

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Upperchurch - An Teampall Uachtarach	Ref: 628
County: Tipperary(North)	Mark: 317
Category: A	Date(s): 23/06/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	39	40
Streetscape & Public Places	80	44	44
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	41	41
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	36	36
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	14	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	66	67
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	39	39
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	33	34
TOTAL MARK	550	312	317

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 attached map of your charming rural village.

Last years report mentioned the inclusion of a proposed 5 year plan, maybe you would include an update for next years 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 in relation environmental issues. In 2021, Tidy Towns has adopted these goals and has integrated them into the competition asking participating groups to demonstrate which goals are applicable to their projects

The committee structure of 18 and 19 is impressive but one would have thought that it would be the other way round in numbers.

It is obviously working so why change.

Methods of communication are a mix of the tried and trusted Church Newsletter and various forms of social media and the famous county newspaper the Tipperary Star.

You have the support of Tipperary Co Council and North Tipperary Leader two very important units when it comes to getting both soft supports such as advice and relevant funding if available !

Most importantly the committee has the support of other local organisations and the wider community of Upperchurch.

Good to see that the pupils of that very fine NS Scoil Iosagáin are very much involved in the activities as well as helping with litter picks

The adjudicator wishes you well with the proposed development on the bog walk

Sixteen years involvement in the competition is a nice milestone and as you say it encourages local people to get involved in work to help benefit your fine rural village.

Thank you for the positive endorsement of the competition.

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

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Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The input that you have included in this category heading is probably more suited to the next category tidiness and litter.

The adjudicator noted a number well positioned planters with hardy annuals and shrubs during the walkabout There is far more potential for the development of new projects under green spaces and landscaping for instance the picnic area could be further enhanced by including one or two permanent beds that would have all year round effect.

These could be of stone surround nature to complement the existing stone walls in the village.

Entrances into the village could do with a little more vibrancy by way of colourful annuals in attractive planters

The green areas that are presently in place are well maintained.

The mark will remain the same as last year on the basis that no additional new projects were in place.

Consider getting some advice from possibly the area engineers on devising a mini planting plan in advance of next year's competition.

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

The adjudicator was also impressed with the signage that reflected in detail the rich tapestry biodiversity in your parish and it is ideally situated near the bog walk.

The community is of course very fortunate to have such a nature haven available to it as most centres would not be set in such a rural setting.

Like the last category, there is more potential for additional mini ideas that could you could investigate such as organized bog walks with a local ecologist or somebody of similar ilk

The recommendation would be to consult the excellent Tidy Towns Handbook and examine the advice under the above heading in the first instance.

It has excellent information on Biodiversity and areas of conservation as well as links to the All Ireland Pollinator plan via www.biodiversityireland.ie and www.pollinators.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 minimise our use of all resources within the community so that we reduce our environmental impact.

It is a broad category so it allows communities to demonstrate how they can contribute by way of practical projects. You have listed a few projects that fall within the guidelines of the category and that are indeed practical.

Without going into detail but to get more out of this sector in terms of creating even greater awareness of a more sustainable environment consider looking at the following websites for idea generation

www.localprevention.ie ,www.greenhomes.ie and www.sustainableprocessing.ie

The websites www.dccae.gov.ie and www.epa.ie explain concisely what the circular economy and its objectives are.

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.

Back to my ongoing mantra of also consulting the TT Handbook as there are invaluable sources of information and direction to a myriad of important websites.

The Bring Bank Recycling facility in the village was reasonably well managed but there were one or two small bags of rubbish at the base.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Mention was made of the effectiveness of the CE Scheme in last year's report and one presumes that the same applies this year.

Unfortunately as far as the adjudicator can see a few sections of the entry form are missing which is fine as the

adjudication was based on what was seen on the ground.

Overall litter control was good but at the large picnic area, some small amounts were noticed.

The committee does regular litter picks with the help of school children and parents and it's proving to be effective.

General tidiness was good and there was no evidence of undue clutter or the like and the extensional new footpaths give a tidy look to the village and out to the school.

The area at the car park and near the crèche was a little overgrown but in general, the standard was good and merits an increase in marks.

Phillip Purcell Engineering deserves mention for the tidy manner in which its extensive premises and yard are kept.

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

The properties in the main village were all maintained to a high standard and it was noticeable that some had been recently painted.

Boundary walls, sides areas, and well presented gardens in some cases all added to a good standard

The main hostelrys in the village Oliver Ryans, Pas Bar, and Hillview B&B, and P O Cuinneáin have already been mentioned in streets and public places and it is good to note the use of the Irish language on the latter's shop front.

There are no cluster housing developments in the village.

Further comment would have been forthcoming but this section of the entry form was also missing.

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

Entrances into the village were well maintained with attention given to the proper treatment of verges for the preservation and promotion of wildlife.

The village is a truly rural village nestled off the main roads so it's hard to decipher where the roads out of the village go if you are not local.

Two come in off the R503 and another indirectly goes in the direction of Borrisoleigh via Penays Cross?

Could I suggest that the map be improved upon somewhat to identify destinations?

Internal directional signs such as those to the National School and Knockalough Loop and Eamonn An Cnoic loop were of nice design and looked relatively new.

An increase of one mark is awarded.

Concluding Remarks:

It's been quite some time since the adjudicator visited the rural village of Upperchurch and the experience was a pleasant one.

The committee has done some very good work over lockdown years and this year.

You are wished well for the future.