

# Tidy Towns Competition 2021

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Fenagh - Fionach** Ref: **429**  
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **311**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **09/08/2021**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2021</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	45
Streetscape & Public Places	60	40
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	39
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	26
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	43
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>311</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 adjudicator was in Fenagh some years back and was taken by the fine community centre which acted as host to many community events.

You also had some very fine well designed attractive bio diversity and local history information boards.

Let's not digress too much and get down to the task in that of adjudicating your entry based on what has been furnished by the committee.

The entry is a well put together concise document and is supported by the Tidy Towns new plan from 2021 to 2026 and an excellent map of the village and its immediate surrounds.

The adjudicator is of the opinion, personal might one add, that a 3 year plan is often a better as it gives a shorter more manageable timescale to get projects done thus creating a more immediate impact for the community that said the Plan you have submitted is excellent as it is clear in its objectives and more importantly practical and achievable

Credit to the partners such as the LCDDC, Leitrim Development and Leitrim County Council and the consultant company who have helped to bring this plan to the publication.

It is noticeable that a number of centres in the county have similar plan templates which begs the question who is the lead partner in the production of such plans?

Well done on keeping the work of the Tidy Towns Committee relevant and to the forefront during Covid.

Communities such as yours have shown great resilience in the face of the pressure that Covid foisted upon us.

The Committee of 10 with 4 additional volunteers is probably ample for the size of the village.

Well done on your Pride of Place recognition a great acknowledgement of the work of all organisations in a community.

You have a very impressive list of all who support you both public and private and its an obvious testament of your work for the Village of Fenagh.

The methods of communication employed are varied and cater for all in your community.

Facenbook and Whats App are brilliant for imparting information and getting fairly immediate feedback when required.

Your Facebook page is excellent and very much up to date so well to the person or persons who have the ownership of keeping content up to date.

It is good to note that you haven't forgotten the more traditional methods of communication including the often forgotten "word of mouth"

The Junior element of Fenagh Tidy Towns is very active judging by the submission so well done in fostering this.

Compared to other centres 15 years is a short enough period of involvement in the competition but you have

achieved a few notable milestones.

Thank you for your strong and positive endorsement of the competition and what it has done for your community. An additional mark is awarded primarily for keeping the Tidy Towns movement to the fore by positive work actions during the last two years.

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

The 2019 report under this category was very complimentary about the presentation of buildings that were part of the village and also how the public spaces were managed.

Road infrastructure and signage also got favourable mention.

Unfortunately because of restrictions this type of comment will not be forthcoming this year.

Thank you for the update on the unfinished buildings and the local pubs that are presently closed and whose owners are probably in a state of confusion and indeed worry of what the future holds for them.

Excellent idea to put as one might call them distractive camouflages by way of poster competition entries and other art forms.

Photographs of the new heritage signage and set of new picnic benches at the visitor centre were noted and commendations to the people on the Rural Social Scheme and the Men's Shed.

You are wished well with the proposed new Looped Walkway which will be no doubt be a collaboration with other partners.

The Dog Fouling initiative has been noted and will cross over into the Tidiness and Litter category as well.

Dog Fouling is the scourge of the pandemic and its sad to think that a committee such as yours has to offer an inducement to people who should see clearing up after their precious pooches is part of one's civic duty.

The new footpath and flower beds have been noted and well done in being the main influencer in getting this work done.

For doing the every day work and getting some new projects completed an additional mark is awarded.

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

Mention was made in the 2019 report that the village was lacking in green spaces and to be honest I think what was meant that having no green spaces did not take away from the attractiveness of the village.

Thank you for the input on what you have been doing under this category quite a lot of which is ongoing maintenance and making sure existing planting arrangements are presented to a high standard.

The new projects mentioned such as the new wooden fencing on the Cloone Road has been noted and it looks very attractive from the photograph.

From what I can recall on my one and only visit to Fenagh some years back the thing that struck me was the effectiveness and the quality of the planting arrangements

Your comment in regards to the development of the Picnic Area and establishing of ownership of land is something that this adjudicator has encountered over the years with local community groups.

Plans are often scuppered by ownership issues that come to the fore only when planning permission is sought for infrastructural work.

Hopefully the problem will right itself and that you will be able to proceed with the planned picnic area.

It's been a tough time for committees to engage in work that is outdoor by nature and definition and that cannot be accommodated by Zoom or Webex meetings !

Well done to the committee for the new work that has taken place in the last two years and no doubt when one returns to something like normality the work earmarked in the new 5 year plan under this category will be able to materialize.

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

Communicating the importance of the local wildlife heritage to the local community is something that you have been doing judging by the last two reports of 2019 and 2018.

Thank you for the update on both completed and ongoing projects such as the opening of the river to make it more visible for regular walkers.

Getting the Junior Tidy Towns involved in wildlife habitat mapping is a very good idea as the younger generation tend to bring a different idea mindset and creativity to things which could lead to additional biodiversity projects.

Include this measure in the 2021 section of the 5 year plan if it has not already been done so.

Encouraging the continuation of community composting and a proposing to get the Junior Tidy Towns involved in the Action for Pollinators are very worthwhile measures that contribute to your overall Biodiversity Plan and indeed to the promotion of bio diversity in your community.

The adjudicator has taken note of the fact that you have an excellent series of fauna and flora information panels and these came in for praise in the 2019 report.

They look very well designed from the photographs submitted.

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

The purpose in this category to promote the concept of reducing the production of potential waste at source such as excessive packaging for the betterment of the environment as a whole

People seem to have bought into "Doing more with less" concept over time and now see it as major contributor to a better environment.

Much of what you have submitted in this section is now standard in many centres around the country

Rain water harvesting, new LED lighting and the encouragement of using alternatives to hard plastic such as paper straws are pretty much the norm over the last few years.

The crisp recycling project in conjunction with Terracycle is new to the adjudicator.

An additional mark is given for the ongoing encouragement you give to the community, especially in these trying times, to consider any viable alternative practice that contributes to a better local environment. At this juncture you are advised to continue using the following links at the following websites for idea generation. [www.localprevention.ie](http://www.localprevention.ie) and [www.sustainableprocessing.ie](http://www.sustainableprocessing.ie)

There are also a number of other websites that can be accessed by using the words Repair and Reuse.

The adjudicator would also like to commend you for engaging with the Sustainable Development Goals – Act local & think global (17 in all) programme which encourages measures that make for a better environment.

These goals address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, climate change and other key environmental issues. In 2021, Tidy Towns has adopted these goals and has integrated these into the competition which now asks participating groups to demonstrate which goals their projects and actions help to meet.

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

The Bring Bank and the surrounding area was commented upon favourably in the 2019 report and judging by the photograph submitted this standard of presentation still applies.

Random road side signage advertising local festivals and the likes of country star Johnny Brady is not a problem at the moment, unfortunately its more for what Covid has done to the entertainment business rather than anything else- a bit to a two edged sword.

Well done on encouraging locals to engage on litter picking when on local walks, this has resulted in large quantities of bags being collected on a regular basis.

Getting school children to become involved in anti litter awareness by way of a poster competition will be beneficial in the long run as it will instill a culture of tidiness and pride of place in the children.

The anti dog fouling movement has become like Shaws Department Stores logo back in the day – almost nationwide .

Why people cannot be civic minded and clean up after their precious pooches is beyond me as the problem has become a health issue as well as creating dirt on side roads and even on main streets.

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

One notes your continuous engagement, commented upon in the 2019 report as well, continuous with developers to keep construction sites and unfinished developments as tidy as possible.

This can be an onerous and often times thankless task and you are to be commended for your persistence.

It was noted in the 2019 report that “The village core is quite small and residents have presented their respective homesteads and front gardens in good fashion”

One presumes that this is still the case and that the committee encourages householders to present their properties, frontages and side areas in the best possible manner.

Covid lockdown restrictions had some positives as it gave people the incentive to make good properties mostly by applying a good coat of paint.

The contrasting photos of the housing estate featured shows that there is some form life being restored by the removal of the hoarding on windows.

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

This in reality is the one category that really benefits from the onsite visit where the adjudicator can do an assessment and judge the presentation of grass verges at entrances as well as commenting the name signs, road surfaces, connecting roads and the condition of road markings etc.

This year doesn't allow us that necessity and one is dependent on what committees submit.

You have mentioned the maintenance work that you the committee carry out on a voluntary basis.

The adjudicator does see any reference to a RSS Scheme of equivalent?

“Meet with Leitrim LEADER Trails officer to discuss strategy for implementation of key project. Approach Roads, Streets & Lane” this is a quote taken from the 2021 stage of the 5 year plan and It is not clear what key project would fall within this category.

Maybe for next year's entry you could elaborate and give a little more idea of what you intend to do.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

This adjudicator would very much like to re visit of Fenagh and see the positive changes that have occurred and indeed take time out in that part of County Leitrim.

You are both a hard working and creative committee that has been the key driver of positive change in the Village You are to be commended for your work during the Covid lockdown in making sure vulnerable sectors in the community were not forgotten about.

For a small community you have achieved so much and have helped to put some wonderful facilities in place.

You are wished well in the future.