

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyorgan-Baile Uí Argáin** Ref: **443**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **307**
Category: **A** Date(s): **01/08/2021**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	45	46
Streetscape & Public Places	80	38	39
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	40	41
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	32	34
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	19	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	64
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	31	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	29	30
TOTAL MARK	550	297	307

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu don bhliain 2022. 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 comprehensive all-inclusive entry form that included a very straightforward map of the village. 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 how SDGs impact their activities.

You have a good and loyal community structure and well done on being able to muster 27 volunteers for the Team Limerick Clean up.

Good to note that you have two new residents that have offered their services for the upcoming season

The committee has an impressive list of supporters including Limerick County Council, Ballyhoura Development, local community councils, and local businesses.

Of course you have the backing of other local organisations and clubs.

Glenroe GAA is the local club and has members from Ballyorgan and one assumes that if needed the club would support your activities when called upon.

The original local primary school is now the Coolfree Pre School and primary pupils attend the new and progressive Glenroe Community School.

Methods of communication are pretty straight forward word of mouth, the community newsletter, local papers, and effective use of social media

Well done to the Community Council for entering a competition that has a 32-county involvement –Pride of Place and to top it off 2nd place in your category is some achievement.

Thank you for your positive endorsement of the competition and what it has meant to the community since the village first entered neigh on 22 years ago.

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

You have submitted a substantial amount of information on work activities under this category the majority of which is maintenance oriented.

Adjudicators like myself often look at new projects as the main barometer when judging this category.

The mainstay of any work programme is making sure that existing premises and adjacent areas are maintained to an acceptable standard.

The committee has a lot of ongoing maintenance work in hand and well done to all involved in ensuring that it is done regularly as required.

The Castleoliver Gate Lodge is the main heritage project in the village and whilst it's not in the greatest condition it

is an integral part of the village history.

The adjudicator had a look at the very informative information board which gives a resume of the history of Castleoliver House and Gate Lodges.

Well done on maintaining the frontage.

The village has some unoccupied properties one of which was subject to a dereliction notice from the local authority.

The adjudicator would have been familiar with the village decades past and possibly may have known of this building.

Moynihans retained the original shop front but again the fine property is beginning to look a little unloved and the committee is probably aware of the ownership.

Mees Village Inn was well presented as was Foxes Furniture Store on the bend of Coolfree Road.#

The Holiday Homes complex was in an acceptable condition as well and is attended to regularly.

It was good to see the Lantern Lodge in such splendid condition and it looks like it is still in the hospitality business.

The status of the field next to the Pre School should be clarified about public liability insurance if it's being used for play activities.

The adjudicator was wondering what is the situation with the Community Centre as it looked as if it has been defunct for some time.

St Joseph's Catholic Church and grounds were very presentable and credit is due to the person/persons that are responsible for its upkeep.

The Long Delay cottage seems to have been sold earlier this year and as you rightly state the shrub beds were a little choked and in need of thinning and pruning.

Some of the road surface is not in good condition and it would be worthwhile if committee members could influence local public representatives.

Overall the standard was good and merits an increase in marks.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The adjudicator feels that you have actually addressed a number of issues with the following statement in relation to areas A and B.

"These landscaped areas were designed and planted 22 years ago and were not always effectively managed, due to people power issues.

These areas are in need of rejuvenation.

We have asked a landscaper, employed by Ballyhoura Development to help us with this, we are awaiting a visit"

The adjudicator has already mentioned the beds at the Long Delay cottage and he felt that many of the existing arrangements were dated and needed to be revitalised to adapt to sustainable and pollinator friendly planting.

Ballyorgan is situated in such rural idyllic surroundings that time is opportune to bring more vibrancy back to the village.

It has charm that many similar sized villages wouldn't have.

Whilst the adjudicator gives credit to the committee for maintaining all arrangements to the best standard he feels that the village could benefit from a new overall planting plan.

The possibility for funding can be explored via Ballyhoura Development and also through Limerick City and County Council.

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

Thank you for the detailed proposal outlining the all-encompassing work that you have carried out in the promotion and indeed the preservation of wildlife in the area

You are blessed as a community to have such natural assets in the hinterland all around where many wildlife habitats flourish.

The key to this category is knowing and understanding the biodiversity in ones locality and also the types of protected areas as follows National Heritage Area, Special Conservation Area, Special Protection Area plus Nature Reserves and Wildfowl Sanctuaries.

Judging from the detail in your entry form there is a good understanding of the above principles amongst committee members.

The Keale River Walk is a major biodiversity habitat that also has potential from a rural tourism perspective as it will attract walkers and wildlife enthusiasts.

To manage this sensitively is the key and working in collaboration with your near neighbours in Glenroe by erecting 12 interpretative panels along the walk is a very positive development.

The adjudicator is familiar with the Parish Habitats and Biodiversity Project in the area.

Well done to the local well-known design company for supplying you with signs based on the All Ireland Pollinator plant templates.

The sign at the Information Board area was noted by the adjudicator.

You're wished well with the new projects that you are about to start.

If you need any further information the section on Nature and Biodiversity in the revised Tidy Towns Handbook is a top source for advice with links to various relevant websites.

www.biodiversityireland.ie gives you updates on the All Ireland Pollinator Plan as well as other biodiversity subjects.

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

This category is about how as communities we try to minimise the use of all resources so that we strive for a reduction of our environmental impact.

Doing more with less is now a necessity not just a catchy phrase.

It also creates an awareness of the effectiveness of the Circular Economy which in reality is a straightforward

concept and was there albeit in different formats in decades past.

Aligned to the above this is a category that very much contributes to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

At this juncture, the adjudicator acknowledges the fact that you have aligned the SDGs to your work activities in all categories.

What you have submitted is very much in keeping with the objectives and guidelines and while some of the activities are particular to Ballyorgan many are replicated by groups all over the country.

Just to comment that the recycling centre which was situated just up from the Pre School was very tidy and clean.

Team Clean Limerick has already been mentioned in a previous category

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 (LAPN) www.origingreen.ie

The Circular Economy concept is explained in detail in the following www.dccae.gov.ie

The section on doing more with less in the ubiquitous Tidy Towns Handbook has exceptional information on the subject of Sustainability plus links to relevant websites.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The overall standard in this category was very good and worthy of an increase in marks.

You have listed quite several activities that help to prevent littering and the message of anti-littering is delivered to the community via community newsletter and whats app group messages.

The general condition of the road surface has already been mentioned under the Streetscape category

The accompanying photograph shows a happy group committed to making sure the village of kept litter free.

General tidiness was good but there were a few untidy areas that the committee is probably aware of.

Dog fouling didn't seem to be an issue but the committee should indicate in next year's entry form what measures they are applying to deter it.

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

Well done to all residents who have presented their properties to an acceptable standard and as a committee you have given them ongoing encouragement at all times.

The 2 new houses under construction will enhance the village when fully completed and you will also have new community members.

The Long Delay cottage should be a nice attractive addition when its refurbishment is complete.

There is little to add except to say to all residents well done for your pride of place commitment,

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

Last year's report in this category referred to the fact that as a village you didn't have access to CE Scheme workers and this year seems to be the same.

The adjudicator is rather surprised that you were not able to avail of the scheme via Ballyhoura Development.

It is a rather onerous task for one volunteer to manage all approach roads into the village.

The entrance off the R512 was well maintained with verges cut by good practice for the preservation of wildlife.

The Kilfinane Road entrance was also very acceptable.

Signs both directional and speed were clean and visible.

The Castl Oliver Road was a little narrow and surface-wise a little rough in parts.

As you state there were good examples of well-constructed traditional stone walls.

In the village proper the completion of the remaining work on footpaths will help make for safe walking.

Hopefully, the road that runs through the village will be re-surfaced next year as this would make a big difference for drivers and cyclists a few of whom were encountered on the day in question.

Concluding Remarks:

The adjudicator was returning to a village that he was familiar with in his younger days-days when Castle Oliver was reputed to be haunted.

Ballyorgan has done well in the competition over the years but it is felt that there is far more potential to be realised.

You are a proactive committee that is wished well for the years ahead.