

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballycommon - Baile Choimin** Ref: **1142**
County: **Tipperary(North)** Mark: **290**
Category: **A** Date(s): **28/06/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	36	38
Streetscape & Public Places	80	35	39
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	36	37
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	30	31
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	13	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	64	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	29	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	33	34
TOTAL MARK	550	276	290

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 hionrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Adh Mór...

Thank you for the excellently handwritten entry form complete with a separate list of projects, an update of your 3 year plan plus the first-rate map of the village and its boundaries.

The committee of 8 and the volunteer core of 4 have worked hard to ensure that the development of the village is their prime objective.

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 regarding environmental issues.

Tidy Towns has adopted these goals and has integrated them into the competition

You have a large number of groups and organizations that support your work activities and most importantly you have the backing of the local community.

Methods of communication are a mixture of the old reliable such as via Nenagh Guardian paper notes supplemented by the use of What's App to get messages to committee members at short notice.

The involvement of the local school and youth group Foroige in some of the projects that you have listed is a very welcome development as helps them to understand what pride of place s all about.

The creation of a new polytunnel and raised beds at the school is noted and these were viewed during the adjudication.

Well done on reaching 15 years of participation in the competition and thank you for the positive endorsement

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

The adjudicator has taken note of all the maintenance work that the committee has been involved in over the last year and you are to be commended for this commitment.

Encouraging residents to maintain a high standard of presentation of individual properties contributes to the aesthetic look of any village or town as well as retaining its original architectural character where possible. Ballycommon is fortunate that its rural charm has not been overtly spoilt by excessive building development over the last few decades.

It is the first time this year's adjudication process that the adjudicator has come across mention of town or village buildings being on the National Inventory of Architectural History so well done on highlighting this fact.

The buildings in question were visited and all were presented to a very high standard.

The tower at Carrigh National School has been enhanced by the impressive Scoil Na Carraige sign.

The adjudicator made a few observations during the walkabout

First off what is the status of the site that seems as if it has been abandoned across from the very well presented housing development Carrig Derg?

Carrig National School is a very fine building that has integrated the old with the new architecturally and it must cater to a large catchment area.

The RC Church of old design with very well presented and maintained grounds.

Credit is due to the people that maintain these public buildings.

The core area of the village has some nice features that depict different eras such as the agricultural artifacts, old post office, thatched cottage, and the old forge which is also a listed building.

The retention of these features gives Ballycommon a special charm.

The commercial properties were presented to a very high standard.

Texaco Service Station and Shop was very busy on the evening in question but Thatched Cottage Restaurant wasn't open early week.

The road surfaces and footpaths that extend quite a long way out to the recognized boundaries were of high quality.

Street lighting is excellent and the village is free of overhead wiring.

An increase in marks is warranted.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasá agus Tírdhreachú:

Last year's adjudication was for obvious reasons a virtual one and often photographs do not give a true picture-excuse the pun.

This year it was just great to be back and go to villages and towns and as well as assessing the work just to observe features first hand.

Thank you for clearly indicating the new projects that had been involved in since last year.

Both gardens will be added enhancements for the local population and of course, will also contribute to the next category of nature and biodiversity.

Some excellent work has been done on maintaining existing green spaces as well as the very colourful planters that were seen.

Planters with the Tipperary colours and the boat theme were admired and these created a nice ambience in the village.

The entrances into the village were enhanced by further plating arrangements with very attractive name stones, Mature trees looked healthy and younger saplings were well sheltered and staked where relevant.

One cannot leave this category without commenting on the excellent private gardens that were viewed during the walkabout.

Credit to all homeowners who presented and maintained these gardens to the highest standards.

Finally, if you have not done so already, do consult the Tidy Towns Handbook and the excellent article under this category for up to date advice and further direction.

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

The key components of this adjudication category are knowledge of local species and habitats and knowledge of locally designated areas.

It is also important to promote the knowledge gained to the local community by wildlife information boards or in your case inform them of the new wildlife areas that are in place near the old Muintir Na Tíra Hall

Good wildlife advice and communication about the importance of the local wildlife heritage to the local community are so important

Being aware of invasive and possible destructive plants such as Japanese knotweed is also essential.

Finally, before embarking on any related project it is important to be somewhat familiar with the law and biodiversity.

The polytunnel is your prime project since last year and well done on getting this up and running.

Of course, it will contribute to the next category as well

The biodiversity and pollinator plans have been viewed but space does not allow for extensive comment suffice to say that they both conform with the objectives stated above.

For further information access the following the ubiquitous Tidy Towns Handbook and www.biodiversity.ie.

Consult your local Environmental or Biodiversity Officer to see if there are any proposed workshops or mini seminars on matters biodiversity planned in the county in the coming months.

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

"Doing more with less" is a very apt slogan that we will be very much to the fore as we try to reduce our environmental impact by minimizing the use of all resources within communities

This category has been evolving in keeping with current EU and government policy as well as 'best practice' guidelines

It is a broad category so you may be surprised at how many of your existing community initiatives are relevant. Judging by your input in the entry form it is evident that you have embraced the above.

The polytunnel has already been mentioned and the electric car test report was commissioned and completed.

The reduce reuse and recycle mantra is being strongly promoted at the National School and it is now opportune to take it one step further by desisting from producing unnecessary waste at the source where possible.

For further information consult www.localprevention.ie, www.greenhomes.ie and www.sustainableprocessing.ie and www.dccae.gov.ie for information on the circular economy

The idea of what is called a linear economy of "take, make and waste" is now being seen as not sustainable and alternatives need to be found.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhairéacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You have outlined in detail in your 3-year plan what your approach to litter control and general tidiness is for the next few years by producing a sub-plan.

What you have included by way of educating the public in good anti-litter practice is very laudable and it is effective as on the day there were only a few wrappers on the outskirts of the village.

The adjudicator didn't notice the new mutt mitt dispenser and to be honest, possibly forgot to put it into his pre adjudication notes.

Dog fouling didn't seem to be a problem on the day.

The bring bank was clean, tidy, accessible and free of any loose bags.

General tidiness was very good and the village is helped by the fact that there are no overhead wires.

The site that seems to be abandoned at the moment was mentioned in a different category.

Well done on promoting the positives of this category to the community.

An increase in marks is awarded.

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

Well done to you the committee for the ongoing work in promoting good practice in this category as demonstrated in both the input in the entry form and in the 3 year plan.

The village core is quite small and residents have presented their respective homesteads and front gardens in good fashion and in some case exceptional fashion.

Carraig Derg is one of the finest housing developments of its type that this adjudicator has seen in his travels over the years.

It complements the other features of the village such as excellent stones walls, individual high quality properties and fine entrances into Ballycommon

The adjudicator didn't see any real problematic premises and it certainly seems that residents value your work.

Overall the standard was very good.

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

Entrances into the village from both sides of the R495 were very well presented with beautiful granite name stones as well name panels set in stone bases.

Speed signs were clean and very visible from a distance which is of course the objective of having speed signs.

You have outlined the work that you have done in maintaining entrance verges in accordance with good practice for the preservation of various species of wildlife.

Well done your efforts have certainly contributed to creating a good impression of Ballycommon as one approaches from all sides.

An additional mark has been awarded.

Concluding Remarks:

The adjudicator had been to Ballycommon on a few occasions in the past but the transformation since then has been quite remarkable.

You are wished well in the years ahead.