

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyboy - An Bealach Buí** Ref: **2234**
County: **Tipperary(North)** Mark: **231**
Category: **A** Date(s): **12/07/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	31	33
Streetscape & Public Places	80	25	28
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	21	24
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	17	21
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	14	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	47	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	28	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	28	31
TOTAL MARK	550	211	231

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...

Thank you for the well put together and informative entry form, excellent map of the area and some pictures of your priority projects.

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 key environmental issues.

Tidy Towns has adopted these goals and has integrated them into the competition asking groups to demonstrate how SDGs impact on their activities.

The adjudicator has passed through Ballyboy on occasions back the years on the way to Thurles.

Since then some very fine changes have taken place and these have been influenced by your committee so well done on your commitment to the betterment of the area.

A local man informed me that you are in fact a townland in the parish of Upperchurch and one presumes that there is interaction with Upperchurch Tidy Towns Committee ?

The committee of 9 and a volunteer core of 38 is an impressive number of people to be involved in your work so well done to you as a community.

You have good support from Tipperary County Council and other public bodies such as Pobal.

You communicate your activities through newsletters, local paper notes and forms of social media such as Facebook and Whats App and Tipp FM which has a wide county listenership.

Thank you for the positive endorsement of the competition and what it has meant to the locals of the area.

The work that has been done on the viewing point is some achievement as it is not the most accessible of places. Hopefully it will become a future attraction of significance for the immediate area.

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

The adjudicator has taken note of what you have submitted and some of the content such as the creation of the wildflower strip, which was viewed, crosses over into the next two categories.

The Hanging baskets were very impressive on the Metal Bridge and they enhance that whole area.

The adjudicator wondered who was responsible for the planning and construction of this bridge as it is a fine structure.

The Grotto, which is quite a large area, was very well maintained with nonslip matt and nice floral arrangements.

The bench at the Grotto could do with a coat of varnish.

You have a lovely and inviting local green area with nice shrub beds and stanchions that have hanging baskets, all it needs is some seating that people can stop and relax.

The work done on the viewing point has been mentioned in the previous category and it is a testament to the hard work of your committee.
You are on the busy R503 which merges with the equally busy R497 some miles back so the volume and speed of traffic are of concern.
Road surfaces were good and signposts both directional and speed were clean and visible.
Overall the standard was good and merits an increase of 3 marks.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The adjudicator didn't get the chance to visit Garville Gardens which is owned by one of your co-committee members but will at another time
Wild Flower Strip has already been mentioned and this was noted during the adjudication process.
Refurbishment of the BallyBoy Viewing Point and the ancillary work carried out by way of planned planting is just some achievement for a small community.
In the time it will bring visitors to your area and the view from this point is quite spectacular.
Accessibility from Upperchurch village needs over time to be improved upon
Ongoing cutting of green areas at the river was noted and comment has already been made on the need for some picnic furniture.

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

The key to this category is knowing what habitats exist in your area and where they are.
It is also important to be familiar with types of protected areas such as Natural Heritage Area (NHA) – an area of national importance for habitats or which holds species whose habitats need protection. Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – a protected area of international importance for habitats and species.
Equally important is the need to be familiar with the Law and Biodiversity before embarking on a related project
Well done on your Biodiversity walk and talk on 26th April 2022 with Albert Nolan and sponsored by Leader.
The area beside the Parochial House is a natural wildlife Sanctuary and was noted by the adjudicator.
You have started to develop an interest amongst the local community by organizing the walk and the next step is to devise a mini biodiversity plan for an area that has a myriad of natural habitats
In time the Viewing Point should have an information board outlining the history of the area and one on the species of wildlife.
An additional 4 marks have been

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

No input in this category so last year's mark will remain the same for this year.
Doing less with more is no longer just a slogan it is a necessity if we are to reduce our environmental impact.
Consider accessing the following for idea generation in this category www.localprevention.ie or the circular economy www.sustainableprocessing.ie
Also, something that this adjudicator became aware of over the last while is the circular economy concept and indeed you in all probability have investigated it too.
Access the following www.dccae.gov.ie and www.greennews.ie you will get a pretty good idea of what it's all about.
Also, make contact with the County Environmental Officer to see if any related workshops are being organized for the upcoming winter months.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The area under consideration for adjudicating is pretty widespread, to say the least.
On the day in question, some pieces of litter were found at the bridge and the entrance from the Nenagh side of the R503
The quarterly collections should be supplemented by fortnightly litter picks by your extensive committee group
The new signs are planned for the future and are not relevant to this year's adjudication per se but will be welcomed.
General tidiness was good as all local people keep their properties in good condition.
There was no illegal dumping to be seen in outlying areas.
As the Ballyboy Viewing Point becomes popular there will be a need for Anti Litter and Anti Dog Fouling notices.
Overall the standard was good and merits an increase of 3 marks.

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

The adjudicator notes that you mention a 5-year plan under this category but there was no indication of it under the heading that it should have been included in that of Community – Your Planning and Involvement.
If you are in the process of producing such a plan do give an update for next year's adjudicator.
The refurbishment and upkeep of the BallyBoy Viewing Point have already been commented upon favorably by the adjudicator.
Some very fine private homesteads were viewed around the immediate area of Dans Cross.
The adjudicator also viewed farmsteads and some private houses on the Loop itself and whilst there were one or two that could be deemed untidy most were well presented

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

The planned welcome sign on the main road is noted but do give an update for next year's entry and indicate at

what entrance to Dans Cross will this sign be positioned

Entrances from both sides of the R503 were more than acceptable with clean and visible signs as well as verges that were tidy and not too overgrown.

Traffic calming measures could be improved but that is something outside the control of a voluntary committee as all you can do is lobby your local public representative.

The road stop signs from Drombane and the Loop Road need to be stenciled as they were completely faded

Concluding Remarks:

The adjudicator has passed through Ballyboy on numerous occasions in the past but was very impressed with the improvements and the new features.

Hopefully, the Ballyboy Viewing Point will become a local attraction in the years ahead, it was some undertaking for a rural community.

You are wished well for the future.