

# Tidy Towns Competition 2023

## Adjudication Report

Centre:	<b>Glenbrohane - Gleann Bruacháin</b>	Ref:	<b>453</b>
County:	<b>Limerick</b>	Mark:	<b>300</b>
Category:	<b>A</b>	Date(s):	<b>07/07/2023</b>

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2023</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	43
Streetscape & Public Places	80	47
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	43
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	30
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	33
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</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 back to the competition after a hiatus of a year. A core group of 7 with the ability to call on a further 10 is a good base in a small community. It is heartening to see you have the support of local community groups & local agencies in addition to engagement from the village National School. Your communications mediums include both traditional & social media however we note you are not actively using your Facebook page. Today, many community members receive all their news & updates from these platforms & in using them your reach into the community is extended. It is clear from Local Hub social media page that the community is vibrant with lots of regular & varied activities taking place. The School Project to create a sensory path & wellbeing area gained a lot of community support – school community, local artist, Mens Shed & local donors of equipment.

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

What an incredible transformation from a pub into an energetic community space. The building is beautifully presented with its colourful façade, multi-level outdoor spaces, ancillary buildings & gardens. The Hub appears to be at the very heart of the Community with all the services in situ, classes, an artist in residence etc. The prospect of a Community Café opening in the not too distance further is the icing on the community's cake. There was a hive of construction activity taking place there on adjudication day & a treasure trove of notices in the window advertising services & courses. The Community Hall was resplendent with its new coat of paint & what an excellent idea to match the colour scheme of The Hub or vice versa – a nice connection between the two buildings.

The Meditation Garden is a wonderful community space & the addition of seating for picnics expands its potential usefulness. The roses were blooming despite the inclement weather.

St Patrick's Church occupies a stunning site with panoramic views of the countryside. It is impeccably maintained, as is the Grotto opposite. The location of the Millennium crib is inspired. The car park opposite the church could do with some maintenance as the weeds are threatening to engulf the tree bases & obscure the two interesting information boards.

Is the pub, Paddy Brid's, still operating as a licensed premises? At this stage it is hard to see the two abandoned cars in the car park as anything other than unwanted detritus rather than art installations.

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

It was good to see that areas around the Hub's new car park were planted with perennials. Are there plans for the large bank of ground facing one as one enters The Hub car park?

The beds in front of the ancillary building at the back of The Hub would be ideal for scented perennials given its proximity to the Meditation Garden.

There are several containers at both the Church & Grotto. Given the large expanse of green in front of the church, there is potential to place one or two perennial pollinator friendly flowerbeds here to add all year colour. Are there plans to add more plants to the area in front of the Grotto on the left-hand side?

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

The "Growing Lion" project is intriguing – the planting & harvesting of flax for linen at community members gardens & at The Hub. We look forward to the realization of this initiative & seeing the results next year.

You reference a 2021 Biodiversity Survey. We would be interested in seeing your action plan & the timeline of your actions.

We will await with interest to hear whether the 4 newly erected bird boxes are occupied & by which species.

The School's willow tunnel is thriving & a lovely natural play zone.

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

It is fantastic news that the Community Hall will soon be fitted with solar panels. Are these standalone or is battery storage planned as well? Are they also planned in due course for The Hub where there appears to be more usage of the building?

This is a more unusual but welcomed development, the issuance of community alert bulletins to reduce water consumption. Is this in response to ongoing repair & maintenance of the local water scheme?

The ability of the community to supply you with plants for bedding & containers is a good example of sustainability. The availability of local eggs via an honesty system translates into no food miles although on the day of the visit we were too late to purchase any, all sold out.

The school's raised beds are a great learning resource however they had not been maintained in some time as seen during the visit and the tin planters were empty. The rainwater harvesting systems are good to see in addition to the wall mounted composter & there were plenty examples of reuse around the school – upcycled tricycle, repurposed pallets, water wall items etc.

You have an ideal opportunity now with The Hub up & running to host workshops in this area e.g. reducing food waste - <https://stopfoodwaste.ie/> ; reducing packaging <https://www.voiceireland.org/workshops/no-home-for-plastic-audit> ; September's Reuse Month <https://www.mywaste.ie/reuse-month/> to name

just a few. The possibilities are endless & the Tidy towns Handbook is a great resource for ideas. <https://www.tidytowns.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Sustainability-Doing-More-with-less.pdf>

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

The TLC8 is an amazingly positive county initiative & it is a great way to engage the community in focusing on the impact of litter on their environment. It is heartening to hear Glenbrohane had a good turnout for the event. Was there an increase or decrease in the litter collected, year on year? Your regular litter picks work well & no litter was sighted during the visit.

An annual audit of street furniture is a good idea e.g., redundant poles, obsolete signage, discarded safety equipment, obscured signage, blocked gulleys etc. Once you have determined what needs to be attended to, you can then decide to either take on some of the work yourselves or contact the local Council to remove, repair or replace. It is surprising how much of a difference simple measures like this can make to the tidiness of a location.

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

The village has some lovely examples of vernacular residences within its environs & newer additions are dispersed further afield. Most homes & gardens are well maintained & well presented.

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

The refurbishment of the iron railing coming from the L1511 approach would be a remarkable project & it is great news to hear it is planned in conjunction with Limerick City & County Council. It is a most unusual & unique boundary treatment & well worth reinstating to its former glory. The bed at the village sign on this approach road has plants that threaten to obscure the sign due to their height & vigorous growth – perhaps low growing pollinator friendly plants like snapdragons or marigolds might be a substitute next year.

The approach road from the church is lovely with its verdant hedgerows as is the approach from the school. The curved stonewall bridge presents a lovely vista as one enters the village.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

A map marking the main buildings, thoroughfares & projects is essential for any adjudicator visiting the village especially as there is a strong possibility, they have never had the pleasure of visiting previously & have no compass from which to commence their adjudication. As the village is quite dispersed, a map would have been very useful to find the Church & National School that are located away from the village.

Well done on the work completed to date, quite remarkable. We will follow with interest how the community build on what you have achieved to date.