

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mountcollins - Cnoc Uí Choileáin** Ref: **463**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **319**
Category: **B** Date(s):

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	41	42
Streetscape & Public Places	80	42	43
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	43	44
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	41	41
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	22	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	33	33
TOTAL MARK	550	314	319

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 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 to Supervalu Tidy Towns 2023. Thank you for participating again in Tidy Towns. Tidy Towns is good for your community and good for the country.

What a long time – 28 years – that you have been involved in Tidy Towns! That is remarkable perseverance and if we may say, particularly since you are a quite isolated community. You have a great line about the time that you have been involved in Tidy Towns – “it leads to an enhanced sense of place, a cleaner and better environment which adds to the cultural and aesthetic enhancement of the area”. That is great wording, and it applies to any Tidy Towns Centre also. It is remarkable that you have a Committee of 14 and a Volunteer Cohort of 11. That means that your Community support you and you support the Community. You have an involvement from the local primary school, but we do not know if you have an involvement from the Secondary School?

Your map was problematic for us! It was quite sparse! You listed six locations but you could have listed more, we feel. We did see a sign for the Mountcollins AFC but we do not know where that is. If there is a secondary school student that has a good graphic sense and can make a simple map of your area and the features in it, e.g., the Bridge, the GAA Club, local Pubs, Church, the Cragg Cillín and so on, then please get that person or persons to undertake such a map. It only needs to be simple and easy to understand. In other words, simple but intelligible graphics. Like cartoons that can convey a message. A map is like gold dust for the Adjudicator!

You wrote very few words! And Adjudicators sometimes see too many words! But we need to know just a little bit more about what you are doing, what you plan to do in the future, what is hampering you, and so on. Without this we cannot fully understand what you are doing.

On the positive side, on our first visit we were amazed to see Mountcollins and what your community have achieved to date. But for us to understand this we need you to tell your story!

Your feature that you have pride in this year is turning a derelict site into a Wild Flower Garden. Well done!

Finally, we do not know how much contact you have with other Tidy Towns groups. For your group it is essential to have contact with these groups. It can broaden your perspective and create new ideas for your Tidy Town. Indeed, this may already be happening. If not, then contact your nearest Tidy Town centre and we presume that this will be Abbeyfeale and or Newcastle West. This will help your Mountcollins but it will also help other local Tidy Town groups.

You should also pick one new project each year in each Category and that you can focus on. For example, we suggested below in the Green Spaces and Landscaping category to focus on the newly painted grey wall and to add some new planting inside it and as suggested below. You do not have to write a “tome”! No Adjudicator wants to read a very long report, but he/she wants information to understand what you are doing, when you are doing it, what is your one new project – or more – this year.

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

You are selling yourselves short! You have already mentioned the turning of a derelict site into a Wildflower Garden. And yes, that is a really good piece of work. But there are many other things that you can mention also. For example, work that is happening to overhaul an old house or other property. We noticed that the Community Centre and GAA grounds is a very strong feature in area. They are fine buildings and grounds. And the buildings are well painted. Like your previous Adjudicator, we would like to see some tree planting to enhance this location. Your Grotto is wonderful and in a beautiful setting across from the Caher River, and it stretches back so many years. The great planting scheme beside the Grotto enhances it even more. We note that you have new footpaths. That is a great improvement for everyone in your community, the young, the old and the disabled and who can now walk safely.

Have you considered a specific car parking area in your village to reduce the “car clutter”? All of these little interventions can make a village a nicer place to live in or visit.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Your Green Spaces and Landscaping have been made by your Community by getting small areas that you can add to with tree planting and/or flower displays. Your most recent one is the Wildflower Meadow just below the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption and which was a derelict site previously. You have planters on the “long wall” and the wall is well painted and enhances the flower display. Did your Tidy Towns plant the trees behind the wall? You need more trees in Mountcollins and, for instance, we would recommend the inclusion of a number of Scots Pine. A beautiful tree and well able to withstand the climate of your area. Make sure to plant small trees only – they will grow much better for that, in the longer term.

You have a Remembrance/Sensory Garden and it is well tended to and surrounded by beautiful trees. You have many information boards on wildlife generally and that is wonderful and informative for anyone who takes time to read them. We noticed that some of the signage here has been damaged - due to the ingress of water, we think. In your reports, please add more information. We would also suggest that in this Category, Green Spaces and Landscaping that you focus on a new project. For example, the planting of Scots Pine inside the painted wall, how many you planted, how they were protected and the possibility of adding a Whitethorn hedge inside the wall also.

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

When we were searching the Tournafulla Road for the local primary school we noticed a stand of Japanese Knotweed adjacent to the Caher River. The stand of Japanese Knotweed is located just up from the “Cattle yard” as you go from Mountcollins. If not dealt with, it will cause havoc with the Caher River and other areas also. It may be necessary to get an expert to deal with this as any of the plants that have been broken can grow again but particularly the plant can spread by seed dispersal.

There is much wildlife in your area, and you have made wonderful efforts to disseminate this information by use of information boards. We note that your school utilise this resource.

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

Sustainability is a difficult Category for many Tidy Towns groups and you have mentioned Composting of grass and the insulation of 10 houses in conjunction with the SEAI. We made suggestions for you in the Community – Your Planning and Involvement category. These suggestions should also include discussion and consideration with other Tidy Town groups on this Category. To make this work you will need to source an expert on this Category and who can make it understandable and how to actually use it in the work you do. You are not alone in this – it is a difficult Category, but it is so very important, for both your Tidy Town but also for your environment. If you are going to arrange for a Sustainability expert to attend a meeting it is more practical to do this with other Tidy Town groups. Then, you can have a dialogue with these groups and exchange information. And it might be a cheaper option also!

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your village is generally very tidy. And we did not find much litter and no doubt, this is because you focus on it. The footpaths have made you village tidier. As suggested earlier we would recommend that you consider a car parking area to make the street less cluttered and to allow, for example, outdoor eating.

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

You have a long street! And you have made a great effort to make your streets and housing areas clean and tidy. Again, and as mentioned in the Community – Your Planning and Involvement – do focus on one simple item in the Category for 2024 and that will enhance the street and housing areas.

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

Do try to make the entry to Mountcollins just a little more attractive. The name signage and the planting as you enter Mountcollins from Abbeyfeale is very good, but you should look at the other Approach Road areas also for similar enhancements. Remember, what the visitor sees first can create a positive or negative impression of your village.

Concluding Remarks:

Our first and negative impression of Mountcollins was gleaned from your report and the map! However, we are so glad to say that having been in your village for the first time, our impression was significantly enhanced! Well done

Mountcollins and the best of luck in the future.