

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: Ballinagh - Béal Átha na nEach	Ref: 905
County: Cavan	Mark: 271
Category: C	Date(s): 08/07/2023

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	34	35
Streetscape & Public Places	80	33	34
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	34	35
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	26	27
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	15	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	53
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	33	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	35	37
TOTAL MARK	550	262	271

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.

Welcome to the 2023 SuperValu Tidy Towns competition. Ballinagh community has entered the competition for the last ten years with the town's aesthetics is improving year-on-year. The committee of 5 and 12 volunteers are assisted by Cavan County Council, Ukrainians volunteers, Ballinagh Community Enterprise, St. Felims National School and Ballinagh GAA and Gardening club. We note several communication methods to create awareness about the group's activities. You collaborate with the national school on recycling projects, they participate with litter pickups and the teachers helped them create a flower and vegetable garden. We note your float in the St. Patricks days Parade. Your main focus this year was the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. With the help of local ecologist, Heather Botwell, an action plan was completed, which was shared with the local residents. Part of this education included the production and erection of a series of signs to highlight examples of wildlife. We hope the signage becomes recognisable to the public as a point of information. We favourably acknowledge the work being done at local level to move towards a sustainable future. Great work.

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

With wide streets the town is made up of a mix of public and private houses, market house, shops, offices, library, church and apartments – most in active use. Colour schemes are coordinated to give an attractive look. Your adjudicator admired many premises on the day; Happy Hours Playgroup, LMK Hair, Cronin's, Centra, Murtagh's Pharmacy, The Hatch, P. Gaynor's, Caseys, Luna Blu, Brady's and Barney Macs. Colour is also used to great effect in hanging baskets, bridge planters, window boxes and containers. Rose beds are magnificent. The quality of street furniture – lampposts, litterbins and traffic signage are good. Tree planting breaks up the space. The condition of the roads, pedestrian crossing and pavements add to the visual appearance. Playground well maintained. The contribution that is made by the new biodiversity mural is significant and reinforces your commitment to Biodiversity. We congratulate the artist (s). The new picnic area has the potential to realise ecological objectives and establish a wildlife corridor. The plans look amazing and we cannot wait to see the finished project. The river amenity is a wonderful getaway from traffic. We are pleased to hear of some new projects; B & F store and the Market are currently the subject of a feasibility study with Leader as a food hub and office spaces and the old court house on the Crossdoney road will be repurposed by the council.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Well done on the community garden and we note favourably the work of the CE workers and the Ukrainian

residents. A stroll along the Riverside was absolutely a joy, with lovely trees and perennial planting; many families enjoying an escape from the town. We missed flowers in the containers from the Granard approach but this will make a colourful entree. The flower bed beside the E-charging point needs some attention and the nearby hanging baskets poles. We welcome your participation in the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and consider the merits of adding more pollinator annuals to your schemes or better again pollinator perennials. Plant spring bulbs with bees in mind. Check out: <https://pollinators.ie>bulbs-for-bee...> .

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

We appreciate your commitment to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and all your actions that are being set up across a range of habitats to tackle the decline of pollinators: new signage erected and given out to residents, no mow, no pesticides, construction of bug hotels and protecting the miner bees. We did not observe the herb boxes at Traynor's but this is another great initiative to promote wildlife. This framework will help you develop a suitable management plan for the scrub, river and green areas around Ballinagh. Best of luck with your entry into the All-Ireland Pollinator Award for best new comer.

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

We thank you for collaborating with the Community Centre and the Ukrainian community on building the Community Garden (signage would be great) and helping with water harvesting & composting facilities. Healthy supplies of potatoes, cabbage, salad and carrots in the making! We note your use of recyclable materials and look forward to the bottle cap mural next summer. Well done on a successful Clothes Swap event. What a brilliant idea with the toy Library – another good initiative for your entry in the Sustainable Development Awards and the Circular Economy Awards.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Litter is a modern-day problem and you work hard to keep the town as litter free as possible. Unfortunately, there were a few examples but overall, for a busy town you have to be congratulated. We found the streets could have benefited from a sweeping and we know it was a wet and windy summer so leaf debris was gathering along streets – reach out to local businesses for help. GAA was immaculate and many buildings in town nicely painted. Great you have extra dog bins in use now. We only encourage the use of a hoe for weeds on footpaths so continue to follow the guidelines in the Pollinator Plan regarding the non-use of pesticides. We note maintenance of poles and signs – Yard bombing is good street art but remember to keep it fresh. Well done everybody.

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

Residents were invited to join the Pollinator workshop and many received the new signage to promote wildlife. We are pleased you share resources and work together in keeping things tidy. Flemings Place has lovely new landscaping. Well done to your Olympic Champion in Ashgrove, Eoghan Comerford. A star in the community – superb achievement Eoghan.

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

The town has benefited from two new pedestrian crossings to ensure safety and the new cemetery entrance has been resurfaced. A new bus shelter has also been installed and a new planter on the Kilnaleck road. All approaches are well maintained.

Concluding Remarks:

What an enjoyable trip and we were impressed by the streetscape and your many projects on display. Give our thanks to all your supporters and we wish you all the best for 2024.