

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Puckane - Puckaun** Ref: **848**
County: **Tipperary(North)** Mark: **314**
Category: **B** Date(s): **09/07/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	43	44
Streetscape & Public Places	80	43	44
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	44	45
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	29	29
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	16	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	41	41
TOTAL MARK	550	307	314

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 completed in bullet format which made it easier for the adjudicator to pick out the salient points.

The Map was excellent and clearly identified focal points of the village and its surrounds

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 these into the competition asking participating groups to demonstrate which goals their projects and actions help to meet.

The committee structure of 15 with 10 volunteers to call on is ideal for a village the size of Puckaun

Meetings take place every few months and now that we are back to a new kind of normality these are probably supplemented with work evenings.

The support structure includes the local authority and other public services such as TUS.

It is noted that you have access to a local architect and horticulturist when needed.

The local Scoil Naisiúnta Cill an Dangin is very much aligned into your activities as well and this practical participation will give the school children a pride of place in years to come.

One presumes that you get good support from prominent local business people as well.

The methods of communication are the old reliable such as local paper notes and the forms of social media such as Whats App Groups that allow to get quick messages to the local community and the committee.

Thank you for the input in relation to your specific project and this will be covered in the relative sections under observation comments made by the adjudicator.

Well done celebrating 14 years in the competition and thank you for the very fine endorsement of the competition and what it has meant to your community.

One notes that there is no mention of a 3 year plan and the adjudicator feels that a centre such as Puckaun that has achieved relatively high marks historically would benefit from.

It need only be a simple 2 pager of bullet points under each category.

Give it consideration for next year.

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

All your input, some of which crosses over into other categories, was noted and the places mentioned were visited to see the results of ongoing maintenance work and to view the new projects that were put in place over the last year.

The following are some observations made on a walkabout of the village and its outlying areas. The Grotto was in splendid condition and the adjudicator and his other half of many years took time out in the nearby seating area to relax from duties and take in the tranquility. Scoil Chill an Daingin, painted in the two tone county colours, looked very well on the day and the expansive grounds were clean and tidy. St Mary's Catholic Church and Grounds were also extremely well maintained with easy access for patrons of all abilities. Well done to all of the parishioners that are responsible for the upkeep of these public buildings. The Tennis Grounds in the exceptional Village Park were of high quality and a few people were getting in a leisurely game. The GAA Grounds on the outskirts of the village were presented very well and credit to all members that are involved in their upkeep. The adjudicator notes that Kildangan Club has a fairly large catchment of a few parishes. Slattery's Garage synonymous with Puckaun for decades very well presented with tidy forecourt and back areas. Both hostelrys were in good condition and looked at their best on a fine summer's day. Kennedys Shop was very tidy outside and inside. A planning notice for the refurbishment of an existing residence was also noted and this will further enhance the core of the village when completed. Some very fine private town residences were admired particularly those with a cottage theme. Road surfaces in the main were very good. A few directional signs in the centre of the village across from the Grotto were obscured by the overgrowth of trees. Overall the standard as per guidelines was good and merits an increase in marks.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The standard of presentation of existing green areas and planting arrangements viewed on the day was top class. The village is fortunate that it has such a fine amenity in the Village Park. This village park was comparable to the best that the adjudicator has seen in years of doing this job. It has an eclectic mix of shrubs, perennials, and hardy annuals that were a sight to behold. Consideration was also given to the need to encourage pollination as strips of green were left uncut for that purpose. Congratulations to both the volunteers and the CE scheme workers for keeping this amenity in such good condition. The Grotto was commented upon in the previous section. Many planting arrangements that offered many colours were viewed in the village core area and these were supplemented by some nice hanging basket arrangements. Some very fine private gardens were viewed in the village and also in the housing clusters including the old Rent an Irish Cottage scheme. Overall the standard was very good and warrants an increase in marks.

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 wildlife species, habitats, and designated areas. Good wildlife advice and communication about the importance of the local wildlife heritage to the local community is so important and this can be done in various ways. Being aware of invasive and possible destructive plants such as Japanese knotweed is also essential. What you have submitted is more explaining what's in place rather than telling us of plans and how you engage with the local county biodiversity officer or equivalent to ascertain what type of talks or mini seminars are planned for the winter ahead. These types of events are very good for networking with other local groups. Well done on pursuing a policy of no herbicide to encourage the promotion and preservation of various forms of wildlife. The Church of Ireland and the lake mentioned were visited on the day. As well as getting in touch with the biodiversity officer consult the following websites www.biodiversityireland.ie and www.pollinators.ie for updates on matters such as the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. The Tidy Handbook has an excellent segment on this category and can be accessed by getting into the main website and seeking out the handbook section.

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

The objective in this category is to promote the concept of reducing the production of potential waste at the source and help to make households, businesses, and communities more sustainable by "Doing more with less" - a very apt slogan. 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. What you have included falls within the guidelines but there is much more to be gained from this category by way of new creative ideas. To get further information do consult www.localprevention.ie, www.greenhomes.ie and www.sustainableprocessing.ie. Also, something that is coming into vogue more is the circular economy and at www.dccae.gov.ie you will get a pretty good idea of what it's all about.

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.

The aforementioned handbook has excellent advice and a myriad of websites that offer a whole raft of pertinent information as well.

Litter control is for the next section as well and its good to see the local school under the direction of the Principal being so actively involved

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

All of what you have submitted under this category are mainly ongoing maintenance which is top class but the adjudicator would have like to have seen a mini plan of how you promote the anti litter and dog fouling message to the local community.

The school has a strong involvement in the green school's programme and it would be good to get them children involved in say poster competitions or the design of dog fouling notices that would have the desired effect of making dog owners stop and take note.

Just a thought.

General tidiness was good and no clutter impaired walking on the street.

A little farm related activity residue was noted at path verges but only to be expected as this is high season for hay and silage making.

No small tractors in Tipp by the looks of things and hopefully all these young lads that drive them have energy left to bring to the hurling field in the evenings.

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

The quality of road surfaces and the improvements in footpaths were mentioned in the Steetsacpes section.

Traffic calming measures n place are more than adequate as the village is not subject to undue heavy traffic with the possible exception of the holiday and haymaking seasons!

Houses in the centre of the village were presented to a very good standard and owners are to be complimented for making the effort to ensure that the Village is inviting in terms of presentation to the visitor.

Most side and back areas, except for a few, were tidy and clean.

The Holiday Cottages, on both sides of the main street, and surrounding green areas were good.

The Town and Village Scheme work as you say is nearing completion

The adjudicator was very impressed with the Cuan Derg Estate and the excellent green areas that were very well maintained.

The wildflower area was visited as was Ballycraggan Estate near the excellent GAA Grounds on the Domineer Road

The standard in this category merits an increase in marks.

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

The entrance in from Terryglass had grass verges cut back following good practice for the preservation of various species of wildlife but it was felt that the name sign could be enhanced by a nice planting arrangement at the base This entrance also had the Church of Ireland and grounds.

The entrance from Dromineer was acceptable but the speed sign seem obscured from view by some overgrowth.

The Nenagh Road entrance was well presented and verges again cut back following good practice

Individual premises on all these entrances were presented to a good standard with boundary walls and side areas clean and tidy.

As with all towns and villages, there are always a few who don't conform.

The new entrance lights were observed.

Concluding Remarks:

It is always nice to visit the village of Puckaun and the surrounding countryside as it offers such tranquility.

Much good work has been done by the committee over the years and the village has made steady progress in the competition since it first entered.

You are wished well for the future.