

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Old Leighlin - Seanleithghlinn** Ref: **774**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **270**
Category: **B** Date(s): **12/06/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	35	36
Streetscape & Public Places	80	36	37
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	35	35
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	21	22
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	17	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	51	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	36	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	33	33
TOTAL MARK	550	264	270

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu don bhliain 2023. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Adh Mór! Welcome to the 2023 Supervalu National Tidy Towns Competition Old Leighlin! Many thanks for your application and maps. The aerial photo was very useful to orientate myself. Your hand drawn map was beautifully illustrated but the legend was a little hard to read once scanned. For next year also see can you align each individual project to the UN SDGs. You are lucky to live in such a wonderful village, steeped in history and heritage and to have so many community partners who support you since first entering in 1998. Well done on leveraging social media, WhatsApp as well as more tried and tested methods like posters and the parish newsletter. Your flagship project of the Community Herb Garden in the remodeled Memorial Garden is wonderful.

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

You deserve recognition for commendable efforts in improving your streetscapes and public spaces. Excellent work on the car park resurfacing with funding secured through Town and Village Renewal Scheme, complemented by tree planting, new signage and a Swift Box. Also wonderful to see the preservation of the old drystone wall on Johnduffswood Road. You also haven't lost sight of the need to maintain what you have such as sympathetic yet necessary hedge maintenance and planting around the stone nameplate. The daffodils in the submission were lovely, is there scope for summer planting also? Your Post Office, Casey's Public House and Mace all deserve a mention for the high quality of their appearance. The Memorial Garden is a wonderful place to reflect in the heart of the village and I really enjoyed my stroll around St. Lazarian's Cathedral. Your Bring Centre was well presented but perhaps something could be done about the surfacing at this location. What is the plan for the new concrete plinth – the replacement picnic area that was damaged? The bench by the well (with a very prominent thank you to the Carlow RSS) at the well was a nice location to stop and reflect.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Great to see St. Lazarian's Cathedral graveyard and grounds made a top priority when it comes to maintenance, showing your dedication towards protecting this holy/heritage space which is so central in the community. Participation in biodiversity programmes showcases efforts to support native and pollinator-friendly plants within designated wildflower areas. As you enter the grounds there was a Pollinator Sign but with very little area managed as such. The area further in was more impressive. Herbicide use was noted in areas around the village – this should be stopped and only used to manage invasive species. The paneled planters at the entrance to the cathedral need attention. The bedding around the sculpture on the Johnduffswood Road also needs attention.

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

Old Leighlin Tidy Towns deserves great praise for their efforts in developing and executing a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP). Engaging with ecological expert shows your proactive approach to biodiversity management locally; such measures as planting bulbs for pollinators, tree planting, habitat management and the creation of bug hotels/bird boxes will all help to support a thriving local ecosystem. More information on the Water Conservation & Quality project would have been very worthwhile, consider this for next years submission. Keep up this integrated approach; making Old Leighlin an example for sustainable and eco-friendly practices.

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

Old Leighlin Tidy Towns is to be congratulated for your proactive efforts in accessing grant aid and developing an Energy Master Plan. This will foster sustainability within the village. Installation of solar panels at local shops and individual households showcases the tangible effects of the Energy Master Plan. This step towards renewable energy adoption sets an inspiring example for other community members. I look forward to hearing about the outcome of the CCIF grant aid for proposed works to the Community Hall. These are both very high level projects – make sure to also engage with your local Environmental Awareness Officer to see what other community led initiatives could be started.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Old Leighlin Tidy Towns has demonstrated a remarkable dedication to maintaining its cleanliness and appearance. On the day I visited there were no weeds or litter – well done! Through collaboration with your local community and regular litter picks, your collective efforts demonstrate show how you are proactive in combatting litter issues. Even when faced with obstacles caused by passing cars discarding litter, ongoing cleanup efforts by local volunteers are incredible. Well done on actioning previous adjudicator observations such as maintaining signage. You also respond quickly to graffiti reports, a scourge facing so many Tidy Towns groups throughout the country. Some minor issues on the day:

- The Bring Centre containers could do with freshening up
- Consider painting the railing to the Holy Well
- Clean around the sculpture on the Johnduffswood Road.

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

You are well supported by the local homeowners with many well kept premises. Well done in particular to Molaise Estate who keep the area looking so well which is no doubt appreciated by the local GAA club and Community Hall. There was a wonderful cottage on the Leighlinbridge Road with beautiful wildflowers.

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

All approach roads were kept in very good condition, congratulations. As mentioned under Landscaping, perhaps more year round planting at entrance nameplates might enhance this category.

Concluding Remarks:

Old Leighlin should be immensely proud of their accomplishments, particularly in terms of sustainable energy projects. Keep up the great work.