

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rockhill-Bruree-Village -
Cnoc na Carraige – Bru** Ref: **2158**

County: **Limerick** Mark: **262**

Category: **B** Date(s):

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	32	33
Streetscape & Public Places	80	31	32
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	32	32
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	26	26
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	17	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	56	57
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	30	31
TOTAL MARK	550	256	262

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 first entered Tidy Towns in 2015 and you have 6 on your Committee. You don't have volunteers as such. Interestingly, your Tidy Towns has been incorporated under the Community Council and since 2022 Ballyhoura Development. You say that since 2015 you can see a difference in the town and there is a positivity from the work that has been undertaken to date. As you say: "...it gives you a sense of achievement, involvement and community spirit."

In relation to the map that you provided we would ask that you make it just a little clearer please. It was a good map, but it could be improved on. Your Adjudicator needs to be able to understand the map as rapidly as possible. Thank you.

In relation to the Nature and Biodiversity Category and the Sustainability Category: many towns have problems with these. We know that Limerick City and Council provide seminars or meetings to explain these Categories and with experts provided. We would consider that this would be a good idea for some or all your Committee to attend. We hope that this will be of use to you.

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

Your town has a long Main Street! The River Maigue is a defining part of the town and there was a Mill powered by the Maigue from the 1850s. The mill is a very impressive building and it would be great to have it open and the Mill Wheel turning. Your town runs along the River Maigue and there is an interesting cast of buildings, many of them very impressive and using cut stone. From the park area you can view the bridge crossing into the village. The bridge was widened in 1837 and is quite attractive. There is a graveyard opposite the turn to the bridge and a little down from Riverside Park. This is Ballynoe Graveyard and it is very interesting. There is a large tower here, as well as an old and closed Church of Ireland Church. There are fine trees here and overall, it is very atmospheric. The Tower is in a precarious condition. Overall the village is attractive, but it does need enhancement in terms of painting and the upgrading of areas that have deteriorated. There are, like many towns, empty buildings and we noted that the Costcutter shop is due to be reopened shortly. We noted the Bruree National School and it has a fine modern extension. Adjacent to it is the GAA grounds. A good combination of buildings!

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

As you enter from the R518 there is a very fine park area sloping down to the Maigue. There are Bug Hotels and wildflower areas as well as seating and flowers in the park and, overall there is fine ambience with the River Maigue and the parkland. The river is broken by large rock formations, and which adds to the drama of the area. There are some fine trees on the edge of the park and including Trembling Poplar or Aspen trees that make a lot of interesting noise, particularly for children. You are planning to provide new planters and that is fine. However, we would recommend finding areas where Wildflowers could be planted and that would reduce the work of watering. There are some fine trees planted near the Bruree National School. One of the suggestions that has been made is for a safe walking area in the GAA grounds and that certainly is a great idea and particularly since the roads can be quite dangerous for pedestrians.

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

You have a Biodiversity project with Bat Rehabilitation Ireland to encourage more awareness of Bats in the area and to promote awareness of the Bat Hospital in the village. Now, that is information that we did not know about, and it sounds very interesting. In addition, you have placed many Bug Hotels around the village. You mention that the river is being cleaned more regularly. In that context, please source advice on this. It is so important that any work like this is subject to advice from a Biodiversity expert. The last thing you need to discover is that work that is being done has caused negative issues for the river biodiversity. On a positive note, it is good to see that you have planted a wildflower area recently. It should be a very attractive area in 2024.

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

Across the river from Riverside Park there is a composting area, St. Munchin's Park due to be completed shortly. You have Water Butts installed and that saves on water and we note that you are planning to install more. We also note that you have stopped using herbicides and well done on that. One of the major issues that you have is the volume of traffic running through the village. In the long run the only option here is to seek a By Pass. Trucks in particular are problems for small villages and towns and it is also a problem with large vehicles crossing the old bridge. In the long term it is likely that the truck drivers would also appreciate a By Pass.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your local school has a project of its own, "Tidy Towns" and it takes part in the TLC, the Team Limerick Clean up. That is education for the future. Your Tidy Towns group take part in the TLC but you have a problem with illegal dumping at the Recycle area. The only way to deal with this is monitoring unfortunately. On the positive side, you had a reduction in waste during the TLC this year. That is progress at least.

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

It is good to see that all your footpaths have been updated and completed. That is progress. Can we ask for next year: when you are dealing with a new project such as the planting of new trees and planters to make sure that you provide specific details of the locations where they were planted. This is important for your Adjudicator and it is also important that the information in next year's Tidy Towns is available to the next Adjudicator. If there is a small volume of information or none at all, you are doing your Tidy Towns Committee and village a disservice.

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

The Approach Roads into Bruree were very good. Our first stop was at the car parking area at Riverside Park and it was very attractive, even if it was raining! From the other side of the village from the Kilmallock direction, the entrance was equally attractive also.

Concluding Remarks:

We must admit that we had not seen Bruree previously and we were very impressed when we did. It has wonderful features and great possibilities into the future. The work that you have completed to date is very impressive. Keep up the good work.