

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Nenagh - An tAonach**

Ref: **726**

County: **Tipperary(North)**

Mark: **336**

Category: **E**

Date(s): **27/06/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	48	49
Streetscape & Public Places	80	45	46
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	45	46
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	30	31
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	17	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	64
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	37	38
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	43	43
TOTAL MARK	550	328	336

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 completed entry form plus the supplementary information in the form 3 year plan, specific projects document and the town maps one of which was key to the adjudicator doing his job in the most effective manner possible.

At this juncture one shul point out that it is impossible to touch on all elements of the entry package and resume them in a 3 page report.

Feel assured that the adjudicator did the assessment in a fair and objective manner based on the information supplied and the fact that he covered 12k steps on shanks mare and drove to the outskirts at the various entries from roundabouts.

While it tasked the fitness levels overall it was a most pleasant experience .

Thanks for the driving advice at the beginning of the introductory part of the form.

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 under key environmental issues. In 2021 Tidy Towns has adopted these goals and has integrated them into the competition.

One notes from the entry form under the category headings that you have embraced the programme and have demonstrated accordingly by inputs in this section.

The task that faces a voluntary committee in addressing issues pertaining to a town the size of Nenagh is quite daunting and necessitates a great deal of cohesive planning with stake holders.

The adjudicator counted over twenty organisations both public and community oriented.

It is good to see the active aged population being involved through the local Active Retirement Group and Men's Shed – experience and skill availability when needed.

Methods of communication are very varied mixing the traditional news letter and local radio with the various forms of social media.

The adjudicator took up your offer and viewed the Facebook page.

It was very impressive and slightly distracted my application to the task of adjudicating in that I ruminated for too long such was the interest that it created.

Top marks to those responsible for managing the page and updating content.

Your involvement with the schools is effectively highlighted in bullet points outlining different tasks.

The adjudicator visited the schools during the walkabout and observed that the Green Flag programme was very much to the fore.

It is great to see the spirit of good grace and cooperation at its best in the re opening of the Wellness Garden, well done to all involved.

All the other inputs were noted but space does not allow comment.
Thank you for your endorsement of the competition and what it has meant to Nenagh
Again well done for highlighting the main points in bullet form.
Overall an excellent standard under this category that merits an additional mark

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

The adjudicator observed most of the projects indicated on the town during the walkabout with the exception of 13 and 11.
The importance of both of these projects was documented in the submission and was taken into consideration for assessment purposes.
Thank you for the collective of photographs that highlight the Historic and Cultures Quarter of the Town.
All were noted and are due a further more leisurely visit in order to get a better understanding of the significance of these buildings to the history of Nenagh.
The Tourist Office is a wonderful bonus to the town as well as its primary function of providing information for the visitor it has a wonderful museum which has varying forms of heritage items relating to the town and the surrounding area of North Tipperary it also has an audio visual offering.
Having a full time Tourism Officer is paramount to promoting the immediate region to a wide audience.
Well done to all who helped to bring this project to fruition.
Having 61 premises have benefiting under the Painting and Enhancement and the Streetscape Enhancement Scheme Schemes in 2021/2022 is a major plus for the enhancement of the core area of the town.
The aim of both schemes was to improve the visual appearances of towns and villages by addressing issues such untidy shop fronts and signage, decluttering and other varying forms of village/urban improvements
You have given a detailed documentary on the topic of derelict and unoccupied properties in the town and its surrounds.
In fairness its not sugar coated and you have mentioned eyesores that the adjudicator noted on the walkabout.
The important thing is that the issue has been highlighted and it also realises that to effect change many parties need to be involved including the local authority,need to be involved.
To be honest Nenagh certainly has less derelict and unoccupied properties than similar sized towns that this adjudicator has been in over the years.
The other projects mentioned have been visited but space does not allow for additional comments except to state that all have been considered under the category guidelines.
The following are a few personal observations made by the adjudicator:
The impressive Lidl premises stood for the quality of its hard and soft landscaping and it gives additional enhancement to a focal part of the town.
Some signpost poles were in need of painting and also some parking space, road stop signs and pedestrian markings need to be re stencilled.
Some very fine shops fronts were to be seen and the most notable were Powells and The Half Door in the Northville area, Phillip Ryan on Silver Street and the long established Hibernian in the centre of town.
Less one assume that this was a pub trail the following commercial properties deserves mention too McQuaids quirky musical emporium, John Slattery Gents and Ladies Fashions, Glass and Design and Picture Framing on Summerhill.
All schools and churches of all denominations were presented to a high standard.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasá agus Tírdhreachú:

This is a category that Nenagh has done well in over the last number of years and this year is a continuation of that trend.
Quite a lot of ongoing maintenance work has taken place over the last year and it's important to look after the basics continuingly.
Coupled with this some new projects have commenced in 2021 and are either completed or near completion at the time of adjudication.
There is quite a substantial amount of information contained in this category and the adjudicator will reflect as best as possible based on his observations
The church grounds of St Mary's of the Rosary Church were a haven of tranquility particularly the wild garden which very much caters to the preservation of various forms of biodiversity.
Part of the Nenagh River Walkway which runs from Borrisokane Road to Scotts Bridge on the Birr Road was walked and the new enhancements were noted
Good to that an Active Travel shared surface is being planned for the future, the adjudicator has come across this concept in a few parts of the island of Ireland over the last few years.
Once again improvements put in place and planned for the future are all down to a cooperative approach by relevant stakeholders who are intent on progressing ideas.
A further visit to Castle gardens is due to spending more time appreciating the tranquility of the place and indeed an excuse to re visit Nenagh in a different context.
It certainly lives up to the write-up that you have afforded it.
Improvement works mentioned including new paths to improve accessibility from the adjacent Castle Field were noted
Whilst it's good to see a move towards sustainable all year round planning a little colour is pleasant to view especially on a fine summer day.
Many businesses in Nenagh had window boxes, hanging baskets, and tubs all with a mix of annuals and perennials, and some very fine 2 tiered planters made from recycled material were dotted at various parts of the town.
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 issues in respect of this adjudication category are knowledge of local species and habitats, knowledge of locally designated areas (SACs, SPAs, NHAs), and the preservation and maintenance of important wildlife areas. It is also important to be aware of the Law and Biodiversity before embarking on any mini project

The adjudicator feels that Nenagh Tidy Towns Committee has embraced these concepts and principles fully. Good work is being done in the area of wildlife preservation and promotion in an overall context.

The projects and there are many, that you have listed are varied and more importantly, are practical and certainly, fall within the ethos of the previous statement.

Unfortunately, the adjudicator did not get to the Ballygraigue Estate to view the work of many people young and old involved in the development of Biodiversity Hub.

That said the way it is described gives the reader a visual picture that makes up for the non visit

The Community Garden has already been commented on in another section.

One notes that Albert Nolan is popular with Tidy Towns Committees in North Tipperary and he has been described as an environmentalist, a biology enthusiast, and now a social Famer!

Irrespective of description the gentleman seems to be a font of knowledge on matters of Biodiversity.

The community allotments are on par with any viewed by the adjudicator.

The Civic Office mentioned in this category was visited and it is wonderful to see children from the excellent Childcare Facility being introduced to the basics of biodiversity at such an early age.

Great input with no little creativity as expected for the school children of the National Schools as well the older pupils in the Post Primary Schools

The adjudicator noted some swifts late on in the evening and was wondering if there is a county initiative to help the survival of the swift similar to ones that were in the Midlands in 2019

For further information on Bio Diversity matters link through to www.biodiversityireland.ie where one can access the National Pollinator Plan and information on pollinator friendly planting code [www. pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie)

The Green Communities Project under the auspices of An Taisce is a source that can be tapped into for idea generation information on various biodiversity projects

The National Parks and Wildlife Service www.npws.ie is another source of exceptional information on bio diversity matters.

Overall the standard was very good.

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 minimize 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

You have listed some measures that you are involved with in the entry form and while fall within the objectives of this category some are very particular to Nenagh and others have been replicated around the country

That said your list is impressive and most are of a very practical nature

The key is to make sure that the resources are available to manage these on an ongoing basis and in a sustainable manner.

The Responsible Production and Consumption project is well known to the adjudicator and he is aware of other schools nationally that are involved

Well done to school children from St Mary's NS who participated and came up with their novel ideas and let's not forget the excellent teachers who facilitated the work involved.

Binbot could be a winner in time to come.

Well done to Arrabawn, DCAuto Spares, and Shirley Cards on their very innovative environmental impact projects Just a little comment agus ceist on the Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Energy Project supported under URDF Under whose auspices was the application for funding made as it is not clear in the statement?

Overall the standard in the category is worthy of an increase in marks

To get more out of this sector in terms of creating even 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, consult the revised Tidy Towns Handbook and the first-rate advice section on this category

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhairreacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The adjudicator traversed the most of the inner part and the extremities of the town by foot and have to say that the standard litter control was a little mixed. The issue relating to dereliction has been fully dealt with in another section.

Nenagh is a large town and it is hard to manage litter control and other related problems such as dog fouling.

Many volunteers through various groupings are involved in regular litter picks as well as the local authority but there are people in every town or village that don't seem to have a pride of place mentality.

Well done to the local residents associations who work hard to keep their respective residential areas tidy. As you rightly state there is a need for additional waste bins in the core area of the town.

Dog fouling wasn't that problematic but the adjudicator felt that some more mutt bins might be necessary in outlying areas.

Maybe the committee as part of the 3 year plan might consider a sub plan for litter control that would focus on local awareness campaigns to keep the anti litter message to the forefront.

Yes indeed temporary and unauthorised signage on approach roads is a pet hate with this adjudicator.

Well done in addressing this problem
New street furniture will provide additional rest places and also add to the look of the town in general.
General tidiness was acceptable and there was little evidence of clutter in the main areas.

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

This enhancement scheme that was initiated in 2020 has been hugely beneficial to areas of the town that were previously a little jaded.
The application of a coat of paint can work wonders for a property
The adjudicator visited Wolfe Tone Terrace mentioned in your submission and you rightly state this improvement scheme has greatly enhanced the streetscape of the area
In general, the presentation of private housing in the town core was excellent and this was complemented by standards seen in the suburbs.
The adjudicator took time to view several housing developments including Annbrook Heights, Yewiston, and Cudville Green on the Limerick side of town.
Brookville Green, Brookville Drive, Derrylavin Heights, Bulfin Crescent, The Hawthorns, and St Joseph's were among others that were visited, and with a few exceptions, all were very well presented.
There is also a row of single story terrace houses on McDonagh Street that were very presentable, these must have benefited from the enhancement scheme.
One feels that residents of Nenagh are doing their level best to project a good image of the town by keeping their homes, frontages, and gardens in such good condition.
Internal linkages within the town were acceptable.
Some very nice name stones were observed at the entrances of some estates visited and it was noticeable that most of the green areas were presented to a high standard with some fine planting arrangements.
The standard in this category merits an increase in marks.

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

The entrance into the town from Thurles by Nenagh Ormond and the County Hospital was enhanced by some very fine homesteads with well maintained frontages.
The entrance from Silvermines into Silver Street was equally impressive.
The entrance from Borrisokane had some housing developments some of which have been mentioned in another category.
The Tesco complex occupies a premier site on this road and it has a high throughput of traffic which moved smoothly because of a good traffic management structure.
Further, in at Millersbrook a recent planning notice for the demolition of two existing properties and the construction of 10 semi detached 3 storey houses was noted.
All roundabouts were maintained well and in accordance with good practice for the preservation of wildlife.
The N52 bypass continues to be a very popular route for walkers of all abilities and a few stray cyclists as well !!.
The newly installed lights have greatly improved the safety of walkers and strollers otherwise known as pedestrians
Like other similar sized towns, Covid enforced restrictions meant that many businesses had to re think methods of survival and hence the outdoor dining options.
Tipperary County Council identified suitable areas of the town and these were redeveloped accordingly.
You have outlined these in detail and also gave an insight into the part pedestrianization of Hanley's Place
The upgrading of some pedestrian crossings is to be welcomed but there are a few around the town that need to be re-stenciled as the paint on them has faded badly.
Overall the standard was good but as you received a high mark relative to other centres of similar standard the marks remain the same as last year.

Concluding Remarks:

It has been some time since the adjudicator spent some time in the Town of Nenagh and in the interim period many positive changes have occurred.
Like busy towns, the economic well being of the place was challenged by Covid but it has adapted well and on adjudication day the core area was very busy.
You are wished well for the future.