

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

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| Centre: Holycross - Mainistir Na Croiche | Ref: 599 |
| County: Tipperary(North) | Mark: 331 |
| Category: B | Date(s): 29/06/2022 |

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2021 | Mark Awarded 2022 |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Community – Your Planning and Involvement | 80 | 44 | 44 |
| Streetscape & Public Places | 80 | 46 | 47 |
| Green Spaces and Landscaping | 80 | 48 | 49 |
| Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality | 55 | 37 | 37 |
| Sustainability – Doing more with less | 55 | 16 | 19 |
| Tidiness and Litter Control | 90 | 65 | 66 |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas | 55 | 36 | 36 |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes | 55 | 32 | 33 |
| TOTAL MARK | 550 | 324 | 331 |

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 completed entry form, map of the village and a compilation of photographs that depict work undertaken by the committee.

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. In 2021, Tidy Towns has adopted these goals and has integrated them into the competition.

The adjudicator would recommend that you make reference to any that impact on your work for next year's competition.

The committee structure you have in place of 5 members and 20 volunteers is more than adequate for a village the size of Holycross.

Methods of communication are a mix of old local newspaper newer forms of social media such Facebook and Whats App.

Adjudicator could not access Facebook page maybe it was under another heading.

One was surprised that there was no mention of strong school involvement in this category.

School children with proper guidance can bring so much to groups such as Tidy Towns and although they come out and help with parents it would be good to have a formal link to the excellent local National School.

Interaction with Tipperary County Council and other organisations is noted and of course the most important thing is having strong support from the wider local community.

Well done on 55 years entering the competition and hope fully many more will ensue and thank you for the positive endorsement.

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

The adjudicator is well familiar with Holycross from past times but it has been a few years since the last visit.

Thank you for the information provided this coupled with the map allowed one to identify places during the adjudication walkabout.

The new pick table that was installed in the park was admired and the adjudicator was about to sit down and writes some notes but was interrupted by a thunderous shower it was that kind of afternoon.

The following are a few observations that were made during the adjudication time and these are within the context of the guidelines.

The road surfaces and footpaths were of good standard although it is a little difficult to walk part of the road at the

bridge over the Suir because of its narrowness.

No doubt this has been broached with the local council and one is not sure what the solution is if any.

The local Holycross Ballycahill GAA club has a fine ground with facilities and extensive parking a little out of the village on the Farney road.

Glasheens Pub and the area around it were maintained very well the same could be said of Skehan and it had attractive flower boxes on top windows.

Holycross Abbey and the surrounding area were as usual presented to a very high standard.

St Michaels NS is a very fine junior educational establishment with spacious grounds and nice planting arrangements.

Both the community hall and the Sue Ryder homes were also well maintained.

Overall the standard was very good but there are a few rusty name poles that need to be replaced.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The adjudicator visited and noted the new work that was undertaken over the last year and you are wished well with other planting plans including setting beech hedging to add to the village market area

The entrance roads into the village are very much enhanced by some nice planting including oxidized daisies near Skehans.

There are well maintained green areas in the excellent village park which has lovely viewing and fishing area.

The well appointed village pump has a nice feature of a bucket with blue and yellow pansies appropriate enough one would assume!

The Village has a multitude of green areas and these were all maintained to a very high standard especially those within what was formerly Rent an Irish Cottage housing development.

The roses at the old PO were in full bloom.

For your ongoing maintenance work as well as the new projects undertaken since last year an additional mark is awarded.

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

The key objective of this category is knowledge of local wildlife species and habitats and knowledge of locally designated areas (SACs, SPAs, NHAs) and Conservation

The maintaining of local wildlife areas and imparting knowledge to the local community is also very important.

One should be aware of biodiversity and the law before embarking on new wildlife projects and at the end of this comment box, the adjudicator will give some important links.

The Cabragh Wetlands was mentioned in last year's entry form and subsequent 2021 report so it's not a new project and is a little outside the adjudication zone.

Similarly, the Bee Keeping initiative has also been dealt with last year.

The committee has an amazing biodiversity hinterland on the banks of the Suir on its doorstep and this area and the village park are ideal locations for new projects that could be developed and that would involve St Marys National School.

This could be an ideal way for the school to further their green school ambitions.

The community is of course very fortunate to have such a nature haven available as most centres would not be in that position

It would be worthwhile to get in touch with the local wildlife ranger or equivalent and to involve a local wildlife enthusiast as well.

Contribution to the All Ireland Pollinator Plan is also recommended.

To get further information on matters of biodiversity link to the following www.biodiversityireland.ie and www.pollinators.ie

Also, do look up the excellent and updated Tidy Towns Handbook on its website and get information under this category.

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

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 so that we reduce our environmental impact.

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

What you have outlined is in keeping with the above but they are pretty standard and have been replicated in other centres around the country

There is far more potential to be realised by initiating additional projects that come under the "Doing more with less" slogan

To get more out of this sector in terms of creating a greater awareness of all things that contribute to a more sustainable environment consider looking at the following websites for idea generation

www.localprevention.ie, www.greenhomes.ie and www.sustainableprocessing.ie

Also, something that this adjudicator has become familiar with is the circular economy indeed it is getting plenty of publicity over the last few years.

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

To get more information on the circular economy and sustainability access the following www.dccae.gov.ie and www.sustainableprocessing.ie you will get a pretty good idea of what it's all about.

Let's not forget about the younger generation in this category visit the green school's organization www.greenschools.org

Also, refer to the revised Handbook on the Tidy Towns website.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Litter control was quite good and the community has bought into the effort of keeping places litter free. As a committee need to promote the concept of anti litter and anti dog fouling to the local community on an ongoing basis by using media such as Facebook and other forms of social media like What's App Groups Like other similar rural villages, many of your local population do their bit by collecting litter on their daily walks and this shows pride of place.

A few pieces of litter were detected but it was not a problematic issue

General tidiness was acceptable as well and comments were made in a previous section regarding road surfaces and footpaths

Name and directional signs were clean and visible and as the village is small and there is no main street as such clutter obstruction was not a problem.

Many homesteads had places in pristine condition with side areas and boundary walls maintained satisfactorily.

There were a few rusty defunct directional poles that either needed to be removed or painted

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

The properties of the main village were all maintained to a very high standard and it was noticeable that it looked as if many had been recently painted or dashed.

The input that you have submitted has been noted and the adjudicator made himself aware of the places you have mentioned.

What was once Rent an Irish Cottage housing scheme is now a private housing development and it looked as if another cottage was up for sale.

The green area and gravel side areas were immaculate.

Dobot Crescent is a very fine relatively new housing development and the area was very well maintained with a nice tree lined entrance, green areas that were cut, and a multitude of mature trees.

As mentioned in another section many fine private homesteads were observed as were a few farm yards that were clean and tidy.

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

Your practical input in this category most of which is maintenance has the desired effect as all the entrances were well presented

The entrance into the village from Thurles has a very welcoming shrub and flower bed at the nameplate and the verges were cut in accordance with good practice for the preservation of wildlife.

It is also enhanced by some mature trees and sections of well maintained stone wall

The entrance from the GAA Grounds on the Farney road was also acceptable but some of the road surfaces were a little rough

The Cashel road entrance was very acceptable and improvements have been made here over the years with fine grass areas and a space for a few cars to pull and rest on the seat that has been provided here.

The Littleton Road was also very good but sections of the verges were a little overgrown.

Overall the standard under the guidelines was good and an added mark is awarded

Concluding Remarks:

Good to be back again in Holycross and admire its rural charm as well as appreciating its ecclesiastical history.

The day wasn't the greatest but that did not deter the adjudicator from exploring the village and the outlying area.

You are wished well in the competition in the years ahead.