

Tidy Towns Competition 2021

Adjudication Report

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| Centre: Rosslare - Roslair | Ref: 258 |
| County: Wexford | Mark: 342 |
| Category: C | Date(s): 25/07/2021 |

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2021 |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Community – Your Planning and Involvement | 60 | 58 |
| Streetscape & Public Places | 60 | 41 |
| Green Spaces and Landscaping | 60 | 49 |
| Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality | 50 | 37 |
| Sustainability – Doing more with less | 50 | 15 |
| Tidiness and Litter Control | 90 | 67 |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas | 50 | 37 |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes | 50 | 38 |
| TOTAL MARK | 470 | 342 |

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

Cuireann an moltóir fáilte roimh Rosslare - Ros Láir páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta na mBailte Slachtmhara 2021. Thank you for entering the Tidy Towns Competition for the 22nd time and for your concise submission including the draft letter, map, derelict sites document and 3-year plan. It is unfortunate that due to the current circumstances, it is not possible for the adjudicator to visit Rosslare in person to see the works undertaken by Rosslare Tidy Towns since 2019. However, the information provided in your Entry Form together with the knowledge gained by the adjudicator on previous visits allows an accurate assessment to be made. The spread of Covid 19 and the resulting health crisis in Ireland has been very challenging for local communities throughout the country. It is noted that you have 6 members of your committee and a further 8 volunteers who assist with your work, and it is fully recognised that getting younger volunteers involved is proving difficult at the present time. However, given the circumstances you have made an effort to encourage each other with regular phone calls, emails etc. and you maintained good communication encouraging each other to progress some specific projects always keeping in mind the ongoing public health advice.

In relation to the monthly meetings, have you considered organising these on-line until it is safe to meet in person or perhaps you may be able to meet in person with the required social distancing? It is noted that you work closely with many of the Residential Estates in Rosslare and hopefully this will continue. You continue to maintain strong links to local business, sports and community groups and use newsletter and social media and 4 community noticeboards to keep in contact with the local community. I would encourage you to pursue the plans for a junior tidy towns as this will add a vibrancy to your group and will secure Tidy Towns activities in Rosslare Strand for the future.

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

It is noted that you have made good progress on resolving some issues relating to derelict properties in Rosslare Strand (as detailed in your attached derelict properties document) and perhaps this can be a regular item for future discussion with Wexford County Council and the property owners concerned, to see where solutions to any outstanding issues can be found. You mention the only open green space in Rosslare Strand and the uncertainty regarding its ownership etc. Perhaps this item falls within the green spaces and landscaping category. In any event, although it is unregistered, the ownership could be clarified with a legal property search and perhaps the County Council could assist you with this. The important issue here is that the space is retained into the future for public use and perhaps the Council would take it in charge and assist with the necessary improvements, such as new seating and outdoor gym. One wonders whether you have made any progress in relation to the implementation of an overall plan for the improvement of the environs of the railway station, in consultation with Iarnród Éireann, as recommended in the 2019 adjudication report?

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

It is good to note that despite the pandemic you have succeeded in renewing all your floral displays numbering 38 in total with pollinator friendly planting including boats, roadside beds, and planters installed at various others placed on approach roads, in the main carpark and along streets. You are commended for this work completed despite the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. It would be good to see some photos of the planters showing the impact of these features on the surrounding areas. Have you made any progress on the boundary along the frontage of the Watersports garden area, as mentioned in the 2019 adjudicator's report?

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

A project you have completed this year under this category relates to sand dune regeneration and planting carried out near the entrance to the beach with good community involvement in association with Clean Coasts. It would be good to see some photos of this work. Do you still have the Glossy Ibis present on the wetlands near the town and has any progress been made in possible designation of this area a wildlife reserve, as mentioned in the 2019 Adjudicator's report?

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

The organizing of a public clean-up day and metal recycling skip for local residents are very worthwhile initiatives to prepare the town and environs for the summer season and to minimize waste in the area. Have you considered taking any steps to investigate the possibility of rainwater harvesting to facilitate the watering of summer floral displays and the provision of solar panels on the roof the Community Centre, to provide water heating and power generation, as recommended in the 2019 Adjudicator's report? The installation of electric-car charging points at several public locations in the town e.g., at the beach car park, train station etc. was also recommended and could be progressed further under this category.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

It is recognized that the Pandemic has negatively impacted on your regular litter picking and cleaning regime. However, it is good to note that local businesses have been able to assist you with night-time litter picks which no doubt has kept the litter situation in the centre of the town under control. We wish you continued success with the upgrading of public lighting schemes and overhead wires in the town as these can detract significantly from the streetscape and general presentation of buildings.

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

The adjudicator recognizes that limited progress has been achieved in relation to this category since 2019, mainly due to the impact of the public health restrictions imposed as a result of the pandemic. However, some specific recommendations for improvements to residential areas were included in the 2019 Adjudicator's report and one wonders has any progress been made on the implementation of these, over the intervening period?

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

The adjudicator is pleased to note that good progress has been achieved over the last 12/18 months in the upgrading and renewal of footpaths and that you receive strong support from local politicians in this regard. Keep up the good work in relation to this.

Concluding Remarks:

Rosslare Tidy Towns is not unique in terms of the difficulties it has experienced in trying to progress Tidy Towns works in the midst of a serious pandemic and public health crisis, experienced over the last one and a half years. However, you have made some progress despite these difficulties and are commended for your continued efforts and achievements and future plans in this regard, and you are wished well for the future.