

Judges run the rule over four Limerick candidates for national Pride of Place awards



Liskennett Day & Residential Service

Tuesday 19 July 2016

The best foot was certainly forward from two Co. Limerick villages and organisations as judges called around to adjudicate on their entries for the popular IPB Pride of Place Competition.

Judges Alison and Tom Dowling, Chair of IPB Pride of Place, were on hand on successive Mondays in July (4th and 11th) as they ran the rule over the villages of Murroe and Broadford as well as the Limerick Youth Theatre and Liskennett Farm in Granagh, which were selected as Limerick's representatives in the annual competition this year.

The duo began their appraisals on Monday last July 4th with a visit to Liskennett Day & Residential Service in Granagh, which is representing Limerick in the Communities Reaching Out Initiative.

Liskennett is a new development for children and adults with autism and was officially opened in September 2015. It incorporates an equestrian centre/open farm, a day-centre

and residential service and is committed to improving and enriching the lives and opportunities of over 900 children and adults with autism/learning disability, while working in partnership with the local community to provide a multi-purpose facility for their needs.

After a morning visit to centre, the judges moved on to the south Limerick village of Broadford, which was selected in the 0-300 population category and there they met the local Development Association and got an insight into their great work across many community projects that have helped lead the fight back against rural depopulation.

These projects include the re-development of the national school for use as a community centre; development of sheltered housing with day care facility; development of community crèche; development of an arboretum and millennium garden; upgrading of community facilities. The Enterprise Centre was completed in 2011 and the playground was developed in 2013. In 2014, the upgrading and re-routing of the rural walks including signage took place.



Broadford

A week later, on Monday 11th, it was the turn of Murroe, which was selected in the 1,000 to 2,000 population category. Here the judges learned about another community organisation, this time the Murroe Community Council, which is leading the charge in helping to revitalise an essential rural community in what is one of Limerick's most picturesque locations.

The Community Council was set up in the village to help develop its social and cultural life and now works closely to develop new ways of catering for the broad spectrum of ages, abilities and interests within this community, which has expanded significantly in population over the past decade or so. Their achievements include launching of social media sites and a community text system, the organisation of a number of festivals emphasizing local talent and resources and the establishment of facilities for both young and elderly citizens.



Murroe

From there it was a trip to Limerick City Centre where the judges heard from Limerick Youth Theatre – chosen in the Community Arts Initiative Category – about their work in developing young performers, dancers, writers, designers, directors, producers and film-makers. LYT was set up in 1997 with a vision of providing a unique opportunity for young people from all backgrounds to cross social/cultural divides through youth drama experiences. It runs a two-year training course in theatre and performance arts and holds weekly workshops with artists and directors from October to May. It also presents a full-length production in August after five weeks intensive rehearsals.



Limerick Youth Theatre

Limerick has an excellent pedigree in this popular competition, with Killeely winning a top award last year. Previous runners-up in the competition include Scanlon Park in Castleconnell and Radharc na Cille, Kilmallock; Moyross Residents Forum and Limerick Youth Service.