

# Tidy Towns Competition 2023

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rathanna - Ráth Ana**

Ref: **44**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **334**

Category: **A**

Date(s): **12/06/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	43	44
Streetscape & Public Places	80	43	43
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	43	44
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	37	38
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	19	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	74	75
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	35	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	34	34
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>334</b>

### 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 Rathanna! For a small village you are adept at effective networking both locally but also with a wide variety of other NGOs and the public sector – well done! Your group's efforts in creating the Year of Young and Old had a tremendous, positive impact. In creating unforgettable memories for local children, you are cultivating joy and creating a sense of togetherness. Furthermore, the local ICA group's National Award for their Heritage Week program shows a dedication to preserving community heritage while creating meaningful links among former students and teachers. The grant to document oral histories exemplifies their commitment to preserving and sharing precious oral history. Over the next five years, this vision of compiling an invaluable resource for future generations remains both ambitious and essential. The Oral History Network of Ireland may have some useful resources as may your local Heritage Officer. Your submission was succinct (sometimes too much so, see below) and clearly laid out. Perhaps next year place the relevant photos (which I must say were all exceptional!) under the text, show alignment of individual projects to the UN SDGs and indicate on the map if projects are New or Maintained and which category they belong to. A huge well done to all involved for winning the small village category in Carlow's Pride of Place.

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

By ensuring a succinct submission you may have inadvertently missed out on providing some important information to this Adjudicator. For example, your two new projects in this category would have benefited from more detail. Also, don't forget to put in the maintenance works to the local streetscape here such as the lovely nameplate as you enter the village. A nearby cast-iron gate could be freshened up. Both your carpark area and recycling centre were very well presented as were Osbornes and Coady's. Close to Osbornes was a shed with a broken wooden door. Could the owner be approached and this fixed? The rebuilt wall just outside the village also looked very well.

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

Your groups' pollinator planning programme deserves praise, as it has brought vibrant colors to the village flowerbeds while simultaneously improving local ecology. The development of the community garden with its fruit trees and planting beds stands as testament to your inclusive approach. Your efforts to collaborate with farmers have led to tangible benefits, with local farmers contributing towards improving the visual appearance of their lands and showing strong community pride. The vegetable patch was quite hidden – maybe a small sign, though I am sure all the locals know exactly where it is! I noted the empty stands for hanging baskets – are you deciding to discontinue their use? If so flag this in next year's submission just to be clear to the Adjudicator. The planters

around here also needed replanting.

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

Well done on your plans for more tree planting and owl boxes. You have alluded to several biodiversity measures in other categories so are well due an extra mark in this category. However... herbicide use was not only noted in the village but observed being sprayed, beside your new hawthorn section. Herbicide should only ever be used in the control of invasive species, please use your standing in the community to stamp out its unnecessary application. I really liked your wildlife sign in the Church Grounds.

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

Well done in investigating quantities brought to the village recycling center – it proves your dedication to the circular economy and effective waste management. The farming communities' efforts toward sustainable practices is commendable, particularly through initiatives like plastic collection days and participation in GLAS low carbon agricultural environmental scheme. Their willingness to implement such practices into farming practices displays genuine dedication towards meeting environmental goals within their community. Well done to the walking clubs and local businesses who promote Leave no Trace policies and encourage an active lifestyle. Installing a 2.4kw solar panel array at Osbornes Bar marks an exciting step toward more sustainable energy use of one of your primary local businesses, and is especially heartening given the challenges post-COVID times pose for businesses adapting sustainable practices. Overall, you have demonstrated a commitment and progress toward sustainability. Moving forward, encouraging further community involvement will result in even greater benefits to both the environment and village as a whole. Also engage with your local Environmental Awareness Officer to develop more ideas and projects.

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

More great work in this category through involved in National Spring Clean and walkers doubling up as litter pickers on their 5k loop. Any ploggers in Rathanna – litterpick whilst jogging! There was no litter and no weeds on the day of adjudication – excellent work by all involved. Dog fouling is an issue for all communities and it is excellent to see you raising awareness on this important littering and health issue. Along with freshening up the cast iron gate mentioned earlier your Sli na Slainte sign also needs some attention.

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

You receive great support from local homeowners as is evidenced by the quality of upkeep around the village. The Storehouse and Mountain View in particular were very well presented. This is great to see and no doubt reflects your commitment to the wider community.

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

All roads were well maintained but again to flag the issue of herbicide use – please ensure this is discontinued.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Through your collective passion, dedication, and strong community spirit, Rathanna is set to progress well in TidyTowns. Keep up the great work.