

Tidy Towns Competition 2021

Adjudication Report

Centre: Mullingar - An Muilleann gCearr	Ref: 206
County: Westmeath	Mark: 316
Category: G	Date(s): 02/08/2021

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	43
Streetscape & Public Places	60	47
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	45
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	30
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	38
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	40
TOTAL MARK	470	316

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. Mullingar Tidy Towns group is welcome to their 34th year of participation in the Tidy Towns competition; well done and thank you for a fine submission with supporting photographs in the body of the application. The committee has created strong links with a wide variety of groups and statutory bodies as well as the business community and sporting organizations and is well poised for success. Your adjudicator is full of admiration for the Mullingar Heritage Trail App which was launched earlier this year and looks forward to the day when its possible to try it out in-situ; thank you for the link to download it. Congratulations also on the acquisition of the Tidy Towns van which is used to transport equipment and collect bags of rubbish from different locations. The group's Covid activities are admirable in addition to the utilisation of social media alongside your new Newsletter to reach all sections of the community. We note and appreciate the input of CE and TUS workers together with members of the Men's Shed. We look forward to welcoming the planned new Junior Tidy Towns committee on board. We anticipate great wildlife actions ahead with the implementation of Mullingar's new 10 Year Biodiversity Plan

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

Your adjudicator is aware of Mullingar's fine and handsome streetscape from previous adjudications. The new app will be a great asset to gaining a deeper understanding of the towns-built heritage all of which are maintained to a high standard of presentation. Well done on universal accessibility to the council's buildings, we note your civic amenity premises also. The Town Park is a wonderful combination of fun areas, quiet space, landscaped areas and areas for wild life appreciation, a great balance has been achieved here and all within walking distance of the main thoroughfare. Best wishes for every success to the new shop which has opened this year and is brightly painted to complement its streetscape. work in this category of the competition reflects the Global Sustainable Development Goal 11 "Sustainable Cities and Communities"

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Refurbishment of the platform at the old Mullingar Racetrack which is now part of the Greenway sounds like an exciting initiative which will enhance recreational amenity opportunities significantly in Mullingar. Well done to those students from the CBS and the National school that did so much excellent landscaping work and appreciation is extended to the TY students also. It seems that all green areas have received appropriate attention and enjoy an excellent standard of maintenance. Landscaping at Woodlands Avenue and Buckleys SuperValu carpark is favourably noted in addition to Lynn Road. The History panel is a nice touch. No doubt the summer Shopfront

Hanging Basket competition has been a great success give the lovely weather we've had this summer.

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

It is good to note the intention to consult with the community on the implementation of your new 10 year Biodiversity Plan for Mullingar. Your community garden and public orchard is no doubt a wonderful asset for all. Biodiversity along the River Brosna and the Royal Canal is something to celebrate and promote awareness of; the installation of the six information panels on the River Brosna Heritage Trail is excellent and the biodiversity of the Famine Graveyard is not forgotten either. , the community garden at Ardleigh, and the new Sensory Garden at the Springfield Sports Complex are fine creations. Work in this category of the competition echoes the SDG 15 "Life on Land"

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

Well done to the "Wholesome Kitchen" on Dominick Street in their efforts to minimize the use of non-recyclables, the decision to feature a plastic free zone and only use compostable takeaway packaging in addition to participating in the Conscious Cup Campaign and the use of LED lighting together with 100% green renewable energy to power their building is most impressive. Rechargeable points for electric cars are favourably noted at a number of locations in the town. We note the use of river water for plants, is there water harvesting also which would be especially useful in dry periods. Mullingar is well catered for with two recycling centres; one dedicated to garden waste, light bulbs paint etc., and the other for the more usual recyclables. The second-hand sales and clothes swap particularly for soccer and football jerseys is a great idea. The use of cardboard as a way to stunt weed growth is very imaginative; it is good to note that all plastic pots are returned to the nursery supplier for reuse

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The 'before and after' photographs of graffiti on Harbour Street are superb, thank you. Appreciation is extended also to parents of students who supplied refreshments after litter picks. We note the input of Transition Year students alongside National School pupils for litter picking; also noteworthy are the regular litter picks along the Royal Canal. The appointment of a Schools Co-ordinator and liaison with the schools has proved to be very effective in the management of litter control in Mullingar.

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

Your focus this year has been to engage with residents and encourage two-minute clean-ups; encouragement might also be given to attention to roadside boundary walls which are often weather stained. Ardleigh residents are wished every success possible in the management of their new Community Garden, the input from the Tidy Towns group is acknowledged also. Residents might also be encouraged to survey wild birds that visit their own gardens.

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

Mullingar appears to be well provided with cycle lanes both throughout the town and along approach roads which complements SDG 7 "Affordable and Clean Energy". We note that Westmeath County Council maintains the town's approach roads.

Pedestrian access to the Canal at a number of bridges is a welcome feature also. Stone walls appear to be getting the maintenance they deserve being such handsome elements of the built environment. Work accomplished for landscaping roundabouts are favourably noted.

Concluding Remarks:

Mullingar is a handsome town with many fine heritage features and a wealth of recreational amenity opportunities on offer to the community. the Tidy Towns group has been instrumental in what Mullingar has to offer its own people and the wider community.