

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Ballycahill - Bealach Achaille	Ref: 719
County: Tipperary(North)	Mark: 279
Category: A	Date(s): 12/07/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	38	39
Streetscape & Public Places	80	34	35
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	36	37
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	24	25
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	12	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	53	57
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	36	37
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	33	34
TOTAL MARK	550	266	279

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 concise entry form which covered all categories plus the pictorial record of places of interest in the village.

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 re key environmental issues.

Tidy Towns has adopted these goals and has integrated them into the competition requesting participating groups to demonstrate which goals their projects and actions help to meet.

The committee of 5 with a volunteer core of 8 is adequate for a village the size of Ballycahill but one presumes that you can call on members of local organisations to give you support.

The local community certainly have bought into what you are trying to achieve on their behalf judging by the number of local organisations that support your efforts.

There is no requirement to repeat back to you the list of these agencies and local development groups suffice to say that you have the contacts within these bodies to get things done for your community.

Communication methods are a combination of the tried and trusted such as newsletter and word of mouth coupled with contact with the school teachers and various forms of social media.

Well done on your interaction with the local school principal and teachers to encourage family participation in Tidy Village projects and for issuing direct invitation through the school for parents to get involved in the village spring clean.

The Top of The Green has been identified as your main project.

30 years being involved is some achievement and thank you for your endorsement of the competition and for what it has done for the community of Ballycahill.

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

The new Ryans Mace Shop and Pub were up and running when the adjudicator visited.

This large area is the focal point of the village and has been transformed completely.

Parking facilities were excellent and patrons were encouraged to reverse park into the bays

The adjudicator availed of the coffee on offer and was very pleased with the result

The Church, Grotto, and grounds were kept in pristine condition as they had been recently revitalized to coincide with a major parish event.

The Community Hall is an excellent amenity and was presented to a very good standard and on the day there was

some local event taking place

Ballycahill National School and its grounds were very well presented.

The Green amenity area had some nice table and bench furniture

Some very impressive private residences were viewed during the walkabout and these had fine gardens with nice planting arrangements

The thatched cottage was very impressive and it is noted that the new pub will be thatched as before.

Road surfaces were good but some of the road markings had faded and needed to be re-painted.

The committee could lobby the local representatives to have these jobs considered under the County road repair programme.

Street lighting stanchions were clean and the adjudicator wondered if LED lights had been installed.

The timber bollards around the village were of sturdy design and in keeping with the rural setting but of course, their primary function was to stop people from parking on the well maintained green areas.

The walk from the center of the village to Ballycahill Sports Field wasn't safe for older people in this adjudicator's opinion as there was no dedicated walking lane that was marked and the traffic on the R503 travels at speed.

Overall the standard was good and an increase in marks is awarded.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

A large body of work has taken place in this category over the last year.

Much of the work time has been spent on necessary maintenance such as weeding of some of the extensive shrub beds situated in and around the village.

The removal of the evergreen trees outside the boundary stone wall of the shop and pub carpark was viewed and the replacement copper beech will provide a wonderful backdrop and shelter.

At the moment they are very young and need a little more strength and support

The stone wall has been rebuilt and flowers were planted at its base

The grass verges are a feature of the village and these were maintained to a high standard

Some lovely individual planters filled with colourful annuals were observed on the boundary wall of the Community.

There is always a place where planters can be very effective and in this is one place in the village where they created a nice backdrop to the building.

Good to report that you have taken on board the advice about selective mowing to encourage the preservation of biodiversity.

The "green" had a very well preserved shrub bed and hanging basket on the solar light

as well as excellent street furniture coupled with the previously mentioned timber bollard which made an ideal location to take time out from the hustle and bustle of life.

Overall 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 to this category is knowing what habitats exist in your area and where they are.

A Habitat Survey is a very important step that should be taken if a group hasn't already done it.

Advice on how to go about this can be got from the County Biodiversity Officer or the Heritage Officer

Another source of useful information is the Heritage Councils Guide to Habitats which can be downloaded from its website

What you have done such as sowing wildflowers and plant-bearing fruit trees and the ongoing maintenance of the biodiversity garden are all contributory to the promotion and preservation of wildlife but the village has more potential for some mini biodiversity projects.

It would be beneficial to start the ball rolling by accessing the information given and involve the National School at the outset as all of this interaction will contribute to further enhancing its Green Flag status.

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

"Doing more with less" was a very catchy slogan when it came out some years back but now it has become a necessary action to help reduce our environmental impact.

This category has been evolving in keeping with current EU and government policy as well as 'best practice' guidelines. It encapsulates how we try to minimise our use of all resources within the community.

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

What you have submitted does fit within the objectives of the category but they can be supplemented with many other measures that will have additional effect.

For further information you don't have to look any further than the Tidy Towns Handbook which has an excellent section on this category contain a raft of relevant information and links to many important websites.

Do consult with the County Environmental Officer as well to find out what workshops might be planned now that we are back to some kind of normality.

These type of workshops are great networking events to get to know what other groups are doing in relation to Sustainability and Doing More With Less.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Very little to add to what you have submitted which is very much in line with the guidelines of the category.

It is noted that you have regular pickups and other ongoing measures that have contributed to making the village an anti-litter place as well as ensuring that there is no illegal dumping often the plague of rural areas.

General tidiness was excellent and this has been helped in no small way by the efforts of the local population to keep their premises and adjoining areas clean and free of clutter.

Many homesteads had been recently painted and this is also another contributory factor.

The new shop and pub area is very well managed and does make that part of the village look very well indeed. Dog fouling wasn't a problem on that particular day but the adjudicator wasn't aware of any mutt bins or anti-dog fouling signs.

If he missed them apologies.

An additional 3 marks have been awarded but more potential for next year.

Once again the adjudicator recommends involvement with the local school.

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

The comment about the exclusion of a privately owned property as referred to in your submission has been taken on board.

To be honest the adjudicator didn't get the significance of the comment but it didn't impinge on the adjudication of this category whatsoever.

The standard was very good with nearly all properties public, commercial and private all maintained to a high standard.

The village is fortunate that it hasn't been subjected to cluster developments that other similar-sized places have been.

Well done to the owners of the houses on Holycross road for keeping the communal green areas in front well managed.

The comment about the owners of houses on both sides of the Church was noted but overall the adjudicator felt that all residents have contributed to having pride of place in Ballycahill.

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

The approach roads were maintained to a very high standard and need very little in-depth comment.

The basics of good management of verges adhered to making provision for the nesting season.

Verges were cut in line with good practice

The road in from Thurles by the graveyard was very inviting with a nice name sign complemented by fine stonewall.

The link road in from Holycross was also maintained to high due in no small measure to the householders mentioned in the previous section.

The entrance from the Newport side of the R503 has a nice new focal point as one enters the village and the thatched bar will be completed it will be even more attractive.

All in all a good standard was attained in this category

Concluding Remarks:

It was good to revisit Ballycahill after an absence of many years.

It was once a stopover place during trips to matches in Thurles back in the day.

The village looked very well on a fine summer's day and a lot of ongoing work is being done under the auspices of the Tidy Village Committee.

You are wished well for the future