

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Toor - An Tuar** Ref: **938**
County: **Tipperary(North)** Mark: **296**
Category: **A** Date(s): **23/06/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	40	40
Streetscape & Public Places	80	38	40
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	42	43
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	25	26
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	14	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	33	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	36	36
TOTAL MARK	550	289	296

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 and the excellent map of your idyllic rural village set in the Sliabh Felim heartland.

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. In 2021, Tidy Towns has adopted these goals and has integrated them into the competition asking groups to indicate how they impact on their activities.

It is noted that entry form contact lives back in Duagh in North Kerry but obviously has links to Toor.

The committee structure is small but very effective in promoting the activities of Tidy Towns in the village and its immediate surrounds.

The support of Tipperary Council, Pobal and local Councillor Fiona Bonfield is central to your work and the effectiveness of this support is evident judging from the amount of public works that have been completed.

Sorry to note that some of your older supporters have passed on and that it is difficult to get the youth of the area involved.

The fact that you have no school is a contributory factor in the latter.

Hopefully you will be able to encourage some younger people into the fold to carry on the legacy that you have created in the village.

It might be worth considering getting in touch with a relevant contact in Tipperary County Council or a community development officer in North Tipperary Development Company to give you direction.

The methods of communication are more than adequate for getting your message out to the wider community of Toor and the use of Facebook and Whats App is important as both give the options of immediate response.

Eight years in the competition and the progress has been very good judging by the work completed over that time.

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

The information in the entry form is a little scant but in fairness, it's to the point.

You completed two new painting projects and the effects of this work can be transformational in a village the size of Toor.

The excellent map indicated these areas and was easy for the adjudicator to identify them.

The following are some observations made during a pleasant and relaxing walkabout on a good summer's day.

The fences were painted in green which blended in so well with the surrounding backdrop of the Sliabh Felims.

The RC Church is just in a beautiful setting and the surrounding grounds were maintained so well.

The memorial stone which gave a history to the building of the church and its association with Famine times looked as if it had been recently sandblasted and set in a bed of fine stones.

The village has some excellent amenities such as a picnic area that doubles as a mini village park.

Peggys Park is the main attraction and this was a joy to behold as it was presented to the highest of standards.

The Village has some wonderful artifacts of rural life of a past era, skillets pots, sword turners, and as they used to say long ago mowing machines.

The excellent stone walls were another added feature.

The adjudicator even not being that religious was taken with the simplicity of the inside of the church –such a tranquil place to reflect.

Overall the standard was very good and all of the above was complemented by excellent road surfaces and the absence of overhead wires.

It is a hard job to maintain all these areas so an additional two marks are awarded for your efforts.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Again all of what you have included is primarily maintenance of existing landscaping and planting features.

The adjudicator was curious how some many exceptional permanent planting features came about in a village the size of Toor.

Has the village had a TUS scheme over the years?

Green spaces and landscaping is of the highest standards and these were complemented by sections of excellent constructed stone walls

The permanent planting arrangement as one enters the village with the Church facing was in its glory on the day.

The adjudicator was impressed with the mix of perennials such as erysimum or permanent wall flower that mixed in with potentilla and the like.

Wildflowering was noted in a number of areas on the outskirts of the village and the picnic area.

Excellent sign “Pardon The Weeds I’m feeding the Bees”

Peggys Garden mentioned in the previous section had some nice planting arrangements as well.

A little harsh criticism in last year’s report wasn’t justified after this years onsite visit.

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

Well done on having areas such as Peggys Park designated to the promotion and preservation of bio diversity,

The tidy towns committee act as keepers of these areas on behalf of the community.

The adjudicator was also impressed with the signage that reflected bio diversity in your parish.

Of course you are in a region that has an abundance of natural habitats that it is important to take cognisance of the need to be aware of best practice and also have a knowledge of biodiversity and the law before embarking on any projects.

What you have added this year such as bird feeders, bat boxes and the upgrading of the bug hotel are all contributory to the promotion and preservation of wildlife species in and around Toor.

For further information on subjects such as the All Ireland Pollinator plan and Conservation consult www.biodiversityireland.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.

Thank you for acting on last year’s adjudicator’s comment and giving the name of the recyclable material that you make the fairy doors with.

The adjudicator has learned something new today as it is the first time that he has heard of the Forest Stewardship Council and what its purpose and objectives are.

One would suggest that if you have a lack of skills for certain projects consult the Men's Shed in nearby Newport or Reacross that’s if both places have such groups.

Also, consult the Tidy Towns handbook and the relevant section on Sustainability –Doing More With Less where you can access pertinent information on the circular economy and other subject matter.

Plenty of scope for new ideas in the years ahead and also an opportunity to gain additional marks.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhairacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The village and its environs were litter free on the day in question and all the public areas had easy access to a waste receptacle.

Maybe you should consider one or two more bins as you do have a large volume of walkers coming to the area during the year.

These people are conscious of the need to leave no trace but it might not always be possible for them to carry waste away.

Well done on participating in National Spring Clean day as this type of communal activity makes residents conscious of the need to have a pride of place mentality.

Accept the fact that you no longer have a shop and usually local shops have large receptacles that are often used by passers-by.

Be aware of the need to promote anti dog fouling as some people may bring dogs on hikes and the adjudicator did not see too many signs promoting anti dog fouling.

General tidiness was good and as stated elsewhere the village isn’t encumbered by overhead wires.

You are deserving of an additional mark for your efforts.

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

The input in this category seems to be very much the same as last year and the comment in last year's report reflected that.

The adjudicator observed some very well maintained residences during the walkabout.

The brightness of the summer's day helped as most places look well in such conditions.

Private dwellings, boundary walls, fences, and back areas were all well maintained.

Links around the core area were tidy and both the communal areas and signage were mentioned in a previous category.

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

The approach roads into the village including roadside verges were presented to a very acceptable standard

All offered good first impressions of Toor and as stated earlier road surfaces were in very good condition and it looked as if resurfacing had taken place in the not too distant past.

Walking on the outskirts can be a bit dodgy as there are no extended paths or little side walk ways.

How that can be addressed one is not sure as the village is very rural and the volume of walkers on the road might be comparatively small.

That doesn't mean its an issues as some very fast driving was witnessed on the day which meant one had to revert to the ditch to be safe.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to visit the small idyllic village of Toor for the very first time and take in its relaxing surroundings.

Much has been done over the last few years in making this village so attractive so well done to the small but dedicated committee for the efforts over time.

One will return for a further leisurely visit in due course.