

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kinvara - Cinn Mhara**

Ref: **960**

County: **Galway**

Mark: **316**

Category: **B**

Date(s): **03/07/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	47	48
Streetscape & Public Places	80	44	46
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	40	42
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	31	33
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	23	25
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	31	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	31	33
TOTAL MARK	550	301	316

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.

Thank you for your application, map and copy of your three year plan. Kinvara Tidy Towns are a very active group with a committee of ten members. There is also a large number of volunteers consisting of members from many groups within the village. New residents to the area are particularly welcome. You are active members of Kinvara Community Council attending regular meetings. It is an important platform to be able to give input and also receive support for your projects. Events organised in the village are supported by all groups, which shows good community spirit and this commended. Support for your projects, such as advice and of course funding is received from Galway County Council, all other agencies, businesses, youth and sporting organisations and the wider community. There are a number of communication levels such as social media, WhatsApp and of course face to face. As your presence on the streets is notable, it is a good way for people to get involved. Kinvara has taken part in the Tidy Towns competition for a number of years. Tourism is important to Kinvara and it is good to note that projects completed has helped to enhance the village and hopefully bring more tourists on board. It has given the community a better pride in the place they live. The hospitality of Kinvara is excellent as noted by the adjudicator on day of adjudication.

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

Kinvara is a picturesque village set in a superb location overlooking Kinvara Bay. The streetscape has retained many of the traditional businesses and shop fronts. The Merrimen Hotel is an iconic building which features a traditional thatch roof. The buildings are well presented and welcoming. Many other businesses brought their own charm to the streetscape by their presentations of well painted facades and floral displays. They include Foxes, the Wild Beans coffee shop and Fallon's B&B to name just a few. The buildings along the streetscape varied from stone build to colourful painted facades which brought colour and atmosphere to the village. The National School was also admired on its presentation. The community centre which is an important facility for the community was also admired. The Garda Station also impressed. The Quay area was buzzing with activity from walkers to cyclists or just people relaxing on the brightly painted seating, enjoying the views of Dunguaire Castle. The heritage information here gives good information on various sites to be visited. You are also working with owners of unoccupied houses to have them freshened.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Landscaping in the village is of a very high standard. Hanging Baskets and floral displays bring colour and interest to the streetscape. The planters are shared and maintained by the businesses and residents along the main street

and quay area. Planting is done in conjunction with the National pollinator plan which includes more seasonal planting in all landscaping. Ground planting where feasible is encouraged as it reduces work for volunteers. In your area planters are moved to different locations if required. The community centre had some splendid planting noted. The memorial garden offers space where all members of the community can relax. Trees are a big feature in the garden and are being added to continually. Part of your plan is to plant more native trees at different locations throughout the village, which is commended.

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

The village and surroundings are rich in biodiversity and natural habitats. The management and protection of local species and nature is important. Your biodiversity plan is progressing by engaging with groups who have the knowledge and experience in this area. Groups are encouraged to host talks and walks on nature in your area. You have hosted three talks as part of your plan. Hollytree garden is a natural wildflower garden with more wild flowers peeping through on a regular basis. There is also an increase in the number of birds noted. The community are encouraged to leave grass uncut for longer periods of time to allow wild flowers to bloom. The use of chemical spray for the control of weeds is discouraged. The increase in wildflower meadows and more pollinator friendly plants are used in landscaping.

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

This is an area where the community by their actions tries to make their area more sustainable and reduce impact on the environment. You are doing good work in this regard. The chairman of your group has become an ambassador with An Taisce. His goal is to use the knowledge gained to support sustainable goals in the future. Food waste campaign is being promoted through Tidy Towns and Galway County Council, to monitor waste through bins supplied and also hope to look at shopping habits, where a reduction in the amount of food purchased would help to make great savings. The community centre will benefit from a major retrofit which will result in a big saving in energy and reduce costs to the community. Growing seeds in the poly-tunnel is also among future plans. Encouraging the community to shop local is also being done. Rainwater harvesting is a saving the wider community could avail of. Do continue to document all projects in this section otherwise they may go unnoticed and not get the recognition they deserve.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

There is a good plan in place in regard to controlling and trying to combat litter. Spring clean-ups creates awareness and gets the community involved. Controlling litter is about the wider community getting involved and helping out. You are fortunate to have a good number of helpers. There are also the additional clean-ups along the beach. Dog fouling signs have been erected and bags provided for pet owners to clean up after their pets. Weeds are removed manually refraining from using chemical weed control. The bottle bank is placed in a good location and looked bright and colourful with the help of two planted containers. There was however some weed growth along kerbs at this site.

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

The residential estates have all good entrance signs, well maintained green areas and colourful landscaping. Trees and pollinator friendly plants are included in the landscaping. Homes throughout the village have neat gardens and colourful floral displays, such as planters, window boxes or hanging baskets bringing great colour to the streetscape of the village. The children's play area is monitored and maintained in good order. The residents are commended on the work they do in maintaining their homes to such a high standard and also helping out with other projects in the village and surroundings.

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

The approach roads to Kinvara certainly gives a very good first impression to those entering the village and does not disappoint throughout the village. Stone entrance signs that have been cleaned and planted with good landscaping were admired. The planted boats on two entrance roads are very much in keeping with the location of the village. New trees and pollinator friendly planting were admired. Hollytree garden also had signage cleaned and new planting. The verges along the approach roads, provide corridors for wildlife and still look neat. Footpaths are generally good. Traffic flowed well and there was ample parking.

Concluding Remarks:

Kinvara was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. You have a good plan in place to cover all the categories, to develop and enhance this splendid village further. Keep up the good work and you are wished well in the future.