

# Tidy Towns Competition 2021

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Doon - Dun Bleisce** Ref: **717**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **308**  
Category: **B** Date(s):

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2021</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	44
Streetscape & Public Places	60	43
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	38
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	37
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	58
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	36
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>308</b>

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu 2021. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn. Go raibh maith agaibh as ucht bhur dtacaíocht le linn na paindéime. Lean leis an dea-obair.

This year the Tidy Towns competition has changed for all of us ... a desk top evaluation with a virtual tour of your village. We saw the village in your youtube video and aerial photos. We will not get a chance to see the projects mentioned in your application and so we have relied on the information which you have provided. Thank you for your entry form, map, and your Five-Year Action Plan 2021-2025 which you prepared with help from Ballyhoura Development CLG. Your committee of twelve has a large number of volunteers for the two major clean-up days organised in the spring. For others projects you can rely on at least fifteen who will help. This is testimony to the status you hold in the community – well done. You list local businesses, sporting and voluntary groups, state and semi-state agencies who, in addition to the community, have given you support. We were delighted to see that you have a twitter account. We also suggest Facebook (for the older generation) and Instagram (for the youth). The community has benefited from your involvement with the Tidy Towns competition and businesses are spurred on to upgrade their properties so as to enhance the streetscape.

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

You did not include any project in this category.

We read elsewhere in the Application Form that the pathway on the Kilmoylan Bog Walk was upgraded which will make the walkway more pleasant for all. A new pedestrian bridge funded by LCCC was installed over the river. There is no river on your map so we are not sure where this is located. Is it part of the Kilmoylan Bog Walk?

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

We noted the 'Doon in Bloom' competition for August 2020 and wonder if you had many entries particularly as you invited entrants to submit online. The overgrown area in the Church grounds was cut back and you planted a new lawn which has tidied up the area and made it presentable.

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

You had a survey of the flora and fauna undertaken and the information gleaned was used in your new Bog Trail signage. A community wildlife walk took place lead by an ecologist. When did this take place? How many of the community attended? Is this the wildlife walk referred to in the 2019 adjudicator's report? A workshop on water and biodiversity was attended ..... how many attended? When was the workshop? We congratulate the two Primary

Schools for being awarded their respective Green Flags – this is a great achievement for your young pupils. You say that the whitethorn hedge on the Oola Raod is a 'new' project but this too was referred to in the 2019 adjudicators report.

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

The Convent Primary School grows vegetables and flowers in a polytunnel. We hope the children get to sample the vegetables at harvest time so that they enjoy the rewards for their hard work. The flowers are used by the community in the planting beds. Did you get the Men's shed to make swift nesting boxes as suggested by the 2019 adjudicator's report? You have quite a few buildings which are suitable sites for these. We are delighted to read that you are moving towards 'semi-permanent' planting. We encourage communities to have perennial planting – look at the booklet

<https://pollinators.ie/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Planting-Code-2018-WEB.pdf> which will assist you in selecting suitable pollinator friendly plants for different locations.

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

For the Team Limerick Clean Up 6 you had quite a number of volunteers and we're assuming, like in other communities, they worked in family groups. This clean-up concentrated on the approach roads to the village. You also took part in the An Taisce Spring Clean where you concentrated on areas within the village. We are delighted that you have undertake the removal of weed growth as you do your Wednesday litter pick-up. Street bins are collected twice a week and the bottle banks are emptied when full. Do you ring the bin providers? We read that you are leaving ivy on the stone wall to benefit wildlife. We must disagree with this approach as it is recognised that ivy roots penetrate between the stones and causes walls etc to become structurally unsound with collapse being the final result. We impress upon you to remove the ivy from walls, bridges, old stone buildings etc. Did you arrange to have the unnecessary signs removed from the entrance to St Fintan's Cemetery as recommended in the 2019 report?

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

The various housing areas have residents' associations and you inform them of funding as well as giving them advice. The bug hotel created by the residents of Hillgrove looked great in the photo and we are sure it is much studied by the local children. The hill at Assumption Terrace was beautiful and the seating area close by looks inviting. Did you find out about the sculpture at the Fort Estate? Who made it and what does it represent?

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

The village name signs, as commented by the 2019 adjudicator, are quite beautiful. The stone wall behind the sign on the Cappawhite Road has been built from recycled stone - we hope a building wasn't demolished to provide the stone. The low landscaping is complementary to the sign and we recommend that the planting is kept low as it's the village name that the visitor needs to see. Is it you plan to replace all the village name signs with ones of this design? We read that a socio-economic plan which includes traffic measures has been developed for Doon. What's involved? Will you get a more pedestrian friendly environment?

### **Concluding Remarks:**

We were not able to visit your village this year and so our comments are based on the information received in your application including the additional information. Quite a number of the projects you described as 'new' had been referred to in the 2019 adjudicator's report so we must assume that you forgot to change the 'N' to 'M'. We encourage you to pay attention when filling out the report as the adjudicator only has that to refer to. You mentioned reports from the schools are attached but you failed to do this. We note that the concluding comments in the 2019 adjudicator's report advised on a numbering system the projects. We recommend that you follow this system next year.

You did not refer to the Sustainable Development Goals in the various categories in your application. Tidy Towns in conjunction with LCCC ran a webinar on the SDGs earlier this year and the presentation is worth reading as it will be helpful for your application next year.

The link is : [https://www.limerick.](https://www.limerick.ie/sites/default/files/media/documents/2021-03/sustainable-development-goals-helpful-hints.pdf)

[ie/sites/default/files/media/documents/2021-03/sustainable-development-goals-helpful-hints.pdf](https://www.limerick.ie/sites/default/files/media/documents/2021-03/sustainable-development-goals-helpful-hints.pdf)

Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2021 competition. It's been a difficult time for all committees. Hopefully next year you can commence your projects and we will get to visit again and see your work.