

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Arvagh - Ármach** Ref: **49**
County: **Cavan** Mark: **295**
Category: **B** Date(s): **13/07/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	41	43
Streetscape & Public Places	80	45	46
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	38	39
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	26	27
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	17	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	32	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	33	34
TOTAL MARK	550	287	295

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

Failte chuig Comortas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu don bhliain 2023. Taimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrala a chur chugainn, agus guimid gach rath ar bhur gcuid oibre amach anseo. Adh Mor.

Many thanks for your entry and continued support in the competition. Your achievements over the last 23 years are supported by a wide range of stakeholders & agencies, local students and many community groups. Your group is well organised in terms of social media along with regular notes in the Anglo Celt, Longford Leader and the Leitrim Observer. Your project this year was the new commuting walkway providing a wide range of benefits that enable recreational activities and biodiversity. This is a well-designed space and the addition of benches and more trees will further enhance the area. The installation of LED lighting is welcome and we commend the NTA and Cavan County Council on the successful completion of the project. Throughout all your work you mention strong links with the younger generation - Foroige members and the National School which is to be applauded. Keep up the teamwork.

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

We enjoyed exploring this busy town with beautiful views of the lake and we wish you every success with plans for the playground, swimming pool area and the lake amenity. We are delighted to hear maintenance works on the Market Square will commence this summer so we look forward to the results next year. The bright yellow door and green benches are very appealing and we note the addition of two new acer trees. Litter bin needs some attention on the square but in general well presented. We acknowledge funding from the Heritage section of Cavan County Council for interior repainting and decoration. New street signage on Main Street, Broad Road and Pound Street add to the town and plans for others will be welcome. Painting projects on three new houses on Longford Street; Ronnies Fruit & Veg, the Clutterbug, and Lynches newsagent as well as two new renovations; Food guru developed into three apartments and Keiths Centra are positively noted. The adjudicator is pleased to see fantastic flower displays presented for summer improving the overall presentation of the town. Many thanks for the photographs of your colourful spring beds. Many businesses are well presented and church, school and hall very well maintained.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Under this category your group maintains many colourful spring & summer flowers displays and many businesses follow suit which is great to see. Reliance on annuals is expensive and a good initiative to consider is growing your own like nasturtiums or antirrhinums as a project. Better still we would love if you included pollinator perennials into your schemes. Newly planted areas at Gerry Ellis's & Sons, Church of Ireland and the Tycusker to Corlisbratten cross looked impressive on adjudication day. Again, we note the planting of acer with seasonal interest and the new life trees planted over 20 years ago have brought to the new walkway. Ongoing hedge tidy is praiseworthy. Your

plans in the next two years recognise the importance of Biodiversity and the need to develop outdoor area – good to be working to an agenda.

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

We read with interest Busy Bees creche incorporates elements of Froebelian practise and we applaud the educators for providing a good early childhood environment. We would love to hear more about some of their activities in future reports. The bug hotel at the back of the Market House raises awareness of wildlife habitats and the following link will advise you on planting for the new flowerbed <https://pollinators.ie>. Walks and talks in nature areas such as Brankhill, Castlepoles or the new walkway will strengthen awareness of Biodiversity just like the bug hotel and partnership with the school or creche would make worthwhile projects under this category. It was great to note another Green Flag. Great achievement students and their teachers. Keep up the good work.

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

You continue to encourage efficient use of resources with some good measures. The Clutterbug along with a few locals have set up Arva Food Pantry and incorporated a food shelf for anyone to donate or food swap – Clutterbug Zero Waste Food Exchange. We positively note The Clutterbugs involvement with items for recycling. You are also encouraging recycling as part of everyday life in the town. This category represents a good opportunity to increase your performance and includes workshops, training or awareness events. The Local Environmental officer will be able to assist you with suitable projects. For example: Planting trees is a sustainable project, so too is perennial planting.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done to all involved in litter control and sweeping as the town was neat and tidy on our visit. A vote of thanks to Cavan County Council workers and Solas for their dedication. It is a never-ending task and your volunteers on-going efforts seem to have the support of the wider community. Keep on top of kerb weeds in the early season with a hoe. Your efforts to control fly posting is noted and 1km litter picks on approach roads make a huge difference. We spotted the new dog bins and hope they have an impact. Great job.

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

Residents has responded to your flower power drive with some stunning displays. The winter pansies depicted in the photographs on the Market Square and river wall are absolutely fabulous. We suggest encouraging tree planting in residential green areas. Brankhill walk is a nice loop of the surrounding areas. Castlepoles walk well maintained too by residents.

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

All boundary roads enjoy a good standard of maintenance and the commitment of the Solas workers is commended. Landscaping was very nice. Keep in mind, soft landscaping should follow guidance available through the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

Concluding Remarks:

Keep up the great work and with lots of plans for the future we have no doubt you will improve the quality of life for everybody in Arvagh town. We look forward to plenty more projects in 2024!