

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Tipperary - Thiobraid Arann</b>	Ref: <b>520</b>
County: <b>Tipperary(South)</b>	Mark: <b>332</b>
Category: <b>D</b>	Date(s): <b>10/07/2022</b>

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2021</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2022</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	55	57
Streetscape & Public Places	80	43	44
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	44	45
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	42	43
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	21	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	51	53
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	28	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37	39
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>332</b>

### 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, supplementary support material and excellent map and its environs which allowed the adjudicator to re familiarize himself with parts of the town.

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 re key environmental issues.

In 2021 Tidy Towns adopted these goals, integrated them into the competition and they are now firmly embedded as essential elements.

Judging by the input in your entry form Tipperary Tidy Towns Committee have embraced SDGs fully and have demonstrated which goals impact on its various activities.

At the outset of this report the adjudicator points out that it would not be possible to comment on all of the content of the entry and the large volume of supplementary material.

Feel assured that all the content has been examined and the adjudication was done in a fair and objective manner in line with the guidelines of the competition.

The work of the committee has been acknowledged over the last four years in that Tipperary Town has increased its marks since 2019 by 22 marks which is pretty substantial for high end entrants.

Last year was a bit surreal and adjudication was based on submissions to be honest but thankfully one is able to get out and do some leg work and appreciate the on the ground work put in by committees

Your committee structure is one that obviously works very effectively and thank you for giving details of your executive.

The list of meetings undertake over the year is impressive as is the list sub groups that you regularly interact with. The support of Tipperary County Council and South Tipperary County Development is essential to your work activities and this has been outlined in detail through the various programmes that you are involved and grant support that you receive.

The backing of local community groups and sporting organisations is essential to the workings of the Tidy Towns Committee and you have that backing in spades.

Good to note that Cooke Park and Arravale Rovers GAA Grounds at Sean Treacy Park were looking resplendent on the day.

If the adjudicator is not mistaken St Michaels FC are celebrating 75 years in existence this very year.

The Colloborative Town Centre Health Check is an interstiing concept and one would like to see the results of these findings in a year's time when finalised.

Good to see such a creative programme such as the Socially Engaged Murals one that is planned for the town, it will

help bring a bit of vibrancy back to a place that the adjudicator has a soft spot for and will complement the excellent mural on the gable end wall of Michael Ryan's music shop.  
Methods of communication are many and varied and the social media presence and online links have been accessed by the adjudicator.  
Brilliant to see 8 schools involved in the Green Flags programme, most of the schools were visited by the adjudicator.  
Well done on securing funding for both the Tipperary Hills and River Walk projects.  
Finally just to say that you have received 3 more marks in this category than the National Winner of 2021 did!  
The adjudicator is taking a bit of liberty in awarding an additional 2 but he was taken by the quality of the content if not exhausted by the quantity.  
Maybe peer it down a little more for next year's adjudication the amount of supplementary material was a little daunting and to be honest a lot was not necessary.

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

As one who has been familiar with Tipperary Town for decades passing through can bring back memories of a time when there was far more commercial activity going on.  
Many established businesses, as is the same for many similar sized towns, had ceased trading and of course, Covid accelerated these closures for many.  
This adjudicator was pleasantly surprised to see a new restaurant opened in what was Kieleys in the main street and hopefully, this is a start of a resurgence for the town centre.  
It is important that the previously mentioned Town Centre Health Check findings are evaluated quickly and an action plan to encourage people to come into Tipp Town rather than gravitate solely to Shopping Centre on the Limerick exit is put in place.  
It is not going to be an easy task but a group as progressive as Tipperary Towns can be a key influencer in making sure that things happened speedily.  
Your comments on derelict and unoccupied premises have been noted and in fairness, you have been upfront in your summation.  
The adjudicator did look at some of the links that were included out of personal interest.  
Yes indeed the "Glove Factory" and the ongoing refurbishment were viewed during the adjudication and it is good to see this positive development  
Mugastly Road and Bank Place footpath improvements were noted during a long walkabout which certainly exceeded the recommended daily steps two-fold.  
The following are observations made by the adjudicator in line with category criteria.  
The improvement works on the Limerick Road into town have had a major positive effect on both drivers and pedestrians.  
They caused major disruption at the time but the results were worth it.  
Similarly, the works on Dundrum Road, which the adjudicator hasn't been for years, have had a very positive impact on the flow of traffic.  
Some planning notices on unoccupied buildings such as the one on O'Brien Street suggest new developments that will enhance these areas.  
All the schools were visited during the walkabout and it was noticeable that the Abbey had a new surface base for additional laying fields.  
One wonders was that at the behest of the School Principal?  
St Michael's JBS is a very large and well maintained building with extensive grounds and it has good external parking spaces that were clearly marked  
Tipperary Primary Health Care Centre is a very fine building of modern design and there is ease of access to the facility.  
Some of the sports facilities have been mentioned in another section but the adjudicator was impressed by the Pitch and Putt Course in the Hills area of the town.  
It is on par, bad pun, with most 9-hole golf courses, one was curious to know if the old ball alley was still in use.  
The Shopping Centre and Circle K on Limerick Road were very busy on that Sunday and both facilities were well managed.  
The County Council Building is akin to most local authority buildings which are of modern design and favoured by some and not by others.  
Tipperary Co-Op now probably the largest employers in the town have two premises and both were tidy.  
Tipperary has some very fine older shopfronts like Blackburns on O'Brien Street, Lewis Butchers and O'Dwyers Hardware on Main Street.  
The public realm works that have taken place over time in Market Square have revitalised that area.  
It is good to see that the old Clock Tower is retained and that the Excel Cinema Building is now a public library  
An additional mark is awarded

### **Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:**

This is a category that Tipperary Town has done well in over the last number of years and this year is a continuation of that trend.  
You have a lot of work activities detailed in this section and the most important element in this adjudicator's opinion would be the new planting plan which you launched in May 2022 and which can be accessed via the Landscape Video Planner which the adjudicator had a quick look at but had not the time to absorb it in detail.  
You have some excellent measures in this category one or two of which the adjudicator hasn't encountered before.  
Well done on the Spray Map which is being redrafted by your group and the Tipperary Bio Diversity Group.  
Having visited the Hills area of the town accessing it from the Limerick Road the planting work at the Pitch and Putt

Club and its contribution to the preservation and promotion of biodiversity.

The new bridge over the Arra River was viewed as well although it doesn't look as if the project hasn't been completed as of yet.

The quality of permanent and stand alone planting arrangements around the town was second to none.

The new permanent planting at the junction of the Galbally and Emly Roads in front of one the Tipperary Co Op premises totally transforms what once was a bland area.

Nice colourful arrangement in front of the re sited Maid Of Erin Mounument .

The Market Square are again enhanced by excellent permanent and stand alone planting arrangements that bring a bit of colour to a newly revitalised part of the core of the town.

The adjudicator was impressed with the simple design and quality of the stand alone plant containers in and around the town.

Very fine shrub beds were observed at Tipperary Co Op premises at Bridge Steet and further out near the Railway Briddge.

These were complemented by hanging baskets at a number of both private and commercial premises in the town forgetting the private gardens of individual houses in the many housing developments in the extremities of the town.

Overall the standard was very good with one or two existing shrub beds in need of some weeding and thinning.

An additional mark is awarded.

### **Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:**

The key to this category is knowing what habitats exist in your area and where they are and also being aware of the types of protected areas in one locality.

Also, groups must be familiar with the law and biodiversity before embarking on any projects.

It would be an understatement to say that as a group you have embraced the above such as the level of relevant content that you included under this category.

It would be impossible to comment on all aspects of this in a short summation but the following impressed the adjudicator.

The Knockanrawley Resource Centre Development of protected areas is something that this adjudicator was very impressed with and could be used as an example for other centres around the country that wanted to embark on having regular classes or mini-seminars on biodiversity

The adjudicator may have missed, amidst the volume of information, who funds and manages this facility and its organic garden.

It is noted that local schools are regular visitors to the Garden and their experiences are recorded in the school's report plus the knowledge acquired is put to good use in their respective school gardens or allotments.

Three Drives RFC community garden where is it as the adjudicator could not find it and it might be a good idea to give an explanation of what RFC means in this contact it would ease the confusion for the uninitiated.

Tipperary Town becoming a No Spray town is a very positive development and it is probably one of the first to get such designation in the country if the local authority grants it.

The adjudicator noted all the additional information and comments in the Bio Diversity reports.

The only concern that the adjudicator might have is that you have the resources to micro-manage the myriad of sub-projects that you have in this category.

An additional mark is awarded as the Town got a high mark last year.

### **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

Without overtly preaching to the converted it is still important to outline the main objective in this category which is the reduction of the production of waste at the source.

"Doing more with less" is no longer a slogan it's a need for communities if they are to reduce their environmental impact

Many of the measures that you have included are replicated in many other centers around the country but a few are particular to the town but there is little to be gained by repeating them back to you.

That said it is good to note that Curry Hanley is still doing good business as was observed down by the Link Raod.

Well done to the schools and Arravale Rovers GAA and Clanwilliam RFC clubs for their contribution to this category.

For further information do consult the Tidy Towns Handbook as there is excellent information and links to websites in the section under Sustainability.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

The adjudicator appreciates the involvement of many groups ,businesses, and other local community groups that engage with you to combat the problem of litter in the town and its surrounds.

You have put in place some very worthwhile measures which you have outlined in great detail.

The adjudicator is well aware that all these measures are needed to keep the message of Tipperary Town being anti litter to the forefront and has read the up to date litter report by Christina Garani the Litter Picking Team Leader.

Unfortunately, no matter how much you promote this message via local radio, Facebook, Twitter, or word of mouth there will always be people that will not conform.

On the day in question, there were pockets of litter and cigarette butts to be found at several locations in the town, and the extremities

One will concede that it being a Sunday that this would be the same for all towns or even villages but an adjudicator only judges what is seen on the ground.  
Some bins were overflowing and probably would have been emptied the following day.  
General tidiness was acceptable but a few side areas were untidy and weedy.  
For the efforts, in particular about litter, that you have made to promote good litter and general tidiness practice you have been awarded 2 additional marks.  
Plenty of room for improvement which will happen in time with your commitment.

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

The positive work undertaken under this heading has been noted and the adjudicator took time to visit some housing developments and there are many.  
The presentation of private housing in the town core was excellent and this was complemented by the standard seen in the suburbs.  
One feels that residents of Tipperary Town are doing their utmost to project a good image of the town by keeping their homes, frontages, and gardens in good condition.  
Very few places were seen that could be described as totally unacceptable but there will always be those who won't conform irrespective of what overtures are made to them.  
One has to realize that there is no onus on people to be supportive of the Tidy Towns movement but usually, with a bit of neighbourly peer pressure, most nonconformists relent.  
The motto is to push the message of positivity at all times and as a committee, you are doing that.  
The adjudicator visited the following housing clusters and large estates Bansha Road, O Connell Road, Emmett Street, St Michaels Terrace in the town and Glenview, James Connolly Park, Carronreddy, Aherlow Court, and the relatively new An Duiche  
Well done on getting the area for the painting scheme extended and securing additional funds  
The Heritage Action plan which will look to engage with young people about the rich history of the town is a very ambitious undertaking.  
The vacant, derelict and unoccupied properties have been dealt with in a previous section but you are wished well with your dealings with the owners of these properties

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

The body of work that has been done by the Committee is quite impressive and no doubt support is forthcoming from other sources to ensure that all the areas mentioned are well managed.  
It takes a lot of man hours to ensure that power washing on the main street and cleaning of the historic Charles Kickham and Maid Of Erin monuments are done properly.  
Coupled with this you have been involved in the clearing of fly-tipping and litter at specific areas notably at the IDA site(One would have thought the IDA or Enterprise Ireland would be responsible for their lands)  
The adjudicator visited the following entrances into the Town.  
Galbally entrance with the Well Failte feature and a mass of colour gives an exceptional first impression as one enters from this direction.  
The link road to the Aherlow entrance has many impressive residences.  
The Cashel Road entrance was also very impressive with clear name signs and speed signs on the way in.  
Major road works further out this road causing some traffic backlog.  
The Dundrum entrance has been mentioned in the previous section.  
The Limerick Road entrance in from Junction was very well presented as well and the new road improvements from the Shopping Centre roundabout have been a huge positive.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

It was a pleasure to visit Tipperary Town and revisit parts that the adjudicator had not been in for quite a while.  
Some extremely positive work is being undertaken by the committee as influencers and on the ground activity.  
The town is beginning to revive after a fallow period because of industry losses and commercial activity decreases.  
A bit of advice for next year's entry please reduce the volume of add-on material and indeed keep the links to a minimum.  
Less is often more as can be seen by the success of other centres that are at the top end of the competition  
You are wished well for the future.