

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Shevry - Seithe Bhreighe** Ref: **623**
County: **Tipperary(North)** Mark: **267**
Category: **A** Date(s): **07/07/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	38
Streetscape & Public Places	80	31
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	38
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	27
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	30
TOTAL MARK	550	267

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...

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.

Unfortunately the entry form was very incomplete with only references to numbers in each category which suggests that there was a map to be included as well.

There was no map either and the adjudicator was left with the only option of what was viewed on the ground as well as reference back to the last entry report which was in 2019.

That report indicated that you have a small population and had a committee of 8 and 17 volunteers.

That report also showed good work being undertaken under the category headings.

It also indicated that you had involvement with the local school, had varying forms of communication, contact with the local authority as well as having recourse to a CE scheme.

You had been entering the competition for 15 years and it had helped the community to build a community spirit that permeated into other local activities.

Covid hit all strata of life none more than rural community life.

It's unfortunate that your committee seems to have been totally immobilised by it over the last two years.

It is hoped that you gain renewed vigour for next year and that you will avail of advice from the likes of the North Tipperary Development Council, Leader and of course Tipperary County Council.

Hope to see a new 3 year plan from 2023 onward.

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

The adjudicator was well familiar with Sherry over the years passing through it on match days on the way to the Thurles.

I suppose it could be assigned hamlet or very small village status but one that seemed to have an active Tidy Towns group.

As stated in the introductory section let's hope that the activities of your group are up and doing next year and that we see full input in this category.

On the day that the adjudicator visited the area looked well in the summer sunshine.

The name stones on the large grass margins were clean and visible.

There was a large house construction job being undertaken at the junction of the R503 and the L4129 which when

completed will be a nice enhancement of that particular area.

Some of the road surface off the main R 503 on the two L roads was a little rough

Grass margins are quite large and well maintained and these offer the only walking options as the traffic is pretty busy and fast on a through road from Limerick to Thurles.

The information panel of the little village is one of the best encountered by this adjudicator in his travels.

Wonderful little short story by Paddy Shaw who must have been a local folklorist.

Also, the site of the dancing platform must have seen many a good set, fox trot, or even jive in its Dancing at the Crossroads heydays.

A garda barracks and a hostelry were part of life in Shevry as well

Overall the standard was good and the mark will remain as in 2019

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Some wildflower areas were observed at both ends of the village and these enhance the village.

To further endorse the comment that was made in the report of 2019 that wildflowers do need attention to develop.

It looks as if somebody had been looking after these pockets of wildflowers over the Covid period as they looked very well on the day.

The adjudicator thought that part of the green areas could benefit from some additional planting possibly near the name stones.

The various roles of landscaping in towns and villages can be summarized as follows: Provide year-round seasonal interest in form, colour, and texture through the planting of hedges, shrubs, and trees.

Provide a visual theme or place-making features that create or reinforce the identity and character of the area.

There is an exceptional section under this category in the Tidy Towns Handbook that gives excellent advice on landscaping and planting

Shevry could benefit from a mini planting plan and the first step would be to consult the above and seek advice from maybe a local landscaper or a relevant professional within Tipperary County Council.

One or two other similar sized places as Shevry in North Tipperary have done some wonderful work in this category.

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

The 2019 adjudicators report refers to a biodiversity report that the Shevry Tidy Towns Committee had commissioned and completed.

It's a pity that an update on this alone was not submitted with the entry.

This is the one category that needs detailed input so that your work on the ground can be accessed and commented upon.

The key to this category is knowing what habitats exist in your area and where they are and there is no indication of that in the entry form.

Also, it is important to be aware of the special conservation areas that are in your area and no doubt there are a number in Shevry and the surrounding area.

This adjudicator suggests that you revisit the biodiversity survey referred to in 2019 and update it for next year's competition.

Also, contact the county biodiversity officer or equivalent for advice as well as any relevant workshops and mini-seminars that might be taking place in the county during the winter months.

Consult www.biodiversityireland.ie for other information and updates on the status of the All Ireland Pollinator plan and its effectiveness since its inception.

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.

The above comments encapsulate what this category is all about.

"Doing more with less" was a catchy slogan but now it's a reality as communities are encouraged to reduce their environmental impact by putting in place measures under energy saving and the like.

We have to reduce carbon footprints within our immediate areas and there is a myriad of activities that one can do to get on the right track.

It looked as if you had some measures in place pre covid but as there are no updates in this form the adjudicator suggests that you consult with the County Environmental Officer to see, as is the case with the last category if there are any upcoming events that are happening in the county over the coming months.

These types of events are a great way to network with other committees and see what they have been doing.

Without seeming to be monotonously boring but do consult the previously mentioned handbook where there is a myriad of information and many links to websites for idea generation

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Litter control was good and there was no litter to be seen as one traversed the area.

It looks like the regular litter picks of 2019 are still ongoing and that even over Covid residents did their level best to keep the area free from litter which often is dispensed from passing cars.

We look forward to some more information on your litter rotas next year.

General tidiness was also good and except for one area with a broken wall and some rubble inside it, that standard was good.

An extra mark has been awarded.

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

This category was well summed up in the 2019 report and as was stated you are a small area with a cluster of houses that are scattered.

Scoring marks is difficult because of the size of Shevry and it is made more difficult when there is no input on the activity carried out over the last year.

Mark will remain the same with the wish that this part of the entry form is populated with a comment next year.

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

Entrances from both sides of the R503 were very acceptable and do create a good impression as one passes through the village en route to Thurles or Newport/Limerick.

You have well-maintained large green verges that adhere to good practices for the preservation of wildlife.

Also if a traveller cares to stop they have an interesting Information Panel that gives a history of Shevry and also indicates the type of fauna and flora of the area.

The two sides roads were a little rough surface wise.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to adjudicate Shevry a place that the adjudicator often passed through in times past.

You are wished well for the future and one hopes that the Committee can fully renew activities next year.