

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glin - An Gleann** Ref: **455**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **342**
Category: **B** Date(s): **06/06/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	47	48
Streetscape & Public Places	80	47	48
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	46	47
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	41	43
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	21	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	35	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	35	36
TOTAL MARK	550	332	342

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 completed entry form, 5 year plan, pictorial records, and the first-rate map of the village of Glin. The Sustainable Development Goals are at the heart of the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to address the global challenges we face in relation to key environmental issues.

Tidy Towns has now fully integrated them into the competition with the objective of asking groups to demonstrate how SDGs impact of their activities.

The Committee of 20 and the volunteer involvement of a further 5 people looks to be satisfactory but one would assume that it would be the other way round an executive of 5 and a working group of 20.

It is disappointing to note that Glin Tidy Towns find it difficult to entice people to give you a hand out with tasks and that the level of commitment to the betterment of the village has dropped over the last few years.

It is hoped that the new strategy you have applied will work and that you will get new younger members on board. One appreciates that depending on a core of people who are now in their 60s and into their 70s to drive on projects can be stressful not to mention tiresome.

The adjudicator hopes that you can address these resources problems in a satisfactory manner as you have a fine village with amenities that the community should be really proud of.

Continue to lobby your local public representatives to make sure that Limerick County Council give you more support.

Glin is in a prime location on the Shannon Estuary and on the evening of the adjudication there were a number of visitors enjoying the tranquility of the excellent park.

Just looking at the input in this category you have a lot of interaction with local businesses and public agencies and have been involved in a number of projects that are hugely beneficial to the community.

Well done on keeping in contact with both local schools and being involved in their quest for further Green Flag kudos.

Overall you are a very progressive committee albeit a little frustrated at what you see as lack of commitment from others.

All the other activities and events that you have been associated with and involved have been taken in consideration in the evaluation of this category.

Keep up the good work, reevaluate your priorities and hopefully the revised strategy will work for you into the future.

Well done on a further new project this year in the form of planting 10 new Cherry Blossom Trees at various locations in the village as a result of the JP McManus Charitable Foundation Going For Gold programme which has helped numerous communities in the City and County.

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

The Issues that arose from the the 2022 report have be addressed and the adjudicator accepts your explanation on the Public Realm Plan which hopefully will be fully agreed on once the final draft is ready.

The works on the Telephone Exchange were observed during the adjudication walkabout and fingers crossed your concerns re the aesthetic look of the area will be heeded by the company.

To be honest some of the issues that were mentioned in last year's report were outside the control of a voluntary committee such as yourself.

Re the over spraying of herbicides in both the church grounds and in the graveyard all you can do is engage with those entrusted with the job and see if they can use alternative methods in an effective manner.

The opening of the Glin Knights Visitor Centre is a major achievement on the part of Glin Development and Tidy Towns and well done to Limerick County Council for assisting with funding of this major project.

Despite a bit of chiding in the previous section LCC wasn't found wanting in this instance !

Unfortunately as it was an evening adjudication the centre was closed but the adjudicator hopes to re visit Glin and other parts of the Estuary Drive in the near future and will sign the visitors book

The Tennis Court improvements were noted and assessed as part of the process and it's a wonderful facility for locals and visitors alike.

It is situated in a very central area of the village with ample parking nearby and as you state in a very scenic location indeed.

The adjudicator took some photographs of the work on the East Mall Stone wall refurbishment.

The new footpaths in the Main Street add to the appeal of the Built Environment as well as contributing to safe walking especially for those of older vintage and those with visual and physical challenges.

The following are few personal observations that the adjudicator wants to highlight.

The excellent village park has some many fine features but some of the colourful seating is in need of repair and restoration.

One of the Historical Information Panel writing has faded and the narrative cannot be read.

The Easter Rising Panel and the Glin Connection gives an in-depth insight into activities in the area during that period.

The memorial to the Mermaid Tragedy is a fine commemorative piece but make sure that the text doesn't fade.

One was most impressed with the historical panel at Glin Castle and the Siege of Glin Castle.

Good to see the plaque to two "honorable men" and their respective involvement in the 1916 period of our history.

The quality of both commercial properties and private housing in the core of the village was very good and it would not be fair to single out any one in particular except to say that it was good the see original shop front signage of some businesses that are no longer operating being retained.

Public buildings such as the RC Church, National School and Community Centre were all very presentable.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

This is a category that Glin has done well in over the years and this adjudicator was impressed with the ongoing work has been done since last year.

All the areas listed on the map and mentioned in the entry form were visited by the adjudicator.

Well done on funding received for the upgrading and maintaining of the Glin Heritage Trails and the excellent panel coupled with the Leave no Trace panel was viewed near the entrance to Glin Castle.

Just to note that area at the base of this old stone wall was very weedy

There was another Trails Information Panel in the centre of the village and was being examined by some overseas visitors at the time.

The improvements to the Town Park are very welcome and were commented upon in the previous section.

The new large planter, donated by LCCC, on the limestone plinth in the town park and was populated by a combination of pollinator friendly shrubs and flowers which were in full bloom.

Full marks to the local paving company who donated the plinth.

Your comment on the clearing of dead shrubbery from areas of the Town Park has been noted and the adjudicator takes into account the introductory statement at the beginning of the entry form relating to the need to scale back because of lack of resources.

There are many fine examples of private residences that have lovely front gardens.

Given the amount of planting arrangements that you have to maintain the standard of presentation was very good and you are to be commended for your work and deserve an additional mark for your efforts.

One of the biggest problems that the adjudicator has noticed in his travels to different centres is the proliferation of briars that grow uncontrollably through shrub beds.

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

The key modules of this category are knowledge of local species and habitats and an understanding of the types of protected Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas.

Some excellent input in this category shows that as a committee you are well versed in the species and habitats of wildlife in the area and of course, there is the maritime element as well.

The adjudicator feels that as a Committee you have embraced these concepts and understand the principles involved.

Well done on the Data Capture project where records are sent to the National Biodiversity Data Centre in Waterford.

Will these records of flowers, plants and bee data be published so that the local community can access them in some format or other?

The Biodiversity planting at various focal points is welcomed and again full marks to you as a committee for trying to ensure using pollinator-friendly annuals and perennials in your planting schemes.

The Feed the red squirrel programme is something the adjudicator has not come across so far so well done on engaging with this and credit to the local nature enthusiast who looks after the squirrel population around the Knights Walk on the Heritage Trail.

The St. Paul's Biodiversity Area Tree Project has been already alluded to under the CIP category and you are wished well with this.

Again you are blessed to have someone with the calibre of the mentioned landscaper and gardener available to give guidance on this specific project.

The Biodiversity Areas mentioned in this entry were visited and noted.

Thank you for the detailed input on St Fergus National School's submission on its quest to attain further Green Flag Status.

This is an excellent resume of the school biodiversity activity and it also indicates the level of cooperation that there is with other local organizations such as the Mens Shed.

For the level and the variety of work done under the category guidelines an additional 2 marks have been awarded.

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.

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.

The category very much contributes to the implementation of the SDGs and it is noted that you have assigned relevant goals to each of the measures that you have listed.

The measures that you have listed in the entry form fall within the objectives of this category and some are specific to the needs of the Glin Community but others are replicated around the country.

Groups have become more familiar with the objectives of the category and hence many more projects have evolved.

The Cloth Nappy Incentive Scheme is an interesting one and is a throwback to a different era when washing lines were often full of nappies.

It would be great to think that it would evolve into everyday use thus reducing the use of a product that creates a lot of waste.

The Circular Economy is not very complex when all is said and done it's just a re-enactment of practices that prevailed in a time well before the "throw-away" era evolved during the days of the Celtic Tiger.

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 as well as www.giy.ie which gives food for thought (excuse the pun) on how to grow produce for self-sufficiency.

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.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The measures that you have put together to address any issues related to excess litter and dog fouling have certainly paid off as on the evening in question there was very little litter to be seen.

The dog fouling stencils must have paid off as there wasn't any dog poo in the main core area of the village.

Good thinking on behalf of the committee to send a letter to all residents in the Village and its surrounds via the Church notes, local newspapers and via social media platforms outlining your position re lack of resources- thus putting the responsibility firmly back on the local population to have Pride of Place.

Great motto "Clean up Paint Up and Keep it up" the adjudicator has memorized it for future reference.

General tidiness was good but there were a few side and back areas that were a little untidy and this is to be expected in every town or village no matter how big or small.

The Bring Bank was well appointed and had drive in and out directions stenciled on the ground surface.

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

The private properties in the main village area were all maintained to very high standards and it was evident that many had been recently redecorated.

These were commented upon in a previous category as well.

The estates mentioned Corbry Estate, Kilfergus Estate, and Marian Place were all visited and were in the main presented to a high standard.

The message that you put out there via the "letter" had its effect as communal areas were kept well and as you rightly state residents take pride in their respective areas.

Hamilton's Terrace is an impressive row of houses featured in the article "The Hidden Delights on the Streets of Glin" in which there is a lot of emphasis on the iconic O Shaughnessy's Pub but there is honourable mention of Hamilton's Terrace where it is described thus "a pleasant terrace of well-proportioned Georgian houses built by John Hamilton in 1820"

These houses were very well presented and the remedial work on one of them was in progress on the evening in question.

Cloeverfied Housing development – houses for the elderly under the auspices of Glin Housing were very well-maintained single-storey dwellings.

A good standard of presentation deserves an increase in marks.

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

The entrances into the village from off both sides of the N69 were very impressive with the backdrop of the Shannon Estuary looking way out the Banner County on the other side.

Name signs were clean and visible and verges were cut back following recommended practice.

We were just at the end of the No Mow in May period so edges were trimmed with back areas left to accommodate the preservation and promotion of wildlife.

The entrances into the village from Ballyhahill and Abbeyfeale were complemented by new stretches of footpaths that extended to the housing developments and the excellently maintained Glin GAA grounds with its designated parking spaces.

A good standard and one deserving of an additional mark.

Concluding Remarks:

It was good to re visit the estuary village of Glin on a very fine summer's evening and see the view down the main street right on to the Shannon.

You have done immense work as a committee and hopefully your revised strategy will attract new supporters.

You are wished well for the future.