

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre:	Pallaskenry - Pailís Chaonraí	Ref:	1297
County:	Limerick	Mark:	235
Category:	B	Date(s):	20/07/2023

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	40
Streetscape & Public Places	80	20
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	20
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	15
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	35
TOTAL MARK	550	235

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.

You say that your last year of entry to Tidy Towns was 2014 and you reformed your Pallaskenry Tidy Towns in 2022. You have a Committee of 3 and a volunteer cohort of 13. In addition, you have 9 other businesses, shops and Councillors that also support you. There is, as you enter Pallaskenry a feeling of "Can do"!

Your one specific project is the Plough and the Bench project, and you have cleaned up a space for it. The project recognises the heritage of The Salesian Agricultural College, and which has a history that goes back to 1920. The area that you have chosen is a beautiful one, surrounded by great trees and it marks a point of entry to Pallaskenry. We like the site, but we wonder if a more central one would have been better to display the Plough? But that is your decision, and we will not challenge it! It is interesting that the Plough and the Bench were donated by Daly Champion Hurleys and it is indeed fitting in this 4th great year for Limerick Hurling. We did wonder if there was herbicide sprayed on the edge areas of this lovely space? We hope not!

It is good to read that you are proposing to include both the Primary and Secondary School pupils in your Tidy Towns. This is a really important move and it will be good for the pupils and good for Pallaskenry.

Your presentation submission is very well presented and the addition of short, and to the point text and small photos serves your Adjudicator well in looking back when preparing the report. However, you need to present more detail on what you have done and what you plan to do. This is crucially important for the Adjudicator.

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

Arriving at entrance to Pallaskenry from the N69 we noted the wonderful hedgerows and fine trees lining the route. When starting our tour, the first thing that we could not but notice was the "half roundabout" with fine trees, flowers, and the wonderful Millenium Stone. A perfect entrance to Main Street. Across the wall was the GAA grounds and adjacent to it a Children's Play Area. Perfectly positioned to make the town a connected unit. It was something of a shock to see how clean and tidy Main Street was! And it was not done in a fussy way. We also noted the houses and shops that were very well presented and the majority of which had been painted and had flowers on windowsills and on the path. Further out there are old stone walls with ferns growing on them – wonderful. These stone walls display the great craft of good stone wall construction. We noted very few derelict houses.

There is a lot of traffic going through the village, but it does not feel like that. We noted the name stones in both Irish and English. The Irish language makes a connection to the fields, hills, work and rivers of the area. One example that we noted was An Clós Aoil - The Lime Yard and we noted some fine flowers here also.

Off Main Street we did note some poor road construction and housing. Hopefully, and with your Tidy Towns influence these will be repaired. We also note your piece on Nationwide on the proposed restoration of derelict housing in your village. This is a countryside problem.

The Primary School has some fine trees surrounding it and the building itself was very well presented.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Your Green Spaces and Landscaping stands on its own. You have undertaken great work and you have concentrated in particular on the entrances to the village and the wider locality. This work stands on its own, that is for sure. Yes, you use plant containers, but this has not been problematic since you are maintaining them very well indeed. You are also focusing on the green spaces in the village, and we will be looking at these enhanced areas in the future, we hope.

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

You have concentrated in this section on Wooden Insect Hotels. This is a great idea and you have been working on it and have produced a wide range of these. You have not indicated it, but we presume that the Insect Hotels have been made locally. You could clarify this next year. There are many other ideas in this Nature and Biodiversity section and you should take the opportunity next year to explore these. For example, you could look at your watercourses and how they are faring with pollution, Bird and Bat Boxes made locally, wildflower meadows in open spaces. There are many options here and we know that in 2024 you will present many more ideas in this Category.

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

We did notice the “plastic carpet” in the School Yard! This is really not Sustainable and you may be able to provide other options to replace it.

You cite your Plough and Bench project and yes, there are good examples here of Sustainable practice. We did mention in the Community – Your Planning and Involvement section, that there might have been herbicide sprayed in this area? The use of herbicide must be reduced and indeed eliminated. It is not a Sustainable practice. We note your use of pallets and you have made use of these in turning them into planters. This is sustainable.

We are sure that you will have many more examples of Sustainability in 2024.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

As we mentioned earlier, our introduction to Pallaskenry was an eye-opener! It was wonderful to see so little litter and the street kerbs were swept. And you made it look normal! You have written, “The success of the initiative depends on community engagement and participation where we encourage the youth to get involved”. That says it all and your series of pictures tells the tale! We saw it for ourselves. And yes, as we mentioned earlier there are some areas yet to be dealt with. But overall, in the streets and the open spaces you have made Pallaskenry a very Tidy Town. You, yourselves have summed it up in the following: “We believe that tidiness and litter control in Pallaskenry will make a significant positive impact on the local environment and promote a greater sense of community pride and engagement.”

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

Your Residential Streets and Housing Areas are very well maintained indeed. There are some areas where boundary walls back onto open space and we suggest that you undertake hedge planting against them. Your will also have other options. The important thing is to make sure that what you plant are not plants that grow too vigorously. We would also suggest tree planting on the open space – but leave space for children and teenage games and ball play! Another idea is to allow, in larger areas, for the grass to grow wild, that is Wildflower Areas. Your picture of the sign for Forgefield has the Irish also. This is wonderful and the Irish wording, Paircín na Ceártan tells a tale of what was in this area at one time. This is history!

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

The Approach Roads, Streets and Lanes are very well presented. You should look at, the signage on each of the entrance roads so that there is an overall plan for making these entrances attractive. To add to this, you should consider planting around or behind this signage. Be selective and do not overdo the presentation. Simple is best both in presentation and in maintenance.

Concluding Remarks:

We were very impressed with Pallaskenry. You have a lovely village and having the GAA and Soccer grounds within the village is all the better. In 2024, please work on each of the Categories so that you can describe in some more detail what you have done and what you plan to do for 2024. If you do not provide some detail, it is difficult for the Adjudicator to allocate the marking properly. On the other hand, we do not want a “tome”! As the saying goes, “Less is more”. Thank you Pallaskenry.