

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Roscrea - Ros Cré**

Ref: **622**

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	47	48
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	49	49
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	31	32
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	19	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	39	40
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	39	39
TOTAL MARK	550	327	336

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu don bhliain 2022. Táimid buíoch daibh as ucht na hionrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíodh gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Adh Mór...

Thank you for the excellent entry form complete with pictorial records and clear maps of the town and an update on the 3 year plan which was extremely useful to the adjudicator in helping him to carry out his task.

Thank you also for the excellent Map Reference Page indicating,maintenance, new and future projects.

There is a substantial amount of relevant information under all categories but it is not feasible to give detailed comments in a 3 page report.

Feel assured that the adjudicator has assessed it in detail and the adjudication was done in a fair and objective manner in line with the guidelines of the competition.

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, including poverty, inequality, climate change and other key environmental issues. In 2021 Tidy Towns has adopted these goals and has integrated them into the competition.

On reading your application it is noted that the Committee has embraced the ethos of the SDG programme.

The committee of 10 and volunteer force of 30 plus have a unified approach to carrying out various tasks.

You have a very good relationship with the local authority, other agencies such as the North Tipperary Development Company and host of local organisations and clubs.

Thank you for the short updates on each.

Good to report that you involvement with local schools is strong and the interaction has mutual benefits and will only get stronger now that schools are back to normal times.

Your main project the Secret Garden was visited by the adjudicator and is a credit to people that brought this project to fruition.

Methods of communication are a combination of the tried and tested plus the various forms of social media

Lots of up-to-date information and photographs on Roscrea Tidy Towns Facebook page

35 years entering the competition is some achievement and a testament to committees over the years.

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

An excellent drone depiction of Roscrea from a historical perspective and thank you for the detailed summary as well.

The adjudicator visited Damer House to view the ongoing extensive remedial works that were taking place there. All the town improvements undertaken within the town and documented in your entry form were visited and the new tourist information signs were particularly impressive.

The core area of the town has undergone some footpath and road surfacing over the last few years and this type of

public realm improvements have enhanced the town centre no end.

There are a lot of photographic records of work before and after and these have been noted.

Some of the input here also crosses over into other categories most notably Green Spaces and Landscaping and Biodiversity in your location .

Rustic art pieces were viewed down by the Mall and these were very attractive and added to the area.

The following is a compilation of comments based on the adjudicator walkabout.

Some of the houses on Limerick Street need a little revitalisation something akin to a painting scheme maybe part supported by North Tipperary Development Company might be the solution.

Some road markings in this area were completely faded and need to be re stencilled.

Also there are a few near derelict houses in this vicinity and the adjudicator is aware that the Committee has addressed dereliction problems in the town and its extremities so no further comment needed.

A couple of old heritage town signs on the entrance roads need to be upgraded and made more attractive.

The following commercial properties caught the eye of the adjudicator Phelans Market House,Jacks Bar,Pattersons Hardware with its lovely shop front and tidy goods display outside, Parkers on the Main excellent shop front and the long established Whitehouse still looks well with a plethora of Tipp flags flying.

Street furniture was well maintained, street lights and road surfaces were very acceptable especially in the core area of the town.

The public realm work that was undertaken on Market Square has totally brightened up that area although there are one or two shop fronts with signage that doesn't blend in.

All the public buildings, schools and churches of different nominations were presented to a very high standard.

Overall the standard in the category was very good and deserving of an additional mark

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasá agus Tírdhreachú:

The key to this category is knowing what habitats exist in your area and where they are and also a knowledge of Special Areas of Conservation and National Heritage Areas the former being part of a Europe wide network Special Protection Areas.

It is equally important to be aware of the law and biodiversity prior to undertaking any new projects.

The adjudicator feels that as a Committee you have a good knowledge these concepts and understand the principles fully.

Good work is being done in the area of wildlife preservation and promotion in an overall context.

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

The adjudicator was impressed with the new information panels which are most informative as well as being of excellent design.

It was a nice gesture to honour a loyal member of your group by planting a tree in his name and that fact that he is very much alive to appreciate the honour makes it all the more worthwhile.

Lets hope that the new lime tree will not be vandalised like the previous tree.

Its funny that you mention that fact that swallows patrol the Mall area.

On adjudication day they were flying low and at the outset I thought that they were swifts.

Well done on the work in this category which merits an increase and do refer to the following for ongoing updates on matters biodiversity www.biodiversityireland.ie where one can access the National Pollinator Plan and information on pollinator friendly planting code www.pollinators.ie.

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

It is important to re state the main objective in this category which is the reduction of the production of waste at the source.

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 and one that many of the ordinary things you do regularly contribute to the main objective

"Doing more with less" is a very apt slogan

You have listed some measures that you are involved in within the entry form and while they fall within the objectives of this category they are not new as such and are replicated around the country in many villages and towns.

The use of used tyre tube strips to make tree ties is a novel idea and demonstrates practical cooperation between the committee and a local business.

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

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

The town is a large town that has seen expansion by way of the addition of new housing developments on the outskirts.

The public realm works in Market Square contribute to all the core area looking far more vibrant than it did in past times..

What is impressive about your submission under this category is the manner in which you have engaged with all stakeholders and in that I include the County Council, local businesses, residents associations and members of all sectors of the community.

The message of creating a culture of zero tolerance to indiscriminate littering and issues such as graffiti,fly posting

and dog fouling has been directed to the community by various forms of communication.

Good to report that you acknowledge the work of the CE Workers Forum as these people contribute so much to communities.

The adjudicator notes also that the area in Gantly Road has improved because of proposed civic improvements and is no longer an eyesore.

On the day of adjudication the basics of litter control were adhered to, bins were not overflowing and whilst there was pockets of litter at different locations notably near new tiered flower planters on Main Streets – cigarette butts the problem wasn't major

Problems such as dereliction and unoccupied premises that may be falling into disrepair are often outside the control of a voluntary committee such as Tidy Towns.

All you can do is try to engage with the owners of such properties or unsightly areas and try to get them to address the problem.

Speed and directional signs were in the main visible and clean but many road markings had faded and maybe the County Council Roads Section could do an evaluation of the situation as it stands at present

The standard in this category was very good due in no small measure to the efforts of the Committee to spread the message of good practice and to encourage local involvement in major clean ups

An an increase of 2 marks is merited.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

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

The positive work undertaken under this heading has been noted and the adjudicator took the time to visit some housing developments

The Estates Map was so beneficial as there are so many areas that this adjudicator who would have been familiar enough with Roscrea never knew existed.

Thanks for the concise history of the housing areas in the town and its outskirts it proved to be invaluable.

The adjudicator visited a cross section of these including the older areas such as Kennedy Park which would be familiar from coming into town off the bypass.

This is a large older council estate and it, for the most part, was well maintained with some remedial work being undertaken by the Tipperary County Council on the day

Ashbury Park down near the Railway Gates was a bit mixed.

Cnock Mhuire was well presented with most homesteads well presented with boundary walls clean and side areas tidy.

As per usual in any large housing area, there were one or two nonconformists

The work done at Assumption Park was visited and the Green was very well presented and free of any stray bikes or other unnecessary items.

The presentation of private housing in the town core was excellent and this was complemented by standards seen in the suburbs.

Some very exclusive and well appointed residences some with large gardens were admired on st Annes Road.

An increase of one mark is merited.

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

You have supplied a detailed outline of the work undertaken and planned under this category and thanks for that. The additional mini maps were very beneficial as well.

Well done on the planting of trees on the Templemore and Limerick Roads, and now the key is to ensure that are looked after to encourage healthy growth.

The Cycle Lane scenario is something that you have broached with the Council and hope that this interaction which so far has been positive will lead to some form of realignment

The plans are what they are plans and no doubt because of due process and consultation with other stakeholders any

The adjudicator drove to the outskirts and entered the town from Limerick, Shinrone, Birr, and the old road from Moneygall as well as Knock.

All were presented to an acceptable standard but some verges on the Shinrone entrance which is narrow enough were overgrown.

The roundabout network into Roscrea for an outsider can be a bit convoluted but it could there are far worse.

Mention was made earlier about older heritage signage on the entrances and that they need to be replaced with more up to date ones.

Concluding Remarks:

The adjudicator is pretty familiar with Roscrea and drove through on many occasions in a different era when traffic congestion was the norm.

The core of the town is now very impressive due to the public realm work that has taken place.

It was a pleasure to adjudicate Roscrea and you are wished well for the future.