

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Templeglantine - Teampall an Ghleanntáin** Ref: **470**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **338**
Category: **A** Date(s): **06/06/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	45	47
Streetscape & Public Places	80	42	44
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	42	43
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	37	39
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	19	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	67	69
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	36	37
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	39	39
TOTAL MARK	550	327	338

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 and the excellent map of the village of Templeglantine and the succinct 2-5 year plan.

The Sustainable Development Goals are at the heart of the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

These goals address the global challenges we face in relation to important environmental topics.

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

The committee has aligned itself to the goals as indicated in your submission.

Thank you for the introductory description of the Village which is fairly familiar to this adjudicator from times past but hasn't been to visit for a number of years now.

There has been positive changes in the interim but the Village always had an attractiveness about it down through the years.

You have always had a strong input from the local community and thank you for giving an insight to members of the committee shown in the group photo.

The committee of 6 and the additional volunteer group 16 have done trojan work in putting Templeglantine to forefront of the competition in the County over the years.

You get immense support from the local community as outlined in your submission.

It is noted that you are a small group this year as you come under the umbrella of the local Templeglantine Development Company which has limited company status in that it can apply for grant aid and other forms of support as an independent entity.

The support from Limerick City & County Council, West Limerick Resources Ltd and other agencies is noted.

Having members nominated to the County PPN is very important as it keeps one in the loop of what is happening within local government and also allows community groups to have a say in decisions which affect one's own community.

Well done on putting this into your entry form.

The adjudicator is just curious to know what benefit being involved in UL Citizens Assembly is to the group or the local development company ?

Maybe you might elaborate a little more in the next year's entry form.

Methods of communication are excellent and one notes that you use Dropbox which is the first time that the adjudicator has encountered the use of this medium among TT Groups

The Facebook Page for Templeglantine Community Development is up to date and one notes that a big local event

is planned the week end of the 2n July to celebrate the Greenway Hub.

There is an excellent level of interaction with the excellent local school and local sports clubs.

A major project last year was the Sacred Micro Forest, which was planted in collaboration with Templeglantine Community Development, Templeglantine National School, Eco Sikh Ireland and Reforest Nation.

This is a unique and exceptional project where so many local people combined with Eco Sikh Ireland in planting a 1,000 trees.

Max McAuliffe English translator of the Sikh Scriptures born in Monagea West Limerick 1813.

Since the Village has entered the competition in 2015 much has happened by way of development and also it looks as if there is more appreciation of what a delightful place Templeglantine is.

An additional 2 marks are awarded.

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

Thank you for giving the adjudicator an insightful history of the listed buildings in the village and the need to record these as part of Templeglantine's local heritage.

The advent of the Greenway should bring great benefits to the local community and the adjudicator observed that a good lot of additional work was in progress on the evening in question.

As you rightly state the new Greenway signage will direct visitors to the picturesque village of Templeglantine.

Good to note that the oldest house in the village predating the original church and school has been put into commercial use as an approved self-catering unit.

Well done to the owners who took the gamble to refurbish it and develop a business that will benefit the village economically.

The following are some personal observations that the adjudicator made during the walkabout.

The public buildings Rc Church and Grounds, The National School, and the recently refurbished Halla Inse Bán were presented to the highest standards.

The grounds of both the Church and School were very well maintained and credit is due to those who are responsible for their upkeep.

The Grotto across the road was also very well presented with some nice planting arrangements in place.

Halla Inse Bán was in immaculate condition and the car parking areas were marked and the defibrillator was situated in a central position on the wall.

The adjudicator was impressed with the overall condition of the roads and footpaths which stretched out each end of the village up a side road to the GAA Grounds.

Street lighting poles were clean and road markings were clear although the adjudicator felt that there should be a more emphatic.

The Devon Inn Hotel was presented well and a coach arrived whilst the adjudication was taking place.

Sheehan's other business Top Service Station and Shop looked as if it had been recently painted and the curtilage was tidy with no clutter.

The Glantine FC Grounds, the club has been in existence for over 41 years, were in immaculate condition with a lovely wrought iron gate.

Credit is due to the members who over the years have developed the grounds and facilities.

The adjudicator was wondering what is the position of the old milk collection building. – a throwback to a different era- it could with an old fashion whitewash

There are some very fine private residences to be seen in the core area of the village and all the residents have a pride of place.

The Old Devon Inn Pub looked in need of a little TLC, maybe the murals could be redone to reflect the progress of time.

Overall the standard was very good and for the extra work that was done, particularly on Halla Inse Bán, over the last year, an additional 2 marks are awarded.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The standard in this category was as in other years very good with a lot of creativity in the new projects that you have listed.

The Hotel Grounds were indeed in very good order and some nice space was available for guests to relax.

The plans for the new car park near the school were noted and no doubt that you have plans to soften the hard landscaping by providing some suitable planting arrangements.

The Micro Forest project has already been mentioned in a previous section and the area was visited during the adjudication.

This was an impressive input from 80 to 100 volunteers and the trees were planted in just under an hour using the Miyawaki method which promises to grow mature native trees 10 times faster and 100 times more biodiverse than conventional plantations.

The interaction between the local school children of the National School and the Sikh is to be commended and the time capsule will be discovered in times to come and probably will form part of the history of Templeglantine for future generations.

The plaque and the info board were unveiled on the 11th of September 2022 and were admired for their fine design. An Fear Coillte sculpture is the icing on the cake when put in situ.

The adjudicator noted the wildflower garden which was adjacent to the Maple Grove Housing area.

There is an array of planting arrangements dotted around the village and most were in very good condition with an emphasis on all-year-round sustainable planting.

One or two shrub beds were a little sparse and need to be revitalized somewhat.

For the extra work you have done on the relatively new micro forest project and for the quality of some of the private

gardens viewed an additional mark is awarded.

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

This is one of the best submissions from a small community in this category that the adjudicator has seen this year. Well done to all involved.

There is no point repeating back to you what you have submitted but instead, a few personal comments will suffice. Thank you for the insightful input on Templeglantine's special protection area status and its association with the Hen Harrier.

The Hen Harrier, as you rightly state, is a member of the Hawks and Eagles family and has been identified as a species of high conservation concern on the Island of Ireland.

Well done to the person or persons who have monitored and recorded these facts.

The adjudicator is pleased to note that a habitat survey has been started by the committee members, the school children, and the resident's association for the area.

The results of this survey should be published and consideration should also be given to the idea of producing an information panel on the fauna and flora of the area

The wildflower areas that have been developed in the village were visited by the adjudicator and credit to the committee members for maintaining these and also using native seed species.

Well done to the transition year student who has completed a beekeeping course with the Irish Beekeepers Association which is monitoring the native Irish beehive located in the Centre of the village in conjunction with the Galway Honeybee Research Centre.

An excellent initiative to install innovative bird boxes and solitary bee nesters around the village and for monitoring these regularly.

At this juncture, the adjudicator would like to commend the committee for aligning the relevant SDGs to its work activities under all categories.

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

This category has been evolving in keeping with current EU and government policy.

It encapsulates how we try to minimise our use of all resources within the community so that we reduce our environmental impact

It also asks groups to show an understanding of what this category means and awareness of the move towards a Circular Economy and implementation of the SDGs

What you have mentioned in the entry form very much fits within the guidelines and the ethos of Doing More with Less but these measures have been replicated by other groups and communities around the country.

It is felt that maybe next year a few specific projects outside the norm would be welcome from such a progressive group as yourselves.

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.giy.ie which will give a good insight into growing options for food self-sufficiency as well as

www.localprevention.ie, www.greenhomes.ie and www.sustainableprocessing.ie

Also, consult the revised Tidy Towns Handbook which has an excellent section on this category packed with relevant information and links to websites.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Litter control was excellent as there was no litter, bar a wrapper or two, to be seen on adjudication day.

This is down to the excellent litter management plan that you have in place and the "tidy and tend evenings" that are organised and overseen by the dedicated committee member.

No doubt Mary has her helpers and well done to them for the diligence in which they carry out this task.

Well done to the teachers, children, and indeed parents in helping the National School to re-engage with the Green Flag Schools Programme and ended up achieving Flag Status under the heading of litter.

Well done to the members of the community who took part in the Leave No Trace training programme as part of the Limerick Greenway Destination Development programme.

This as you rightly say will only benefit the community in the future when visitor numbers increase as a result of the ongoing promotion of the Greenway.

Distributing ERP battery recycling boxes to each of the three shops in the parish to help facilitate battery recycling is a first-rate idea.

There was no clutter in the village or on the footpaths.

Just one little negative an area adjacent to the sewage works was a little messy as ladders and buckets were scattered around- it's quite possible that this was a work-in-progress area.

Finally a positive comment on the well-appointed and well-managed Bring Bank.

Overall the standard was very good and an increase of 2 marks is awarded.

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

The village is small but quite spread out and as was stated there is not a problem with unoccupied buildings.

Some buildings that were unoccupied when the adjudicator was last in Templeglantine some years back have been refurbished and have contributed to the vibrant look of the village.

Housing developments Ascaill Inse Bán and Maple Grove were visited and the complement of new rowan trees planted last year at the back of the former are making good progress.

The private homesteads viewed in the village and on the outskirts were presented to a very high standard with frontages and gardens in pristine condition.

The adjudicator was impressed with the quality of boundary walls all of which were clean and nicely painted. It is amazing how a coat of paint can transform a house or boundary wall. Some farmyard gates were also noted and these were in very good condition with no rust. The "long wall" plastered in 2020 mentioned in last year's report is a village feature as it does grab one's attention. Overall the input in this category deserves an extra mark.

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

The entrances into the village from both sides of the N21 were very well presented and credit to the National Roads authority for maintaining the directional and name signs to a very good standard. The grass verges were cut by recommended guidelines and bearing in mind the preservation and promotion of various species of wildlife. The new information panel for the Limerick Greenway is an added little modicum of appeal. Traffic calming measures as one approaches the village are more than adequate and one is well forewarned of speed limits and school signs. The L7055 up by the GAA Club was also well presented and the road surface was acceptable with verges again treated by good practice.

Concluding Remarks:

It was good to re visit the pleasant elongated village of Templeglantine after an absence of more than a few years. It was noticeable that a lot more Limerick flags were flying since that last visit! Well done to you the members of the very progressive and proactive committee. You are wished well in the future.