plan. Lots of other initiatives being done as well, such as the rainwater collection, the Kinvara Earth Keeper Programme, as well as the promotion of recycling and reuse as much as possible.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Congratulations on your achievements on winning the special prize for 'Leave no Trace', it is evident that this is a principle that you embody, and the amount of work that you do with community groups, including the younger members of the village shows that it is something you take very seriously.

The Mutt Mitt bags were seen, along with the signs reminding of the fines for dog fouling, and we hope that this has helped reduce the incidence of dog fouling to be seen in the village.

Some really good ideas in this category such as your new 'litter squads', as well as trying to spread the load with as many members of the community being involved to ensure that your mission to 'love this place' and 'leave no trace' is achieved, great work.

There was some litter to be seen throughout the village, but very little considering that your village was bustling with people on the day that I visited.

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

There are many fine buildings and charming houses to be found in the village, with beautiful coloured facades with plenty of plants and flowers, in particular, there was a beautiful grey house just as you go up the hill which was resplendent with gorgeous flowers around the front door and windowboxes with a pop of pink flowers. Some of the residential estates visited included Bothar na Mias, and the works planned for here will certainly enhance the area, Convent Park and Convent Road, Arvough, and the new enhancement project at Arvough was admired and will look even better when it has a bit of time to mature.

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

The various stone Welcome signs to Kinvara create a very warm welcome and the etched boat motif found on all of them, as well as the gorgeous boat planter are a reminder of your coastal location. The boat planter was looking very fresh and spruce, and well done to the Men's and Foróige groups for their involvement with this. I was glad to hear that you have plans to sandblast some of your welcome signs, as this will give them a bit of a facelift. The approach roads were all clean and litter free when I visited, obviously thanks to the work of your 'litter squads', well done!

Concluding Remarks:

It was an absolute pleasure to visit your charming village and fantastic to see so much colour and vibrancy everywhere, from businesses to private houses, best of luck with your entry and with the many projects that you have in train.