

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tournafulla - Tuar na Fola** Ref: **471**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **309**
Category: **A** Date(s): **06/06/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	42	43
Streetscape & Public Places	80	42	44
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	35	36
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	33	34
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	21	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	64	66
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	29	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	33	34
TOTAL MARK	550	299	309

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, other support material such as pictorial records, and the excellent map of the village which was invaluable to this adjudicator.

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

Tidy Towns has now fully incorporated them into the competition and requests groups to show how SDGs impact their activities.

As someone that has a reasonable familiarity with Tournafulla over the decades, I didn't have the same problem as last year's adjudicator in identifying places.

That said thank you for taking on board the comments and numerating places of interest and work activities on the map.

Your entry form is concise and to the point not too long or not too short so well done to those who compiled the data and wrote the content.

Your committee structure of 3 executive positions and 4 volunteers is tight enough for a fairly large elongated area. The adjudicator would suggest that you try and recruit a few more to help with the workload.

You have a good cross-section of supporters from the public sector to local businesses, clubs, and organisations. Thank you for recognising the work of TU's participants as they contributed greatly to the activities of Tidy Towns Groups around the country.

There is a good mix in your communications including local radio, newsletters, various forms of social media, and course the oldest of the lot – word of mouth.

Interaction with the local Glengert National sees the school children being involved in many of your activities.

Well done on encouraging and developing this link as it has mutual benefits over time

Your special project has been noted and was visited and well done to the committee for raising funds to bring the project to fruition.

30 years of involvement in Tidy Towns is a long time and thank you for the endorsement of the competition and what it has meant to the community.

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

First off the adjudicator wants to acknowledge your note on the 2021 report and record it as read.

As he does not know the situation it would be remiss of him to make any further comment on the matter.

The adjudicator took your advice and took to shanks mare to walk the route you advised.

Let's say the recommended 10k steps were outstripped.

It is possibly the “ longest village” road that this adjudicator has come across.

There was a hurling match about to commence in the lovely valley setting of the GAA Grounds and to quote a line from one of the dUnbelievables sketches cars were parked with “total abandonment” in the village.

To be honest I had no recourse to the 2019 report but if you say that you “were better employed” in getting a pavement constructed from the St Patrick’s Church to Glengurt National School who is this adjudicator to disagree with that decision?

A far more practical piece of work than the one originally suggested and it was noted during the adjudication process.

St Patrick’s Church and Grounds, with magnificent trees, were in resplendent condition and well done to the people that are entrusted with their upkeep.

The aforementioned school was also in a very good state of presentation and the traffic calming measures and pedestrian crossing were more than acceptable.

It was noted that a new car parking facility for teachers was still a work in progress and will be a great addition when completed.

Like many other rural villages, you have suffered your hardships with Covid and it is good to see that positive things are happening to the buildings that you mentioned.

The following are a few additional observations under this category made during the walkabout.

The GAA Grounds is in an idyllic setting and well done to the club members for having the grounds and facilities in such good condition.

There was ongoing work on a few properties as observed by the adjudicator.

I put a question mark in my notes when I passed the Homestead Bar on the bend of the road and I now know that it only opens at intermittent times probably to ensure that the licence is retained.

The 1916 memorial was well maintained and the area around it was tidy.

One wonders why the refusal of planning permission for upgrading of Mulcahy’s Pub but all is well that ends well and the new private house will be a good addition to the housing stock in the Village.

The Community Shop is a testament to the volunteers that set it up and who have managed it on a full-time basis.

D&L O Connell Car Sales Business has a compact well-presented curtilage that is well organised and tidy.

The road surfaces, in general, were good, with excellent street lighting, and the new sections of footpaths allowed for safe passage for pedestrians.

You have detailed the situation with unoccupied or derelict properties.

Like other voluntary groups that are faced with similar problems, all you can do is appeal to the owners or in extreme cases refer to the local authority.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The adjudicator has noted your comment “Please Note that we disagree with your Judge 2021 who suggested that perhaps we did not need a name plaque for the ‘trees of remembrance”.

Could I suggest that in future that if you have issues with adjudicators reports that you address them in the entry form the year immediately after not 2 years or in the case of the 2019 issue 4 years later.

The adjudicator deals with the present entry form and the report from the previous year.

Apologies for being upfront on the matter but this adjudicator didn’t have access to the reports that you were referring and wasn’t familiar with the content –simple as.

As you suggested I did the “walk”and observed the wild violets, dandelions and primroses.

It’s amazing that as a people we sometimes dismiss the dandelion as irritant weed and never appreciating it as a plant with a multiplicity of properties.

The adjudicator likes your treatment of grass cuttings and how it benefits insects.

Well done on this approach and it also dispels the idea that leaving cut grass in situ near verges is somewhat of a no no.

Of course it has to be done in a proper manner.

Thank you for your input on the proposed Children’s Funpark and the adjudicator visited the area where the trees were planted adjacent to new school carpark.

It looked as if materials ready for the Funpark were in situ.

The Sensory Garden was superb and situated in a central location with lovely stone seats to complement both the herb boxes and the circular area.

The information panel was expertly designed and informative.

Could one make a suggest that may of not be a runner.

The slate surrounds of the boxes look a little dull and could be re vitalised in a different format and one is aware that they are slate surrounds

The adjudicator would also assess the Sustainable Garden under the Sustainability – doing more with less category.

Some excellent individual gardens and planters were viewed during the walkabout.

The standard was very good and merits an increase in marks.

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

The key components of this adjudication category are knowledge of local species and habitats as well as familiarity with local designated areas.

It is also important to be aware of the Law and Biodiversity before embarking on any related project.

Good wildlife advice and communication of the importance of the local wildlife heritage to the local community is so essential.

Being aware of invasive and possible destructive plants such as Japanese knot weed is also vital.

An excellent submission under this category.

The adjudicator has taken note of your concern about wildlife species in the area and its concerning that you cannot

address this openly.

You have mentioned your mowing practice in an earlier category and the adjudicator commented favourably. An excellent idea to survey the local population on what they would like to see in the sustainable area around the playground.

Interesting reaction to the wildflower areas that were planted but as you say The Committee as a collective were not in a position to disagree and the adjudicator can see why to be honest.

Can additional members from the core of the village be prevailed upon to become part of an extended committee? The bird boxes that you referenced were noted in a few areas by the adjudicator and well done on keeping the bee bed populated with pollinator friendly plants.

There is still more opportunities to exploit the natural habitats of your area in the opinion of this adjudicator.

Suggest that you make contact with a local wildlife enthusiast or the County Biodiversity Officer or equivalent for direction and advice.

The section on this category in the Tidy Towns Handbook is another good reference point.

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 is a broad category so you may be surprised at how many of your existing community initiatives are relevant.

The adjudicator's report of last year was extensive with a myriad of suggestions some of which you have acted upon.

What is more important in this adjudicator's opinion is the ability to be able to maintain any projects that you initiate. That depends very much on the resources available to the committee.

The Community Sustainable Living Garden is a perfect example of a project that fits the ethos of Sustainability – Doing more with less.

Just to remind ourselves that Doing More with Less is just not a catchy slogan it's a necessity!

Rather than bombard the committee with ideas that may not be feasible for such a small village I would suggest that you get in touch with the County Environmental Officer who could help you tailor a programme that would suit your needs.

There may be some relevant evening courses or workshops in the pipeline that a representative of the committee could attend.

Again your source is the Environmental Officer or indeed maybe West Limerick Resources.

For more ideas consult the following

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

and for information on the circular economy www.dccae.gov.ie

Also make use of the excellent section on Sustainability in the Tidy Towns Handbook where there is a raft of informative information and links to various websites.

www.giy.ie will introduce to the Grow It Yourself project based in Waterford.

An additional mark is awarded for work done in the last year.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your comments and opinions have been noted.

One appreciates the frustration of traffic whipping through your village but to be honest that's a problem that many villages have to put up with every day and one that creates problems for all groups.

Again littering in the country is a major problem and there have been National media campaigns to highlight the situation and how it is affecting urban and rural areas but unfortunately there always will be those that are non-conformists.

There are criteria that the adjudicator has to work as detailed in the entry form and not one project be it new or maintenance oriented was listed.

This adjudicator based his marks on what he discovered on the ground and maybe for next year's entry:

Tell us about whether you have weekly litter picks, how you get the message of anti-littering and anti-dog fouling to the community and your involvement with the school to relay the message of litter control.

Tell us about how local community members help you with regular litter picks.

Organising litter pick groups is an effective way of ensuring that all areas of the village are addressed and cleared of any litter on a regular basis.

Is there a County Anti Litter League and if so do you intend to enter ?

The adjudicator based his assumptions on what he observed during the walkabout

The standard of tidiness and litter control was very good on the day of adjudication and this is all the more laudable given that the village is rather spread out

There were a few back areas that could be deemed to be a little untidy but nothing dramatic to be concerned about.

Good to note that you acknowledged the role of the TUS worker in the CIP section of the entry form scheme.

Is litter picking part of his or her duties?

An increase in marks is merited.

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

Thank you for letting us know that most of what would be included here has been already covered in other

categories.

The adjudicator notes that you have welcomed new residents to the village over the last year and they have had a very positive impact on the community and bring some additional skills as well.

There is a very well-presented row of detached and uniform bungalows Fr McCarthy Terrace that one encounters as one approaches the outskirts of the village from the Abbeyfeale direction.

Some of these have lovely gardens with well-maintained lawns and boundary walls and credit to their owners. a nice section of new footpath down to the Community Hall makes for easier passage for pedestrians and children.

There are a few very fine standalone properties in the Hillview area.

Overall the standard of presentation could not be faulted.

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

The comment on the 2021 judge's remarks and the role of LCC as Tournafulla Tidy Towns see things have been noted.

The Stone Carved Failte Sign with the traditions of the village depicted by a fiddle and a hurley is a fine piece of work that deserves commendation.

The entrances from both ends of the R515 junction were very good with verges treated following good practice for the preservation of wildlife.

The road from Rockchapel in the Barony of Duhallow is of equal standard.

I'm kind of in agreement with you on the comments that you have made on tree planting but one thinks that you should make it to a wider audience via different platforms.

Concluding Remarks:

It was good to come back to Tournafulla after a long absence.

Lots of good work have been done to enhance the village over the last number of years.

The adjudicator suggests that try to you get more members involved from the village proper.

Finally hurling still to the fore in Tour and it would be a bad look pot if it wasn't in the present times.