

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Glenosheen - Gleann Oisín	Ref: 454
County: Limerick	Mark: 286
Category: A	Date(s): 04/07/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	31	32
Streetscape & Public Places	80	32	33
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	38	38
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	29	29
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	13	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	67	68
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	35	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	35	36
TOTAL MARK	550	280	286

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

Fáilte Chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu 2022. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn. Go raibh maith agaibh as ucht bhur dtacaíocht le linn na paindéime. Lean leis an dea-obair.

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 4 committee members and another 3 who volunteer, you are well represented in a small village of 32 people. In your case, formal meetings are less important when you can discuss as you work. You are well supported by Limerick County Council and other agencies. You communicate by word of mouth which seems perfectly sensible in your case. A girl from your community attends a primary school and she helps her dad in cutting grass and picking litter – isn't she great. Your specific project for this year is the dry-stone wall beside Hillcrest and the village entry for mountain bike trails. For the past 15 years you have participated in the competition – well done.

Many thanks for your detailed map but we had great difficulty in finding Glenosheen even though you told us it was 3 miles from Ardpatrick on the Kildorrery Road. We know we should have gone to Ardpatrick, but instead we were using a sat nav which informed us that it was somewhere else altogether. Next time however, perhaps you would write on the map which road leads to where and the adjudicator in 2023 should fare better than we did.

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

Mentioned under this heading are your efforts to have anti-skid surfaces on the road to slow down traffic speed. You are also in contact with the Council regarding two derelict buildings in the village. We admire two stone built houses (old Palatine) in the centre of the village. Both of them look lived in, but we note that one is vacant. You are proud that the renowned folklorist and songwriters the Joyce brothers moved to Glenosheen in the early 1800s and there is a plaque at the house where they lived in the village. You are pleased that two new residents have been a great help by improving the site where they live. For our first time to visit Glenosheen we were impressed with the care and attention your committee is giving to the maintenance and improvement of the village. You have a few distinctive characteristics which are important. The first is the lovely stone walls on both sides of the main road going through the village and at the bend on the hill road which you indicated on your map. It is very worth while preserving this stone wall in every opportunity that arises in the future. We realise that new private walls were built with concrete and rendered in plaster and are painted. They look well and it is understandable that for economy and speed it was quicker to do that. Where the wall on the main road was repaired, we note that concrete was used in some cases. That is a pity. However, we note that you have some roses planted against this wall in certain locations. We suggest that these roses and the semi-circular stone surrounds be moved to the places where concrete was used to repair the wall. You can then use the roses to mask the concrete, but you could also use *Cotoneaster horizontalis*, an evergreen wall plant that is loved by bees, produces white flowers in spring and red

berries in autumn – so it would serve several purposes. The stone built houses are the second distinctive character, mentioned above and we liked the little cut limestone village marker with the few flowers under it opposite the old Palatine House.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

We liked the planting on top of the stone wall on the way down the hill road to the village. You also do a good job maintaining the green area at the main road and other verges in the community as well as the four stone beds on the approach roads. There are also some plant containers elsewhere. Rather than use a standard plant container, we suggest you build a stone kerb in front of the stone wall and plant directly into it – it will save on watering and blend much better into your environment. You already have a planting like that on the side of the hill beside a gate. There is a small field in the village centre which would be a suitable site for a group of trees. We also suggest that a line of trees (of the one species such as oak) could be planted in the field behind the stone wall on the main road – assuming the owner would agree.

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

You maintain bird boxes in the village and have links to the Ballyhoura trails where people can admire the biodiversity. You have a rich natural area surrounding your community and it is important to promote an awareness of its many traits and to map these habitats. Appreciating your local wildlife resources is vital in order to achieve under this category. In this regard researching and raising awareness is more important than 'doing' at the early stages. Habitats of value include specimen trees, hedgerows, treelines, streams, woodlands and wetlands. Try to list the plants and animals to be found there and recognise their significance (native, protected, or alien invasive?). This information can be fun to gather and can involve the schools or other interested parties. Raise awareness through holding events such as hedgerow walks or bat walks. Contact the Irish Wildlife Trust for more information. <https://www.tidytowns.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Nature-and-Biodiversity-in-your-locality.pdf>

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

You harvest about 20 gallons of rain water for watering flower beds and containers. Grass cutting machines are mulch mowers which saves on collecting grass. We note you plan to develop this category in the coming years, so we include here some advice which we hope you find useful.

This category is about tackling the growing waste mountain that is creating problems of pollution, unwanted land use, and the use of dwindling resources. It is a global and a local problem. To save the Earth we need to move quickly to a zero-waste society. Your town can play its part by first looking at the volume of waste that is generated. The emphasis here really needs to be on reducing the volume of waste produced rather than recycling (which is taken for granted). At this level of the contest the adjudicator wants to see innovation in tackling bigger issues of food waste, plastic disposal and energy use. What are homes and businesses doing to tackle these?

There are several measures that your town can take in regard to sustainability. Contact your waste contractors and try to find out what is being thrown away and armed with this information you can start to think about how waste can be reduced. Regarding water usage, self-watering hanging baskets are a help in reducing the amount of water used and also the task of watering. Other waste minimisation projects might include reminding people to re-use shopping bags, discouraging junk mail, encouraging the re-use of water bottles and coffee mugs at school and at work. In response to an overuse of chemicals for weed control, many useful products of the past are no longer available and therefore communities are encouraged to use other means such as hoeing to maintain weeds. These activities will highlight the fact that you are focussing on this category and when you develop more projects in the future your marks will increase.

For more helpful tips and case studies from other Tidy Towns entrants please take a look at <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>

For more information on project ideas for this criterion, we advise consulting the revised handbook which is available at the following link. <https://www.tidytowns.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Sustainability-Doing-More-with-less.pdf>

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You are fortunate that all community members do regular litter picks and put the litter into their bins. That was very good of the Ardpatrick residents to support you in the Team Limerick Clean up. You keep all signs clean – well done.

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

There is a great community spirit in Glenosheen; all residents are very house-proud and do an excellent job maintaining their homes and gardens.

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

As mentioned earlier, we were very impressed with the village name stone 'Gleann Oisín' in cut limestone and a plant container placed underneath – almost opposite the Palatine House. We have never seen such a lovely and appropriate feature – well done.

You maintain the entrance to the walking trails on the Seefin Mountain. The brown welcoming sign on one road is unfortunately beside an old rusty shed roof. We suggest you encourage the vegetation to grow higher and help

screen the old roof. The sign on the other road has no such distractions. Well done to the local resident for exposing the sandstone wall.

Concluding Remarks:

You have a beautiful village, and it is great to see such a proud and active community doing its best to have Glensheen looking its best. We hope you find useful tips in this report and look forward to receiving your application in 2023.