

# Tidy Towns Competition 2023

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bodyke - Lúbán Díge** Ref: **1791**  
County: **Clare** Mark: **300**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **07/06/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	33	34
Streetscape & Public Places	80	41	43
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	44	46
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	19	20
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	20	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	34	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	35	36
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>300</b>

### 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. Adh Mór....

Welcome to the 2023 SuperValu TidyTowns competition and we thank you for your completed application form, photos, and for your map. You also attached your Bodyke Community Development Plan 2020-2022 where you detailed your plans. Hopefully these have been completed and you are now preparing a new plan. If any of the Actions are unfinished then put them into your new plan ..... sometimes projects take longer than we think.

Your committee of 10 has the help of another 10-12 volunteers when additional hands are needed. We read that nearly 200 people from the Ukraine are now living in East Clare Holiday Village. Have any of these become involved in your projects? You may be surprised at the expertise you could find amongst them and perhaps they will not only help but will also lead a project/action.

You list state and semi-state organisations and agencies, local councillors, business and individuals who support your work financially or with advice and help. You have a Facebook Page with over 730 followers – we loved the ‘Congratulations’ cake for Emily, Jerry and Cáit as they graduate from 6th class; what a lovely gesture! In addition, you use the more traditional methods for those not on social media – parish bulletins, local newspapers and local radio. Participation in the Supervalu TidyTowns competition has resulted in the development of a great sense of togetherness and pride and community spirit. It also highlights the skills within the community and has encouraged people to come together and create new friendships.

Please see Concluding Remarks for advice on filling out the Application Form and producing the map.

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

You are a rural village with a mix of vernacular single and two-storey buildings and these with the topography of the village, its road layout, and great views across the countryside gives your village its character. The dominant buildings in the village are the RC church of Our Lady of the Assumption, with its beautiful timber altar, the Cobbler's Rest, and the now closed Malones Foodmarket (hopefully someone will take this over). We admired the restored flatiron gate originally made by your local farrier, Tommy Browne. The capping on the stone walls is also a tribute to his trade. We suggest removing the plough and installing tools associated with the blacksmith/farrier trade instead. Are there any remains of the forge behind all the brambles? We noted the pump with the yellow bucket and seat. Don't allow ivy and weed growth to encroach on the surrounding stone walls. The blue church wall with the white capping looked good. We were delighted to see the stile in the wall – unusual for a church wall. We noted other flatiron gates in the village – good to see these have been retained. We noted the sign for the Ballydonaghane Mass Rock in the church – is this near Bodyke? Make a record of the historical buildings/structures/items in your area and put the information on your Facebook page – at some stage in the future perhaps an Historical Structures Trail could be made. The mosaic on the National School is particularly beautiful – we loved it.

## **Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:**

You have a very pleasant green area at the junction of the R352 and R465 with neat fencing, beautifully painted piers and gate, row of trees and neatly trimmed grass. You have installed a bug hotel, historical information signs and a plough. Don't clutter this area which is quite small. Your other communal green space is Bodyke Community Park at Minogue's Corner which, we read in your Development Plan, was laid out following the demolition of a shed by Clare Co Co. We particularly liked the wildflower garden but truthfully it all looked good – walls freshly painted, seats clean, flags flying from the flag poles, footpaths litter free etc. We question the three metal planters in the planting bed; the guideline for plant containers is to use them only where planting directly into the ground is not possible so therefore, we encourage you to plant directly into the bed and desist using pots/containers in this location. The trailing flowers along the stone wall leading to the Community Park were quite beautiful – aubrieta, roses, wood sorrel etc. Remove the plants, however, from the seating area along this wall. The hanging baskets along the entrance to the village from the Ennis side were noted but they need trailing plants which cover the baskets.

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

Bodyke is fortunate to have the wealth of stone walls, hedgerows, mature trees, fields, woodlands etc. all around the village which are great habitats for our wildlife. As you don't have a huge amount of roadside frontage to effectively present a semi-wild habitat we question if it would be acceptable to make the green area in the church grounds into a semi-wild habitat and to only mow a narrow strip along the outer edge to show that the wilderness behind is deliberate? This would result in a great collection of wildflowers and grasses so that the bees and other pollinators have a constant source of food. The bug hotel in the shape of a horse shoe is a bit of fun - compliments to the maker. Did you develop/progress any walking trails as indication in Action 2 of your Development Plan? A circular walk is always popular so we encourage you to continue with this as it brings the community into nature, helping to increase their understanding /appreciation.

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

This is a category where many communities struggle but truthfully it is just about being aware of how we use the resources of the planet so that we cut down on our waste. Tidy towns committees are encouraged to try and prevent the generation of waste when carrying out their day-to-day activities. We read that you undertake various actions and projects which relate to this category, all of which are commendable. We looked for the rain water harvest tanks and noted one at the Cobbler's Rest. We couldn't find the other one. We spotted solar panels on some of the houses and we encourage you to engage with the community in advancing this sustainable lifestyle for others. During Covid quite a number of state and semi-state organisation organised Webinars and many were on subjects which relate to this category. Did you take part in any? Some are still available on-line. We suggest that you contact your environmental officer and he/she will assist you.

## **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

We read that you take part in the National Spring Clean-Up, with help from the pupils and teachers of the National School, residents from the village and residents living on the approach roads. This is a great way to get the community actively participating to advance their locality. We are delighted to report that when we visited, although located on a busy road, there was very little litter to be seen. We admire that you pick a road each and ask locals to do outside their house and around the area where they live. Unfortunately, there was considerable weed growth along some of the roadside kerbs, which we appreciate is difficult to remove due to you being located on busy road. But this gives an unkempt feel to the village and so this work must be undertaken. We suggest that the litter pick up volunteers also become weed removal volunteers and ask them to bring a hoe/spade and brush and to also remove weed growth. The gravel areas can be sprayed with organic weed killer or a mix of vinegar, salt and washing up liquid. Signs and poles need to be washed /repainted in some instances.

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

The standard of presentation of individual houses within the village and on the approach roads was generally very good and we congratulate the many home owners and occupiers who clearly take pride in their property. Many had freshly painted boundary walls and gates and those with gardens had them neatly tended and planted with colourful flowers and shrubs. The small Beechwood Lawn estate located near the centre of the village had new footpaths and the houses and gardens were, generally, well cared for. We admired the lavender and roses in one of the planting beds.

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

You have new welcome signs on the approach roads. We like that you have followed the theme of the Bodyke Evictions Scenes through to these signs – the attack on O'Halloran's Fort etc. Traffic calming measures have been promised to you and truthfully you are in need of this as when we were there, we witnessed quite a number of cars driving at high speeds through the village.

We are delighted to see that the footpaths extend to the 50km sign on the Ennis and Scariff sides of the village making it safe for those living on the outskirts of the village to access the centre. This is crucial along such a busy road. You have also been promised a traffic calming table which will help slow the traffic as it approaches the school. Truthfully this is vital for your community as the speed of the traffic which we witnessed on the R465 is quite fast, particularly as they exist the village.

We noted a dipped kerb with rumble strip very close to the junction of the R456 and R352 – is this a safe location near this busy intersection particularly as the sweep of the road is quite wide with no need for vehicles to slow down to negotiate the turn? Maybe pedestrian lights are needed here to ensure pedestrian safety. Cut back all planting which encroaches on road signage. When will the flashing speed signs you mentioned be installed? Hopefully these will help to reduce traffic speeds.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

We enjoyed our visit to your village, which we knew quite well having passed through many times in the past. Below are a few suggestions to help you advance in this competition, it is not a criticism of your work.

Please list the projects in bullet form and state which are New (N) or Maintained (M) and give each a number which is then transferred to the map. N1, N2 N3...etc. M1, M2, M3...etc. This is to help the adjudicators to negotiate their way around your town and see the various projects or locations of projects.

Insert the photos into the relevant categories on the application form – if you don't know how to do this get a teenager to help and let this be his/job for your committee.

You need to reference the Sustainable Development Goals. Tidy Towns in conjunction with Limerick City and County Council ran a webinar on the SDGs in 2021 and the presentation is worth reading as it will be helpful for your application next year.

The link is: [https://www.limerick.](https://www.limerick.ie/sites/default/files/media/documents/2021-03/sustainable-development-goals-helpful-hints.pdf)

[ie/sites/default/files/media/documents/2021-03/sustainable-development-goals-helpful-hints.pdf](https://www.limerick.ie/sites/default/files/media/documents/2021-03/sustainable-development-goals-helpful-hints.pdf)

Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2023 competition.