

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

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| Centre: Littleton - Baile Beag | Ref: 753 |
| County: Tipperary(North) | Mark: 240 |
| Category: B | Date(s): 29/06/2022 |

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2022 |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Community – Your Planning and Involvement | 80 | 35 |
| Streetscape & Public Places | 80 | 33 |
| Green Spaces and Landscaping | 80 | 32 |
| Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality | 55 | 20 |
| Sustainability – Doing more with less | 55 | 11 |
| Tidiness and Litter Control | 90 | 47 |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas | 55 | 33 |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes | 55 | 29 |
| TOTAL MARK | 550 | 240 |

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 the completed entry form that included pictorial records of your work over the last year.

The map supplied was sufficient for the job in hand but maybe a little more detailed one could be supplied for next as the then adjudicator might not be familiar with the village and surrounding area.

Welcome back to the competition after an absence of 20 years and it is hoped that the village will have many more years of entering.

The category titles have changed and the overall mark total has increased in some categories but overall it is the same 8 categories that have been in place for some years now.

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 fully, requesting groups to demonstrate how SDGs are impacting on their activities under the respective categories

The committee of 10 and volunteer core of 14 is quite a large group for a village the size of Littleton and judging from the input in this form you are intent on progressing over time in the competition

It is good to note that the support of the community and that you are open to additional volunteers coming on board to help you with your work activities.

This can only help the overall development of Littleton as a village in the years ahead.

The adjudicator suggests that you consider putting together a 3 year plan that would give focus to your work and that would set timescales for the completion of specific tasks.

There is plenty of resource help out there to help you develop such a plan via Tipperary County Council and North Tipperary Development Council.

Methods of communication have been noted and it is good to note that word of mouth shares the same importance as the various forms of social media as well as local newsletter and noted in the Regional newspaper.

You have the support of local organisations such as Moycargy Borris GAA club, Littleton Development Association and Munitir Na Tire which is still very active in the County.

You are wished well with getting the message to the wider community.

Good to note that you are developing good relationships with the local school and that these will prove to be mutually beneficial.

From what the adjudicator can remember the local school is already a participant in the Green Flag Programme.

Thank you for including a photograph of your special project a bog oak sculpture which of course is very appropriate give the village association with Bord Na Mona back in times.

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

Your comment about unoccupied buildings falling into a state of disrepair was noted and the adjudicator was a little surprised to see a few prominent establishments from the past now closed up and looking a little worse for wear. The Village of Littleton's main street has a nice linear structure to it and that is encapsulated in one of the photographs that you submitted.

This adjudicator would be familiar with Littleton over the years and was a little taken aback that the vibrancy has diminished a little.

What you have done over the last year by way of power washing signs and footpaths as well as maintaining shrubberies is a positive start that can be improved upon year on year/.

Street furniture was noted as was the new smart bin.

It might be worthwhile over the winter months to look into the possibility of getting involved in the county painting scheme.

This particular scheme could be availed of by residents and there is a possibility of grant support.

You may need to discuss this with one of your partners namely the Littleton Development Association to see would it be a feasible option.

The following are some personal observations of the adjudicator during an extensive walkabout.

The local National School looks as if it is in the throes of refurbishment work.

The RC Our Lady and St Kevin Church on the Urlingford side of the Village was well presented with a fine accessible parking area

Moycarkey Community sports Ground was well maintained and there was plenty of activity on the day in question.

The Muintir Na Tire hall looked as if had been recently painted.

Sandra Hair Salon and The Premier Café shop fronts were nicely presented as was the Garda Station.

Clohessey Garage was busy but had a tidy frontage and Centenary Home and Garden Centre is a fine well-run establishment.

Road surfaces on the main R639 were good, overhead wires were virtually nonexistent and street light poles were clean and free from fly posting.

The side roads to Thurles by the GAA Club and Derrynaflan were a little rough in parts.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Some nice planters were viewed in the village and on the outskirts.

Trees are also prominent in the village especially as one enters from Urlingford and on New Street.

Some nice green areas were observed around Church View Junction and these were well maintained as well

Pollinator Bee Friendly strips were noted also at verges at different ends of the village.

Nice planters of hardy annuals were noted dotted around the village in front of the Muintir Na Tire Hall and some other commercial properties

The adjudicator suggests that as part of your 3-year plan you look at the planting requirements of the village and get advice from a professional source such as a local landscaper that would have experience in urban/village planting.

It was felt that one or two more permanent planting arrangements could be put in place especially in the green areas and at the entrances to the village

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.

Unfortunately, you have no input in this category and all the adjudicator can do is direct you to some professional advice that will help you develop this category in the years ahead

The area has plenty of wildlife habitats but the first sentence sums up what is needed in the first instance

It is also important to know the areas of special conservation that exist in the locality and it would be important to consult the county biodiversity officer or the heritage officer to get a steer on this.

One needs to have some knowledge of the Law and Biodiversity before embarking on any related project and again your contact would be the aforementioned sources.

Do also consult the relevant section of the Tidy Towns Handbook which has excellent pertinent information and links such as www.biodiversityireland.ie

If you have never taken this step before this adjudicator suggests, as he has to other groups making a return to the competition, to get in touch with an experienced Tidy Towns Group in your area about how they went dealing with Biodiversity projects.

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.

Doing more with less was a slogan a few years back but now it is a necessity.

One appreciates that you are only back into the competition after an absence of 20 years and next year you may be in a better position to populate this important section with work that you have undertaken.

The following is information that has been given to some groups in the same position as yourselves and it is important to avail of it as it will help you devise a work programme for next year

The relevant section of the Tidy Towns Handbook has been updated and now contains such pertinent information on all matters related to sustainability.

It also has a myriad of links to websites for householders and communities as well as businesses. The County Environmental Officer is also a contact to see if any related workshops are being organised over the winter period.

As well as being informative these type of workshops are a good for networking with other Tidy Towns Groups within the County.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done to you as a group for getting a smart bin installed in the centre of the village that replaced 9 old bins which were untidy and as you rightly state unsightly.

That is a fair achievement to be able to organize this in your first year back in business after many years of absence.

Litter control on the day was good as there was very little to be seen in the village and its surrounds

General tidiness was acceptable and credit is due to property owners for keeping premises and frontages free of clutter.

Some name stones at the housing estates on the Derrynaflan need cleaning as do some of the flower pots in the same area.

Dereliction and unoccupied premises have been mentioned in a previous section.

In the years ahead it would be good to get the local school children involved in regular litter picks and promotion of anti-litter and anti-dog fouling by way of a poster competition and the like.

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

No input in this section so the adjudicator judged based on what he viewed on the ground.

The village was very busy with through traffic on the day and the traffic calming measures that were in place were adequate and gave ample warning on approach roads and in the centre.

The village has some established housing estates that were visited by the adjudicator.

Mention was made in a previous section that the name stones of these areas needed to be cleaned or sandblasted./ Church View was well maintained and householders deserve credit for how they presented properties, gardens, and boundary walls

Ardán McDonagh and Ardán Naomh Brid were also well maintained as was Derry Na Flan Avenue.

The houses father out in the Steeple area were in good condition.

There are always a few that don't conform but if you as a group get residents associations up and running in these areas it will help to bring everyone on board.

There were some very fine private residences to be seen on the outskirts and in the core area of the village.

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

Entrances into the village create a good first impression

The entrances from both sides of the R639 have well presented especially the tree-lined route from Urlingford.

Road surfaces were acceptable and seemed to have been improved upon over the last few years as it looks as if some resurfacing has taken place on the main road through the village.

Footpaths that extend out to the perimeters of the village were in good condition and no obvious hazards for pedestrians.

The verges are maintained in accordance with good practice for the preservation and promotion of various species of wildlife.

Signage and nameplates were clean and visible and traffic calming has been mentioned elsewhere.

Concluding Remarks:

It was good to visit Littleton after some years.

Traffic was busy on the day but nothing compared to what it was when it was on the main route from Dublin to Cork.

It was a little sad to see one of the main businesses in the village still shut as it was a stop for the adjudicator many years ago.

You are welcomed back into the competition and wished well for the future.