

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre:	Anglesboro - Gleann na gCreabhar	Ref:	2073
County:	Limerick	Mark:	320
Category:	B	Date(s):	02/08/2023

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	46
Streetscape & Public Places	80	45
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	44
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	35
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	33
TOTAL MARK	550	320

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...

Thank you for the concise entry form with pictorial records, map of the village, and a note on the National Schools achievement of attaining a 4th Green Flag.

Well done to teachers, parents, and of course the schoolchildren who were involved in this success.

The Sustainable Development Goals are at the heart of the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Tidy Towns has now fully integrated them into the competition to ask groups to demonstrate how SDGs impact their activities.

Being familiar enough with the village of Anglesborough I often wondered in past times how the name could be derived from the wonderful Irish name of Gleann na cGreabhar (the Glen of the Woodcock)

It was never satisfactorily explained to me.

Your last adjudication was in 2021 after Covid when a desktop assessment was done.

This adjudicator was glad to make acquaintance with the village after many years and even though the weather prevented a clear view of the Galtees it was a pleasant visit.

The adjudicator notes that you have formed a new committee and it is pretty impressive for a small village that you can muster 15 committee members supplemented by a volunteer core of 20.

It is also noted that you have representation on the community council.

You have excellent support from Limerick City & County Council, Ballyhoura Development, other agencies, local businesses, and the local GAA Club.

You have already mentioned your involvement with the Anglesboro National School and this relationship will be mutually beneficial in the years ahead.

Your methods of communication are a combination of local newsletters and social media.

The adjudicator suggests that you consider putting in place a simple 3-year work plan that will give you some focus and timelines.

It doesn't have to be grandiose, no more than 4/5 pages, just a document that can be reviewed at intervals to measure progress on work projects

The Tidy Towns Facebook page needs to be updated and this will probably happen as the new committee sets out its 3-year plan.

Thank you for your endorsement of the competition since the village first entered in 2011 and for giving an insight into your objectives as a new committee.

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

Thank you for the input in this category which gives one an lowdown on the work that you have undertaken over the last year.

It also outlines the plans for the future such as the proposed extension for the lovely rural National School and your comment in relation to the school not being painted was noted and it's understandable why.

The Community Hall is very well maintained and the added feature of the stone flower bed and tankards were admired.

Well done to the Committee members who look after this facility that is so important to the community of Anglesborough.

The parking area is also complemented by a delightful elongated shrub bed and recently painted boundary wall.

The Tidy Towns Best New Entry 2011 plaque is in need of a little cleaning or sandblasting as the wording is hard to read.

This area of the village is a focal point as one can access information on the local Galtee Walking Trails, The Fauna and Flora of the area plus the history of the village and its surrounds from the Information Panels.

This is part of Ballyhoura Country and the agency has been very supportive of villages like Anglesborough.

The St Patricks RC Church, grounds and adjacent Graveyard were all presented to a very high standard.

The major improvements on the Car Park, as outlined in your input, were noted

Road surfaces were acceptable with a few sections a little rough and it's hard to imagine that ramps are needed in a village of this size.

Over head wires were at a minimum and did not obscure the Skyline.

Lanes Shop is the local shop that stocks nearly everything and it was tidy and well organised and the local pub was also well presented.

Some very fine farmhouses and other private dwellings were admired during the walkabout.

Credit to all property owners who have maintained their premises in such an exemplary fashion.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

In the 2021 report there was reference made to a proposed new planting plan that was drawn up on behalf of the then Tidy Towns Committee by Wild Way Design.

Will the new committee be in a position to revisit this and see if elements of it can be put in place in the next year or so?

Maybe you might be in a position to give an update on next year's entry form.

The adjudicator has suggested that an overall Tidy Towns Plan be put in place for the next 3 years.

Having a mini landscaping plan as part of the above would be a good idea.

The adjudicator was very impressed with the newly constructed stone beds at the various entrances into the village which were populated with perennials and colourful annuals.

While there is a need to encourage year-round sustainable planting it is always nice to see colourful begonias at entrances to villages and towns.

Excellent re-vamping at the flower and shrub beds at the Hall entrance and the elongated bed at the parking area.

That entailed a good bit of effort on the part of the committee members and volunteers so well done to all involved.

The 1916 rose garden was visited and the work that you have done here has been noted.

Some fine individual gardens were admired around the periphery of the village.

Overall the standard was very good.

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

The key to this category is knowing and understanding the biodiversity in one's locality and also the types of protected areas as such as National Heritage Areas and Special Conservation Areas that are in the immediate surroundings.

It's also important that as a group you are aware of the Law and Biodiversity before you embark on a specific project. You are blessed as a community to have natural assets, such as the Galtee Mountains, in the hinterland all around where many wildlife habitats abound.

Thanks for the input and for letting us know what you have done as a committee since you came into office as a new committee.

The sensory garden in the school grounds was visited and it of course has the bonus of attracting pollinators.

The report of 2021 mentioned that a grant was received to carry out a wildlife survey in 2022.

The adjudicator is wondering if the excellent Flora & Fauna of Anglesborough information panel at the Community Hall Car Park was the end product of this.

Well done for being involved in National Tree Week and for planting native saplings as part of your participation.

The school has been already mentioned favourably for its achievements in the Green Schools Programme

Some nice pieces of work have been done in the last year but the village and the outlying area have more potential in this category and would be interesting to have an update on the biodiversity survey that was approved for funding back in 2021.

The section on this category in the Tidy Towns Handbook has numerous tips and links to relevant websites for ideas that you might examine for next year and the years ahead.

It can be accessed simply by googling Tidy Towns Handbook and you are brought directly to the link.

www.biodiversityireland.ie will give one an update on the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and other relevant biodiversity matters as well.

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

This category has been evolving in keeping with current EU and government policy as well as 'best practice' guidelines.

It encapsulates how we try to minimise our use of all resources within the community so that we reduce our environmental impact.

It is a broad category so you may be surprised at how many of your existing community initiatives are relevant! Doing more with less is not just a catchy phrase it's a necessity as we as communities try to reduce our environmental impact.

There were a number of initiatives that were mentioned in the 2021 report but there seems to have been no continuation with these in the interim.

What you have included does fall within the objectives and guidelines of the category but there is much more that the committee can do by way of identifying relevant projects that will also contribute to an increase in marks.

Well done to the Galtee Gaels GAA club for being designated a green club.

To get more out of this sector in terms of creating even greater awareness of all things that contribute to a more sustainable environment consider looking at the following websites for idea generation

www.localprevention.ie, www.sustainableprocessing.ie www.mywaste.ie www.greenhome.ie www.greenschools.ie and www.epa.ie

The Section on sustainability in the Tidy Towns Handbook contains excellent advice as well as links to superb websites.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Thank you for letting us know of your activities to control littering in the village and its surroundings.

It is paying off as the village was virtually litter free on adjudication day so well done to all residents for having a pride of place.

Well done also for taking part in TLC 8 with 20 volunteers as well as having the local school involved and collecting over 20 bags of rubbish.

This is no mean achievement as the area you had to cover is pretty large.

The very rural village has a number of farmsteads and these are kept in exemplary fashion with no sign of untidiness.

Dog fouling is now one of the scourges of many village and urban communities.

A few dog doos were spotted on the outskirts of the village.

It's important to promote the message of anti-dog fouling and maybe for next year, the Committee could consider giving a little more in terms of how you intend to do this.

A page plan on litter control and general tidiness would be welcome.

In general tidiness terms, the village was quite tidy, farmsteads were already mentioned and other properties were well presented.

The road surfaces were acceptable and as said elsewhere the skyline wasn't obscured by too many overhead wires.

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

Some lovely private residences were viewed during the walkabout and boundary walls had been recently painted in some cases adding a little more in terms of enhancement.

One particular boundary wall of a large farmhouse on the Auld Road? had an exceptional array of potted plants including some colourful begonias.

It was good to see Cluain Darra the long-established former Rural Housing development looking so well.

Many of the houses had been refurbished and upgraded with new modern designed doors and windows.

The communal area cul de sac was tidy and the boundary walls again well maintained.

This was part of the Fr Harry Bohan rural housing programme that was primarily Clare based with a few in County Limerick.

That programme gave many people a start on the housing ladder back in the day.

The overall standard in the category was very good.

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

Entrances into the village were enhanced by the newly constructed and very impressive stone-based beds which were populated with a mixture of colourful annuals and all-year-round plants.

Well done to the tradespeople that constructed these.

Entrance from Mitchelstown was top class and the verges were cut by good wildlife preservation practice.

The Aherlow entrance was similar but the side road to Kilbehenny was just a little overgrown at verges.

Maybe a foot cut in from the verge to allow for safe passage would suffice.

Concluding Remarks:

The adjudicator was familiar with Gleann an cGreabhar in his youth and it was good to come back and see this idyllic rural village at its best,

It's a pity that the weather was a bit unkind and the majestic Galtees were not seen at their best.

As a new committee, you are wished well for the future.