

# Tidy Towns Competition 2018

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardpatrick**

Ref: **441**

County: **Limerick**

Mark: **326**

Category: **A**

Date(s): **02/07/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	42	43
Streetscape & Public Places	50	44	44
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	47	47
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	37	37
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	18	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	36	37
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>326</b>

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Ardpatrick chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais.

Thank you for the comprehensively filled up Entry Form, and support material containing informative photographs and the extensive plans.

You enjoy the services of 14 committee members plus 5 volunteers. There is great commitment shown by the people that attend your monthly meetings. Ardpatrick is getting good backing from the agencies and bodies that are willing to support your efforts, as they appreciate what you are doing.

Cohesive approach to works is assured by the local people who are so well informed of your actions and plans.

The contacts with the school are noted and will be of great benefit to this district in years to come. You have a long association with the TidyTowns competition and we are pleased to learn that your village has been transformed for the better thanks to the National TidyTowns Competition.

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

This is a very high mark for the Built Environment and I am delighted to confirm this high mark again this year. We wish you well with the action you are taking on the derelict house, and we look forward to it returning to its former glory. I was delighted to meet a truly great man David Meskill who was doing his work in a diligent fashion in Bishop Murphy Park. David pointed out to me the derelict house as otherwise I could not identify it because it is so well presented.

I approached Ardpatrick from the Kilfinnane road and firstly reached the school, and it set a high standard for the rest of the village; it is maintained in great condition, and I loved An Gáirdín Scoile. The school was closed for the summer holidays and I could only admire it from the road. Travelling down past the school there are some impressive traditional stone walls, with beauties at the bridge.

I was really delighted with the village, with the outstanding Catholic Church, great community centre and the other buildings so well kept, notably The Tea Cosy, O'Brien Fitness and Performance, The Greenwood Inn and Ballyhaura Beauty. Out further O'Sullivan's Garage have joined the party to keep their place spotlessly clean and near the church we liked Sunvale Inn with its great shop window.

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

Having read last year's report I was wondering how a place could get 47 out of 50 marks, but I quickly discovered why with the beauty of the village floral displays, lovely manicured lawns, young and mature trees, Bishop Murphy Park and then we came across Carraig Mór. In this small park / garden we are reminded of the production of milk being the main farm enterprise in bygone days with the cart and churns. The floral displays plus many other

attractions here are really splendid. Ardpatrik is now benefitting from the great people down through the years that planted all those great mature trees.

Window boxes and hanging baskets of flowers adorn the surroundings adding sparkle everywhere and these were particularly prominent at the school and community centre. The local people have followed the trend and produce their places really beautiful.

I was delighted to learn that the Bishop Murphy Park is called after Most Rev Dr Henry Murphy, Bishop of Limerick, as I was privileged to be taught by him in St Munchin's College Limerick before he became Bishop of Limerick. David was doing great work in the Bishop Murphy Park, which looked splendid in its present condition.

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

Your strategy to maintain the natural features of this pretty village is very important and we all must be vigilant to ensure that the balance of nature is sustained.

I admired your new wildlife panel near the Sunvale Inn and it is very informative, and guides us to what to look out for in this important category. The support given to the school garden is appreciated in that it is very beneficial to the children.

A late cut meadow is a wonderful asset for the wellbeing of lots of wildlife, and we all remember the almost complete eradication of the corncrake by early cutting mostly of silage and also some hay.

I read David Meskill's tree and shrub listing and this is a valuable document and very informative. It served as a kind of refresher course for me, a born country man now a townie.

I loved the boot and bike directional signage pointing the way to those hardy people who pursue walking and biking activities.

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

We recognise the great achievement of the school on being awarded its 8th green flag on local citizenship and the marine environment. It is nice to see that you are supporting the school garden. It is lovely to see the produce from the garden divided among the pupils. We admire your members who attended the workshop that was run by the recycling ambassador programme. We note you have just signed up to the sustainable energy company. Water harvesting obviously cuts down on tap water at the school. We see that all the grass cuttings are now mulched and this cuts down on pollution and the nutrients are very good for the green areas.

Thank you for the two brochures which are quite informative; I enjoyed reading them, and found "The Living History Of Bogs" a good refresher on our bogs – thank you. The recycling centre is presented to the highest standards.

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

This is an interesting concept of having no litter bins in the village and we note that this is very successful, as the place was pristine clean during our visit. I ask myself who would dare to litter this special place. This was a great effort from the 32 volunteers who took part in the Good Friday cleanup. The neatly mowed green areas show off the village in great style – clean and tidy, and then there is the backdrop of other attractive vegetation.

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

Congratulations for providing the defibrillator so important nowadays. It is a great experience to travel around the village and study the splendid houses all around. These residences are presented as if in competition with each other for a top prize with boundaries, gates, lawns, shrubs and trees, all adding to your splendid effort. The parochial house is a beauty.

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

It is nice to see the approach roads are trimmed in a wildlife friendly manner. Good luck with efforts of the graveyard committee to upgrade the laneway to the graveyard. Some stone wall boundary walls are inherited from master craftsmen handed down to us over many years and I am delighted to see that you all treasure them. The open spaces make for safe driving conditions for all this passing traffic.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

It was a pleasure to visit Ardpatrik and spend some time in your lovely village.