

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Riverstown-Killeen/Baile Uí Lachnáin-An Cillín	Ref: 912
County: Tipperary(North)	Mark: 283
Category: B	Date(s): 14/07/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	39	39
Streetscape & Public Places	80	39	40
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	40	41
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	29	30
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	14	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	42	47
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	33	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	34	35
TOTAL MARK	550	270	283

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 for 2022, unfortunately, there was no map of the area to be adjudicated attached.

That said it wasn't a problem as the adjudicator was reasonably familiar with the village.

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 key environmental issues. In 2021 Tidy Towns adopted these goals and integrated them into the competition asking participants to indicate how they impact their activities.

The Committee of 12 and a volunteer core of 5 are sufficient to undertake the work activities that need to be done and are more than adequate for a village the size of Riverstown Killeen.

Your meetings are held regularly to combine planning and carrying out work as per your schedule.

There was no mention of a 3-year plan so maybe that might be something that you would consider for next year.

Advice and possible support for this could be obtained from Pobal or the Community Development Section of Tipperary County Council and you have links with both of these public bodies.

Can get more support for your work from more local organizations as you don't seem to have listed any in the form?

Well done on involvement with the local Riverstown Killeen National School which incidentally has a fine website with up-to-date information.

Methods of communication are a mix of newsletters, annual review publication, and the use of What's App for instant messages.

Could to note that you reactivated your involvement with the competition back in 2017.

The reclamation of the derelict bank on the Portumna Road was mentioned in last year's report but it was observed by this year's adjudicator and has made progress

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

All the work that you have inputted such as the Enhancement of the village wildlife garden and reclamation of the aforementioned derelict bank area plus the repair of the cobble lock at the Riverside area was noted and viewed. The following are some observations made by the adjudicator during his walkabout.

The traffic from both sides of the N52, which in effect is a national road link to midlands and north of the country, was very busy and it was felt that traffic calming measures were a little inadequate.

The marked-out walk and cycleway in red give some degree of comfort to cyclists and pedestrians but the traffic

sweeps down into the village from Carrigg at a fast pace.

Maybe you could observe the flow and as a committee with influence lobby your local representatives to see if even an audit of traffic flow through the village could be organized.

The road surfaces and footpaths were in good condition and the new sections of the latter were noted Bollards, at the Riverside Inn which looks as if it was closed, were clean and freshly painted.

Private residences in the village some of which were of Georgian origin were maintained very well.

Special features such as the bench and seating at the amenity area near River Little Brosna were made of recyclable material and were clean and tidy.

The adjudicator who is familiar with the village is often confused as to how much of the village is actually in Offaly judging the signs on the bridge.

Signs both name and directional were well presented clean and visible which is what signs should be.

There seems to be some new housing development taking place on the Portumna Road.

An additional mark is warranted

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The activities that you have mentioned in this category are more of a maintenance nature which of course is hugely important.

The Riverside looked excellent on the day with nice floral arrangements of a permanent and stand alone variety offering colour and contributing to the enhancement of a very tranquil area.

Credit is due to the members who look after this particular area and indeed the green areas that one observes as you enter the village from both sides

The adjudicator felt that there was more potential to be exploited because you have such natural green areas and a river embankment.

There was no mention of additional tree planting or additional shrub beds being planned

On the day the Little Brosna River was very clean and a young family were doing a spot of fishing something akin to what the adjudicator used to do with a jam jar and twine in days past.

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

The adjudicator commends you for mentioning Litter Control in this category and the negative impact litter has on the wildlife, rivers and environment in general.

It is something that hadn't crossed my mind but when it was mentioned it seemed pretty obvious.

The wildlife garden is a gem in the village and was visited.

One feel as was the case in the last category that there is more potential for Riverstown to exploit the natural habitats that you have.

Not every town or village has a wonderful natural habitat like the river embankment like Riverstown has.

The adjudicator suggests that you get in touch the County Bio Diversity Officer and seek advice on how to go about getting involved say with the National School to develop a specific project that can be of benefit to the local and visitor alike.

One of the objectives of this category is to have knowledge of local conservation areas and wildlife habitats and to be able to communicate this to the local community.

For further information and updates on the status of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan consult www.bodiversityireland.ie

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

What you have included in your submission is standard and is replicated around the country but still, it is very relevant to the above statement

There are a lot more options that can be explored under the heading of Sustainability – doing more with less.

It is something we all have to be cognisant of as we have to try and reduce our environmental impact.

To gain more knowledge and get ideas for mini projects consult the Tidy Towns Handbook and the excellent section under the above heading.

It has a raft of information and links to trigger off new ideas that can benefit the wider Riverstown community.

Also, consult with the County Environmental Officers of both Tipperary and Offaly and see if any relevant relevant are being planned for the winter season.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The adjudicator has noted the activities that you have been involved to promote an anti litter culture in the village such as ensuring that litter bins are emptied regularly.

The negative impact of litter on wildlife was addressed in a previous section.

You have regular litter picks and also you promote the anti dog fouling message although on the day there was mutt mitts container to be seen

Last year the village got a pretty low mark which in this adjudicators opinion was probably based on the fact that adjudication was virtual and the adjudication was made on what was submitted by the committee.

This year we are able to get out and do the adjudication as it should be.

On adjudication day the village was virtually litter free with only a few stray wrappers to be seen on the outskirts probably dispatched from a passing car!

The village was pretty clean and tidy but there were two side areas that need to be tidied up.

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

The private residences in the centre of the village were mentioned in a previous category for how they were presented.

There were many individual homesteads on the outskirts that were presented to an equally high standard some with attractive gardens.

Credit has to be given to residents who have pride in their own homes which contributes to an overall pride of place. There seems to be a foundation for additional houses near the existing development off Portumna Road but no reference in the entry form

The new signs and the post and rail fencing were noted and they add to the entrance into the village.

The new information board was admired for its design.

Overall the standard observed during the walkabout was good and merits an increase of 2 marks

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

The approach roads were maintained to a very high standard and need very little in-depth comment.

The basic of good management of verges were adhered to making provision for the nesting season.

The road in from both sides of the busy N52 was very inviting with new name signs complemented by attractive green areas which you have maintained all year round.

The Portumna Road was also maintained to a high standard and the work that has been done on the embankment has already been commented upon.

An increase in marks is merited.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to visit the village of Riverstown and relax for a little while on the tranquil banks of the Littel Brosnas River before embarking on the adjudicating duties.

You have worked hard as a committee over the last year and this is reflected in the marks received.

The village has the potential to do even better in the competition and you are wished well in the years ahead,