

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardpatrick - Ard Pádraig** Ref: **441**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **352**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **11/06/2022**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2021</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2022</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	45	46
Streetscape & Public Places	80	46	48
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	48	50
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	39	40
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	24	25
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	64	67
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	35	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	39	40
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>352</b>

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu don bhliain 2022. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Adh Mór...

Welcome to the 2022 SuperValu TidyTowns competition. Thank you for your entry and for your commitment to your place in these difficult times. Keep up the great work.

With a population of less than 50 people, it is amazing to learn that over half of the community are involved with the Tidy Towns group in taking care of their local environment. You arrange to meet when there is work to be done. Your green spaces are available to all. Many thanks for the information on the availability of toilets – it is useful to know, and it is great that you are considerate for your visitors. Thanks for the information on various activities in which your members are engaged and the list of supporting agencies is impressive. You have a good communication network and have a member of the board of management of the local school and helps out with the school garden. Well done on being a participant in the competition since 1990 and we note you have replaced some plants in your landscaping projects because they needed replacement. Thank you for your map of Ardpatrick which was very clear.

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

We arrived by the school, which was looking very well, and we admired the green flag but failed to find the mural on the outdoor classroom – perhaps it has yet to be done. The grounds of the school looked neat and tidy with many trees growing along the boundary. The church looked well as did the Spruce and Willow and O'Sullivan's Garage. The Community Centre is well placed and convenient for the community. Well done for supporting the house martins. Thanks for all the other information about painting and signage. We admired the stone wall boundary around the church – it is an important feature within the village.

We climbed the hill of Ardpatrick and wondered at the strength and enthusiasm of the people who built the monastery there many centuries ago. The climb is quite a challenge, but the new concrete pathway is a big help.

### **Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:**

Bishop Murphy Park is a wonderful amenity for the village and is very well maintained. It is clear that the community has great pride in this little park. We note you have removed plants which had deteriorated. While we have no idea of what they were or their condition, we suggest that shrubs require pruning on an annual basis. Such pruning should not be confused with clipping. Shrub pruning should aim to remove old shoots from the base and encourage new shoots to grow. If you do that, there is no need to replace them. Well done on your choice of perennials in the park and in beds outside the park and we note the reduction in the use of annuals which are more demanding of attention. You also have some plant containers but remember the only reason to use them would be to grow

something that cannot be planted directly into the ground – a comment which you have made in your application. Therefore, we suggest you evaluate where you have containers, especially small containers and examine the impact they make. Would the areas look as well without them – we think they would.

The cemetery on the hill is enclosed by a stone wall and is generally well-maintained. We were surprised that so many of the deceased members of your community were in the 80s and 90s when they died – so many years ago. The encouragement of wildflowers is happening there with reduced mowing frequency – this has no doubt contributed to the buttercups and daisies growing near the entrance.

The Carraig Mor scheme on the site of the old creamery is very interesting. We liked the symbolism, use of materials and the selection of planting schemes. The heather beds have become overgrown and are ready for replacement. In order to prevent having to replace them in future, we suggest you clip them well each year to rejuvenate them and prevent them from spreading. The mass planting of *Cerastium tomentosum* (?) (snow in summer) on the embankment opposite the church is very well done. It will be a delightful bank of ground cover. Thank you for your list of plants which you have planted in Ardpatrick.

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

Well done on working with Glenbrohane on the Freshwater watch project for the Noneen stream and you have had discussions with Liz Gabbett from the Maigne Rivers Trust. We can see that the school is actively promoting environmental education and have been awarded their 10th Green Flag – for sustainability. There is good information on signs throughout the village on environmental matters and you participated in the pollinator project. You engage with Birdwatch Ireland and maintain bird boxes for blue tits – you also have barn owls, buzzards and hen harriers. We have noted the observations on the wildlife in Ardpatrick by David Meskill. Carrying out a survey of the native plants growing in your area would be an interesting project for the school children.

You have demonstrated a knowledge and understanding of nature and biodiversity in your area and undertaken appropriate actions and are sharing this knowledge – well done.

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

Under this heading we note activities such as harvesting rainwater, reusable water bottles are promoted in the school. For energy usage reduction, the new appliances in the community centre are a help. You are planting more perennial plants and propagate herbaceous plants which you share with other communities. Composting of organic waste is practiced, including grass clippings. In that regard you might consider not removing the grass and allowing it to decompose into the ground where it is cut – that is what is done in in the 14,000 acres of public parks in Dublin. You might also consider leaving patches of grass unmown and allow wildflowers to develop. We note that the senior pupils share the products from the school garden. In transport matters, you make good use of the local link service. We suggest you consult the handbook on the following link for more ideas on projects under this criterion.  
<https://www.tidytowns.ie/competition/handbook/>

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

We found Ardpatrick very neat and tidy which no doubt can be attributed to your 35 volunteers who picked 80 bags of rubbish which we note was segregated and disposed of appropriately. We like your policy of not providing litter bins because people who care will bring their litter home. We didn't see any posters or cable ties so well done in that regard and also for keeping the bring bank cleaned. In your discussions with the county council, suggest that they include the undergrounding of overhead cables in a future programme, when the opportunity arises. Three good quality signs are on the grass margin at the village entrance on Kildorrery Road. To add some unity, it would be better to have these signs grouped together in one place with a hard surface area in front of them. That would also help to reduce the number of poles and look tidier.

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

Since Ardpatrick is a small village, you do not have a housing estate. Well done to all the residents for taking such good care of their property, including their gardens and for helping maintain areas outside their ownership.

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

The road surfaces in Ardpatrick are in good condition and your signage makes the visitor feel very welcome. The margins and open spaces are appropriately managed, and we note your plan to have line markings improved.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

You have a beautiful village, and it is great to see such a proud and active community doing its best to have Ardpatrick looking its best. The highlight of our visit was enjoying Bishop Murphy Park and climbing the hill to the cemetery and monastic site.