

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Garrienderk - Garraí na Déirce** Ref: **2216**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **274**
Category: **A** Date(s): **01/08/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	37	38
Streetscape & Public Places	80	33	35
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	36	38
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	18	20
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	14	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	34	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	34	36
TOTAL MARK	550	258	274

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 comprehensive entry form and map of the Garrienderk area which was greatly appreciated by the adjudicator as it allowed him to identify places of interest and work activities with relative ease.

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.

It is clear from your submission that you have embraced the programme as you have linked relevant SDGs with your work activities.

The 5-year plan which was commissioned in 2021 is an impressive, if rather large, tome which outlines the path for the future.

From the adjudicator's perspective if an up-to-date 4-page review of the plan was submitted as it would have been easier to ascertain what tasks in the plan had been completed since it was put in place.

You have an impressive committee structure of 5 and 40 volunteers – it would be the envy of many larger centres around the country.

Thank you for the pictorial records embedded in the document.

Congratulations on your success in the JP Foundation-sponsored Going for Gold Competition it was a major achievement for the parish.

You have an impressive list of supporters that includes the local authority, other public bodies, local businesses, clubs, and organisations.

Methods of communication are a mix of the traditional notes in the local papers, different forms of social media, and the most effective of all word of mouth.

The adjudicator was surprised that the up-to-date Effin & Garrienderk Community Development Association Facebook Page wasn't mentioned

Well done on engaging with local schools in promoting the work of Tidy Towns although there seems to be no reference to Kilmallock – hope ye haven't fallen out with the neighbours!

As you rightly state it can be a bit of a hazard having younger people involved in work along a busy link road the R515 between Charleville and Kilmallock.

Your specific project for last year The Michael Collins Centenary Celebrations was noted and that was a big undertaking for the community.

Thank you for the endorsement of the competition and what it has meant to the community since the village first entered 6 years ago.

Finally, it was good to see the action shot of one of Limerick's and Effin's finest on the telegraph pole near the Church.

An increase in marks is awarded.

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

First off the adjudicator has taken note of all the maintenance work that the committee has been involved in over the last year and you are to be commended for this commitment.

The excellent map has enumerated all the key areas of work along the "stretch" from the entry to Limerick, well identified might one add!, outside Charleville to the Railway Bridge.

Your work on the community centre was noted and it always amazes me how an actual application of a coat of paint can transform a building or a boundary wall.

Hopefully, the plans for the community centre, a hub for any community, will come to fruition sooner rather than later.

The compact St Patrick RC Church and grounds were very well presented and credit is due to the volunteers who maintain these spaces regularly.

The adjudicator was impressed with the retention of hitching rings a vestige of times past but also a historical association with the village.

The well-appointed and identifiable parking spaces across the road were also noted.

Both Crown Furniture and Dermot Kelly Motors are substantial commercial premises and both were presented to a very high standard and looked as if they had been recently painted.

Both premises had very tidy and organised frontages so well done to the owners for their contribution to the look of the village.

Well done for the foresight on purchasing the once derelict farmhouse on the road towards the Kilamock end of the village.

The premises look resplendent since its restoration and no doubt will host many community Failte Isteach type events in the years ahead.

The Wishing Well, which is a landmark feature, was very well presented and had a very fine mix of plants that added further enhancement.

The wonderful wildlife murals on the boundary wall at Pike Cross were admired as were the information panels including Michael Collins's historic association with Garrinenderk.

The provision of a footpath from Effin Cross to the Church will be a big undertaking but is needed.

You are wished well in your deliberations with Limerick City and County Council.

For all the work undertaken in the last year, an increase in marks is warranted.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

You have a very impressive body of work in this category and once again it takes a lot of time and resources to maintain and update all the planting arrangements from the Charleville exit right up to the Railway Bridge.

Thank you for your response to the suggestion about containers from last year's report.

The adjudicator agrees with your course of action as it's far better to have permanent planting arrangements in a rural setting like Garrienderk where there are plenty of suitable spaces available.

Well done on the mix of annual colour as well as providing all-year-round sustainable planting arrangements that contribute to the preservation of wildlife species.

The biodiversity beds at Effin Cross and the Garage are examples of the aforementioned.

Just as a matter of interest is the Bota Service Station just a Car Wash Centres these days as it looked as if the pumps were not operable?

The adjudicator missed the location of the new stone rockery but all the rest of the arrangements both permanent and containers were noted during the adjudication.

The green verges on both sides of the road were maintained with good practice.

Well done also for having a large complement of pollinator-friendly flowers and shrubs in many of the arrangements.

An increase in marks is warranted.

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

The key components of this adjudication category are knowledge of local species and habitats and knowledge of local designated areas.

Being aware of invasive and possible destructive plants such as Japanese knotweed is also essential.

Finally before embarking on any related project, it is important to be somewhat familiar with the law and biodiversity.

It is also important to promote the knowledge gained to the local community through wildlife information boards which you have done with the wildlife murals and the fauna and flora panel near the Church.

Well done on being awarded the Bee Friendly Award in the Going For Gold Competition.

Not surprising as you are involved in a few initiatives including the addition of new native Irish Bee signage at the Bug Hotel that would indicate a commitment to "helping the bees"

Maintaining 42 bird and bat boxes, many of which were noted during the adjudication, is some commitment – just as well that you have so many volunteers to call on.

The wildlife planters at Effin Cross were noted unfortunately this adjudicator is not a fan of cat mint.

Good to note also that you use eco-friendly weed killer got from a local beekeeper.

The standard of work undertaken under this category justifies an increase in marks.

For further information access the following excellent section on this category in the Tidy Towns Handbook as well as www.biodiversity.ie.

Consult your local Environmental or Biodiversity Officer to see if there are any proposed workshops or

mini-seminars on matters of biodiversity planned in the county in the coming months.

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

“Doing more with less” is no longer a catchy slogan it’s a necessity if as communities we are to reduce our environmental impact

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

The idea of what is called a linear economy of “take, make, and waste” is now being seen as not sustainable and alternatives need to be found.

It is a broad category so you may be surprised at how many of your existing community initiatives are relevant.

Judging by your input in the entry form it is evident that you have embraced the above concept.

Some of what you have submitted is particular to Garrienderk whilst much of the content has been replicated around the country now that Tidy Towns Groups have become familiar with the guidelines and objectives of the category.

Well done to St Joseph’s Infant School pupils who are currently working on their Green Flag project.

Some of the content was also applicable to the previous category and indeed the next category.

More potential for the Committee to increase marks in the category so the adjudicator would suggest that you consult the excellent section on Sustainability in the Tidy Towns Handbook as well

www.localprevention.ie, www.greenhomes.ie and www.sustainableprocessing.ie for project ideas.

The www.dccae.gov.ie will give information on the circular economy.

An increase in marks is warranted for the work done in the last year.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done to all who took part in Team Limerick Clean project and who collected over 45 bags of rubbish in the process.

The accompanying photographs shows cohorts of very happy participants.

It’s unfortunate that you had to find the remnants of fly tipping and to be honest it’s not surprising as it has become common place all over the country.

Are the deterrents effective enough that’s the 6 mark question?

Billboard signage is not a problem in Garrienderk and well done to business owners for acceding to your request.

A special dispensation for Nicky Quaid is only right and fitting.

Lots of great voluntary work being done on all aspects of litter control and general tidiness.

Dog fouling doesn’t seem to be a problem mind you walking dogs on that stretch of road wouldn’t be this adjudicator’s idea of relaxation such is the volume of traffic.

The adjudicator did not find any evidence of litter on the stretch and just one or two wrappers on the Effin road.

General tidiness was very good as all residents seem to have a great pride in their own place.

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

Well done to you the committee for encouraging good practice in this category a lot of residents have repainted their houses and this has improved the appearance of the community

The village core is quite small and residents have presented the homesteads and front gardens to a very high standard.

There is a small group of well looked after houses just in off the Effin Road and there was a well-managed green area in front of these.

Is there a name assigned to this area?

As you state you are lucky to live in a small community where everyone helps each other

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

The picnic area across from the Church is an ideal space for a stop-off and is very tidy so well done to the committee members that look after it regularly.

Good proactive thinking to ask to have the name sign moved from the right to the left side on Kilmallock Road.

Some churches have their toilet facilities open for public use usually in large towns but it wouldn’t be a feasible option in small places like Garrienderk as there are probably additional public liability insurance costs involved.

You have responded well to the comment in last year’s report about the green verges and this adjudicator can vouch for that as he had to use these to walk on during the adjudication.

The entrances from both sides of R515 are top class with inviting name signs, planting arrangements, and directional and speed signs clean and visible.

Over the years there was often a little confusion as to where Cork ended and Limerick began as one exited Charleville but that has been well and truly defined in latter years.

Concluding Remarks:

The adjudicator was familiar with Effin Garrienderk in past times and it was good to be able to come back and revisit the area.

The committee has done immense work since the village first entered the competition six years ago.

Progress has been gradual but it has stepped up the last few years.

You are wished well in the years ahead.

