

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilmurry McMahon - Cill Mhúire Mac Mathúna** Ref: **2255**
County: **Clare** Mark: **253**
Category: **A** Date(s): **07/07/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	36	37
Streetscape & Public Places	80	32	33
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	33	35
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	25	27
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	16	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	48	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	26	27
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	26	26
TOTAL MARK	550	242	253

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 application form which included photographs and a map. Your committee of 5 has an additional 15 who help you when requested. You list just one body, Clare Co Co, who helps you. If you get advice/help from others eg. regarding planting in the Community Park, or a local community group comes to help, etc you can list them in this section of the form. You inform the community of your activities through monthly meetings which are open to the whole community, parish newsletters, and notices/posters. This is your fifth year entering the TidyTowns competition and your involvement has increased the commitment of the community to improving the area so that it is a better place to live. Participation encourages a pride of place amongst the residents, which is the true spirit of TidyTowns. We suggest that you prepare a Five-Year Plan with projects under each category and a timeframe so that you have targets. Don't make it too onerous, one or two projects/activities under each category is sufficient. Just list what you know is feasible to achieve. You can add partners to this plan who will help with the projects. Ask for advice/ help from the Environmental Officer/Heritage Officer in Clare Co Co.
See Concluding Remarks for advice on filling out the application form and producing a map.

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

You are a dispersed rural community with a mix of vernacular single and two-storey buildings and these with the topography of the village gives the area its character. St. Mary's RC church with its 1803 plaque, the Community Hall (part of it being Drumdigus National School) and the new Kilmurray Mc Mahon National school complete the architectural character. You have great views across the Clare countryside along the road and especially from the National School. A footpath extends from the school to the Community Hall giving pupils a safe passage to this building. Your Community Garden is very special and its location, close to the road junction and beside your local shop and post office, is ideal. In addition to it being a meeting place for the local community it has become a location for tourists to stop and enjoy what is on offer while boosting the local economy. We loved the newly built summer house/dove cote in the centre with its conical roof. The stone walls at the entrance to the Community Garden and within the garden were admired as were the seats and tables. We spotted a couple of the engraved small stone plaques – a nice idea. The graveyard was visited – a beautiful stone wall surrounds it and we loved the high piers and entrance gates.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Your neatly trimmed grass margins, lined with trees give a natural appearance and are aesthetically pleasing. The planting beds along the roadside as we enter the village are quite beautiful – we loved the variety of flowers planted and a multitude of bees and butterflies were enjoying the lupins and other pollinator friendly plants. Cut back the grass around the beds to expose the beautifully built stonework. The main green space in the village is the Community Garden located at the road junction, which is a work in progress. In the realisation of the Community Garden, we see that some aspects changed which you feel are an improvement of the original layout. You mentioned 'on the design you will see...', however, you neglected to attach a plan of the garden. To date you have planted 120 trees, 200 daffodils, 100 snowdrops, 100 tulips and many many more plants and shrubs. We admired the rosa rugosa hedge which you planted last autumn along the grass margin from 150 cuttings which you propagated. Your shrub beds in the Community Garden have been planted with buddleia, black currants, guelder rose and flowering currants. We recommend trimming the grass to the kerb along the paths so as to show the area is being maintained. Please take photos of the flowering plants during the winter and spring and put them into the form next year as we'd love to see them.

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

The aim of this category is to encourage people to recognise, engage and celebrate the biodiversity and richness of the wildlife habitats in their surroundings. Since you have planted the Community Garden you have seen an increase in biodiversity. Did you become involved in measuring the difference your actions for pollinators have made? This is something to do - Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT Count) from the National Biodiversity Data Centre (biodiversityireland.ie). We noted the small water dishes with pebbles in the garden so that bees and butterflies could have a drink. Have you undertaken any projects with the local National School? We saw the Green Schools flags flying proudly at the school. Do you help them in this programme as help is always gratefully received. You have installed a bug hotel which is an interest to children – don't forget you must clean this to get rid of any residue, debris, and old loose, dry materials to prevent fungus and mites from spreading. Let us know if the doves use the dove cote to nest.

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. There are great herbs, fruit trees and bushes, and vegetables growing in the Community Garden – the harvest must be wonderful! You used recycled timber to make the benches and tables in the Community Garden. The children's play area (the willow house) was donated by a local resident. The willow needs to be woven again as it has become untidy. We read you also grow the flowers from seed which you collect from your plants which is commendable and logical. We cannot understand why people buy seeds! The compost area was noted along the entrance road – it was getting full so you'll need to build a second one. There are many other ways to advance in this category and we suggest that you examine the website <http://www.tidytowns.ie/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Sustainable-Waste-and-Resource-Management.pdf> which may give you some ideas for your community. Also contact the environment officer in Clare Co Co who will tell you on events/ talks which you could attend to learn more about Sustainability – doing more with less.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Every year An Taisce organises An Annual Litter Pick-Up in April and community groups register to take part. We recommend that you do this next year and publicise locally that this event will take place and ask for volunteers. This Litter Pick-up Day focuses the attention of a community on the need to be vigilant on litter, fly-tipping and weed growth. When we visited the village was virtually litter free. Unfortunately weed growth was also noticed at the base of walls and in open gravel areas in some areas which gave an unkempt feel. Spray this with organic weed killer or a mix of vinegar, salt and washing up liquid. You have a very beautiful stone bridge on the R473 (we're estimating about 4 kms for the village). At the moment ivy is encroaching on the bridge – the removal of the ivy and cutting back the grass etc along the base could be a project for you under Tidiness and Litter for next year. Under the Streetscape category you could paint the yellow and black safety features.

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

You left this category blank which is unfortunate. You need to write something in terms of your activities or those of others, including Clare Co Co.

We admired the timber branches/tree trunks as part of the landscaping features of one of the houses in the village.

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

You left this category blank which is unfortunate. You need to write something in terms of your activities or those of others including Clare Co Co.

Concluding Remarks:

We enjoyed our visit to your village and we wish you the best with the projects you undertake.

Firstly, you must write something in each category otherwise the adjudicators cannot award additional marks. In terms of your Tidy Town's application form you will have seen that we requested that applicants would number their projects as, new projects (N), or improved/maintained projects (M). You are to give each action/project a number as New (N1, N2, N3 etc.) or Maintained (M1, M2, M3 etc). We need to know what are New projects and what projects are Maintained. This same numbering system to be used to indicate the locations of these projects on a map – N1, N2, N3 etc and 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.

We also request a legend as this helps the adjudicator now that all applications are digital.

Please add photos into the relevant categories rather than all together at the end.

Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2023 competition.