

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Goatenbridge - Droichad Na Gabhair** Ref: **2244**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **252**
Category: **A** Date(s): **21/07/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	31	32
Streetscape & Public Places	80	31	33
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	30	31
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	29	31
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	17	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	42	44
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	30	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	28	30
TOTAL MARK	550	238	252

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

Congratulations on your entry to Tidy Towns. Since you only formed in 2019 you have made a great start. You have a strong committee and volunteer group, and you are already working well with the national school. You have good support from a number of organisations, and I am sure that this will grow as you identify new projects and initiatives. Well done on the monster cake sale. The photography demonstrates what “monster” means. A great way to raise €3,000 for a great cause. Events like these also bring communities together and raise the profile of Tidy Towns. Well done.

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

You have provided some great examples of the ongoing work from the pump house to the old schoolhouse, the village pump, fencing, the housing estate. Many great initiatives that take many years to complete and ongoing maintenance. As part of streetscape, we also looked at seating, lighting, signage, architecture, sculpture, the bridge, the display of old agricultural machinery and everything that might be regarded as hard as opposed to softscape. The overall impression is very positive. You have a beautiful village. Take care not to clutter spaces with small pots and ensure that seating is placed in suitable locations for use e.g., not in the middle of road medians.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Again, you have provided a comprehensive list of activities that include ongoing maintenance and development and some new initiatives like working with the hurling & camogie club. The colourful planting at the welcome signs looked great on adjudication day, as did the colour at the bridge picnic area and the church. There is evidence of lots of hard work and you have created a picturesque location. However, I would urge you to take a close look at tree staking and tying. You will lose trees if they don't receive some emergency TLC. Some have already given up the ghost. The gorgeous mature Eucalyptus is an example of what can be achieved if trees are given the opportunity to flourish. The planted pots, boats, barrels, etc all bring colour and interest to this great location. For that reason, you could dispense with the use of plastic flowers in baskets

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

Having the river Tar running through the village gives you the opportunity to support and admire a much wider range of wildlife than most locations. You are doing a lot to maximise this opportunity and perhaps you can start to monitor and measure the sightings of birds, fish and invertebrates in future years. Signage and controlled access is important and the creation of the car park for walkers in the Knockmealdowns is a game changer. You are aware of best practice hedge maintenance, and you are planting wildflowers and allowing areas to do their own thing with

brambles. Avoid the use of chemical sprays, particularly as you draw closer to the river, wildlife areas, bird boxes and bug hotels.

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

This category has the most potential for community action and the most potential to impact positively on climate change and resource depletion. By the actions of your group you have clearly demonstrated that you understand this. Walking or cycling to meetings, shopping locally, using left over paints, repurposing objects for planters, composting, water harvesting, using digital communication, etc., With this understanding, you are well placed to educate and support community members, many of whom, will be struggling with high energy costs and concerned about climate change. Keep up the great work

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your passionate approach to litter control and tidiness is commendable. You have created a culture of zero tolerance and I am happy to say that on adjudication day your hard work was evident. You have also gone to great lengths to wash signage, make entry points very attractive, mow verges, plant hedge/screens, etc. Your BNB worker has been doing a great job also and the efforts that school children and sports clubs are making have made this approach a part of the local DNA. Well done to all concerned

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

You have provided some great information in this section on the work done at several locations including the pump house, church, picnic area, etc., but these are all assessed under streetscape. This category refers specifically to housing estates and other residential areas. With regard to the housing estate that lay unfinished like so many others when the Celtic tiger fled for warmer climes, you appear to be doing all that you can to make it as attractive as it can be. You are also talking to those who are responsible for its completion. You can do no more. The beech hedging is an excellent screen and in the future years when this area is planted with trees and benefitting from other green interventions it will make a great addition to the village. Other residences around the village are attractive, many with beautiful front gardens that compliment your idyllic location.

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

Your approach roads are a credit to you. They were all spotless on adjudication day. You have attended to all aspects in this category, from litter, to verge and hedgerow management, erection of fencing, planting of same using appropriate species, welcome signs are painted, washed, and planted. You are liaising with landowners and authorities and the results are clear to be seen. Keep up the focus on accessibility and safety and when all your footpaths are complete keep the focus on tree planting and traffic calming. Well done to all

Concluding Remarks:

Goatenbridge was a pleasure to visit. While you are blessed with natural beauty of the surrounding landscape you have done much to compliment and honour it. The principles that drive your objectives were clearly well considered. Congratulations and best of luck in the future