

Tidy Towns Competition 2021

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Adare - Áth Dara** Ref: **440**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **343**
Category: **C** Date(s):

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	53
Streetscape & Public Places	60	45
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	49
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	34
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	64
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	41
TOTAL MARK	470	343

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.

The competition this year is very different for all of us ... a desk top evaluation. We thank you for your comprehensive entry form, maps, and supporting documentation including the Adare Tidy Towns Three Year Plan 2020-2023. We compliment you on your clear maps which showed Street and Residential Areas and Places of Interest together with the Location of Tidy Towns Projects.

We were delighted to read that the Adare Community faced Covid with 'great resolve'. Once restrictions were relaxed you continued with your work. The five major initiatives implemented were worthwhile and we have no doubt were a great success for your town. What a simple but wonderful idea of the one-way walking route and with Declan Hannon's video hopefully people did stay safe! We greatly admired the photos of the Greening of Adare – particularly the Village Hall and St. Nicholas Church.

You have a committee of ten with up to eighty who volunteer for major clean-up days. This is a great commitment from the local community. We loved the idea of the 'Adare Tidy Towns Champion Award' people like to be thanked for their work. Please congratulate the first recipient Mary Dundon. You have over the years built up excellent connections with local businesses, church groups, heritage groups, schools, residential groups etc which ensure that your activities are known to all. We read with interest how your community has benefited from your involvement in the Tidy Towns competition and how you realise that you are custodians of the town for future generations.

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

We were delighted to read that a by-pass is planned for your town which is located on the very busy N21 Limerick to Kerry road. Anytime we've visited in the past it's been very busy with trucks and cars so this will, when completed, eliminate all the through traffic, which in turn will be a huge contribution to the beauty of the streetscape.

You have been busy with LCCC organising the refurbishment of the Countess Dunraven Fountain located in a prominent position beside the Trinitarian Abbey on the Main Street. Receiving €40,000 under the Town and Village Renewal Programme was excellent. We look forward to seeing the completed project when we next visit Adare.

The work to the Wash Pool Area in the park is commendable. From the photos submitted the work has been undertaken with great care. The repointing of the paving slabs looks impressive and the planting beds with pollinator friendly plants and bulbs will in time add greatly to the area. In the meantime, it is wonderful that removing the overgrown plants has opened up this historical area for all to see.

The creation of the Adare Heritage Trail will be a great asset to local and tourists alike with QR code plaques being installed on sites along the route. We're assuming a map of a suggested route will also be part of this project?

When we last visited Adare, we noted the burnt-out cottages and that advice from LCCC conservation officer was being sought. It's wonderful to see that one (Bensons) has been restored and is operational again and we look forward to reading of the completion of the restoration of the second cottage in next year's application. The rethatching of another cottage is also welcomed. These cottages on the main street are synonymous with Adare and must be maintained and protected.

The Street Audit undertaken is commendable and we were delighted to see that it will be an annual project. In order to improve a building, area, streetscape etc the problem must first be identified and then added to a Tidy Towns Plan. We were delighted to read in your 3-Year plan that you will 'ensure pathways are kept clutter free to allow people to move freely'. We find that local authorities and local businesses often install items in areas which reduce pathways making the walk through a town or village awkward. The removal of the sign at the Village Hall is commendable and now this beautiful building can be clearly seen. We encourage you to continue working with LCCC with regards to the removal/tidying of poles and signs and to ask that they consult with you prior to installing new poles and signs. We look forward to reading about the Public Realm Plan in future applications.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

As mentioned previously we are familiar with Adare and you have a great variety of areas of green spaces in and around the town. Your Town Park in the centre is now undergoing renovation which will be completed by 2022. It will result in it being open and so inviting for visitors. Updating the planting scheme to increase bio-diversity, make it more pollinator friendly, and feature more perennial plants for seasonal colour is to be welcomed. We look forward to meandering around on our next visit.

The refurbishment of the Grotto area has brought back many memories for locals who as you mentioned had photos taken beside it as children. Planted areas get overgrown after a few years if not maintained as was the case here. Reclaiming it and making it a feature once again is worthwhile.

Colour in planting is something that brings a smile to all and your planting troughs and beds are a delight. Grouping the planters together certainly gives a great splash of form and colour.

Compliment to Adare Manor Fields Community Group on the maintenance of Manor Fields Sports Complex and the addition of The Pavilion will add greatly to this 25acre complex.

We are great lovers of Sensory Gardens! These environments are always such calm and tranquil spaces – a great way to 'chill out'. We look forward to seeing your FP of the Sensory garden being brought to fruition. Raising €16,000 towards the project was a great start to the project which is now with the Design and Delivery Department of LCCC.

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

You have certainly been alert to the wildlife which frequent in and around your town – the fish varieties in the river and freshwater stream, the birds on the river banks and in the parklands, the mammals which frequent the back lands, and the insects which inhabit the limestone walls. The two biodiversity studies undertaken have informed the committee and we were delighted to read that information seminars are planned. Have you thought about doing these via Zoom/Webinar? The Nature Walk which includes the riverbank is commendable and we look forward to visiting when we're next in Adare. Encouraging the community to 'Pledge Your Garden' to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is excellent. Do you know if many inhabitants of Adare have done this? The draft Nature Trail looks encouraging with references to some of the Sustainable Development Goals included.

The Legend Oak Tree project will be followed carefully by the school children of the town and is a very exciting project. Gathering the acorns and planting them will be very rewarding and will ensure the oak legend is continued. Let us know in future applications of the success of this project.

The Wildflower Meadow video shows the wildflowers in June 2021 at the Manor Fields Complex. we note that you cut the area and allow the seeds to disperse before removing the clippings ... we encourage this form of maintenance. We read with interest your new projects since 2019 - Community Awareness and Training, the Native Tree on Land initiative and Lucy Erridge Seed and Plant Sharing Scheme – well done to all involved. We are aware of Lucy Erridge and have in the past bought some of the poppy seeds from her shop!

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

This category has become easier for communities as they learn that it is about taking care of our environments and learning to be responsible. The Contactless Water Refill Station is welcomed and we were happy to see that LCCC choose Adare as one of the locations. You have, as an organisation, gone paperless and this too is welcomed. Small initiatives will make a difference and we encourage you to continue with your Education and Awareness seminars to assist the local community in their efforts to be sustainable. It would be wonderful if the two old water pumps on the Rathkeale Road could be reconnected to the water supply system. Your Sustainable Adare Project is ambitious and will take a while to implement but over a few years you will make a difference. Did you progress the 'Where can I fix it in Adare' idea noted in the 2019 report? We see that the Ladies 2020 Club are offering a clothes repair service. Are there others who carry out repairs?

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Being on the busy N21 with over 20,000 vehicles passing through the town on a busy summer's day is an enormous challenge to you with litter control. Having a twice weekly litter pick will ensure that litter is not left on the streets for long - as we know, litter attracts litter.... We were delighted to read that LCCC sweep the streets on a five day per week basis and empty litter bins on a seven day per week basis. Being active in various Litter Pick campaigns will encourage residents to become involved in their area and you now have 50 volunteers who have committed to this task until October. We would encourage you to be careful in removing litter bins as unfortunately not everyone practices 'leave no trace'. We loved the 'Bag it, Bin it' stencilled signs on the footpaths. This is an excellent idea

and permits the removal of unsightly signs (clutter) from lampposts. You have done great work on removing signs and decluttering scenic areas, and we encourage you to continue with this work. The heritage signs have been carefully cleaned and from the photos submitted are now clear and legible – well done. The kerbside maintenance by your volunteers using spades and hoes is commendable.

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

You mention that the residents' associations maintain the green spaces and planting beds in the estates. It is great to read that each estate has such committed residents who regularly meet and undertake this work. You have documented and photographed the work in each of the estates – Abbey View, Abbeyville and Manor Court, Desmond Drive, Black Abbey Gate, Deerpark, The Heritage, Park Avenue, Embury Close, Woodlands, The Village, Manor Brook and Broad Street. Well done to the resident associations and to ATT on their continued commitment to maintain and present these communal grass and planting areas. The newly planted beech hedge in Abbeyview will give a pleasant boundary to the area in a few years. We note that you encourage the associations to contribute to biodiversity by minimising the use of chemicals, and by planting pollinator friendly shrubs and flowers in addition to practicing some set-aside.

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

You have given a very detailed description of the approach roads to the town. We note that you remove litter every two weeks on these roads early on a Sunday morning and that LCCC has undertaken to sweep the roads every month. The removal of the ivy on the stone wall on Station Road and on the wall on the N21 is commendable as ivy unfortunately is the cause of many walls and buildings collapsing. The ivy roots enter the joints between the stones, loosen them and finally cause the collapse. We strongly recommend the careful removal of ivy from all manmade structures. The repair and painting of the Iarnród Éireann gates looks good. You have a number of flowerbeds and planters on approach roads which are maintained by committee members – well done all concerned. You mention a number of improvements to laneways and approach roads – new footpaths, cycleways, carpark clean-up, laneway clean-up, etc. These improvements will add greatly to the enjoyment of your town by residents and visitors alike.

Concluding Remarks:

Unfortunately, this year we were not able to visit your town and so our comments are based on the information received in your application including your Three-Year Plan and the various links to other areas of detailed information.

We note that you did not refer to the Sustainable Development Goals in the various categories in your application but we read that you are engaging in educating yourselves on the Goals and their importance and relevance in your lives. We look forward to seeing the outcome of this and hope that your projects in the coming years will reflect your knowledge of these Goals. The Tidy Towns Unit 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)

We were delighted to read that you have also entered a variety of the Special Awards under the various categories ... best of luck in these.

Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2021 competition.