

Tidy Towns Competition 2021

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardclough - Ard Cloch** Ref: **353**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **329**
Category: **B** Date(s): **11/08/2021**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	54
Streetscape & Public Places	60	42
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	41
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	41
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	37
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	40
TOTAL MARK	470	329

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu 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. We are delighted to see that the Community Council provided regular updates via video to the community. We commend Ardclough Youth Theatre for hosting an online workshop around the theme of community. You have made great use of social media during the lockdown and we are glad to see you have an Ardclough Whatsapp group and its heritage theme. Well done. We are impressed with the volunteers for recording birdsong for identification. We also liked the organisation of the virtual heritage week in addition to the St. Patricks Day Virtual Celebration. Thank you for submitting the photographs. You clearly have organised a variety of community online projects in the passed two years such as Christmas lights 7 online Wren boys, International Festival of Youth Theatre, Walking tours, classic drama, heritage walks and Ardclough recollections. Well done. You have been very proactive in this category.

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

We see that you had planters placed outside the school gates. We are glad to read that children were involved in this project also. We liked the idea of placing Church bunting on the Church for St. Patricks day and Easter. Additionally the bunting placed for St. Patricks on the Ardclough triangle looks vibrant. The painting of the electric wiring box has eye appeal and we liked the depiction of the canal bridge and swans.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The garden at Ardclough Village centre is well presented and we like the timber signage. We are pleased to learn that it is organised with pollinator friendly plants. We commend the art work using autumn leaves produced by the children of St. Anne's National School. We are pleased to see the outdoor table and chairs in the Ardclough Village Centre. We wish you the best with the plans for the bicycle storage units and a repair station. St. Anne's Church is well maintained and we liked the vibrant colours of the planters.

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

You have provided a detailed list of the species of birds to the community and visitors. Similarly you have created a list of mammals. Well done to the volunteers for organising a nature hunt for the children of Ardclough. This was a valuable learning experience for the children. We see that a wildlife expert engaged with the local children. We like the owl boxes and are glad to hear that you are continuing the area's reputation as a welcoming home for the owl.

We see that local volunteers engaged with the school children for national tree week. Well done

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

We were delighted to learn that you held an event in the village centre for the children to make St. Brigid's crosses from local rushes. We liked the reusing cardboard and plastic project that the school children took part in. This was a key learning opportunity for them and we were impressed by the creation of their own bird boxes from milk cartons. Similarly the volunteers worked with children in growing their own vegetables. We are pleased to see that the children were also taught the importance of wildflower seeds for diversity. Well done. We like the pledge made by the Youth Theatre to reduce Covid Waste. It is great to see so many young people involved in this Youth Theatre. We wish Ardclough the best with the development of Kyrie Farm. This is an interesting future project.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done on the youth clean up organised in Autumn 2020. We commend the young paddlers from the hinterland for carrying out the annual litter clean up using boats in the water. We see your challenges with household items being dumped in Ardclough from nearby urban areas. We commend you for tackling this problem by removing the litter quickly. We can see that dedicated volunteers are maintaining the two graveyards.

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

We liked the display of colourful flowers in Wheatfield Estate. We also liked the outdoor timber seat in the estate which no doubt is functional in these times. The newly painted bollards on the entrance to the estate look well. It is good to learn that residents actively take part in litter clean ups.

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

We liked the daffodils in the front of the school. Well done on the development of the footpath with walking facilities from the Ardclough village triangle to St Anne's National school. This is well presented and looks safe. The scenic gate lodge is an eye catching feature in the village and we are pleased to see that you are maintaining it. We wish you the best with the development of the village car parking spaces and pedestrian access.

Concluding Remarks:

Unfortunately we were unable to visit Ardclough on this occasion due to Covid restrictions. We appreciate and acknowledge all your work and commitment during the passed two years. We hope to visit Ardclough again in the near future.