

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cavan - An Cabhán** Ref: **944**
County: **Cavan** Mark: **357**
Category: **F** Date(s):

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	48	50
Streetscape & Public Places	80	50	51
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	52	53
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	35	37
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	22	24
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	64	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	36	37
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	39	40
TOTAL MARK	550	346	357

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 and thank you for your application form, which included photos, a map and your Strategic Development Plan for the future 2020-2024. You have a great list of agencies, government bodies, local businesses and community groups who support your activities. Your committee consists of 17 with the welcome addition of 2 new members this year and is helped by over 100 dedicated volunteers - many who have joined from the local volunteer information centre and members of the Ukraine community who are all very welcome. You have regular public meetings and engage monthly with many groups, businesses and resident associations. You have 2.3k followers on Facebook (well done on this active social media presence), and a regular presence in the 'Anglo Celt', on Northern Sound, Parish Newsletters, what's app, Cavan County Council website, Supervalu notice board, Zoom, lectures and workshops. We're delighted to see lots of youth involved in activities including the Cavan Scouts and the local national & secondary schools. With over 50 years in the competition the town have brought people from all cultures & backgrounds together to make Cavan a better place to work and live. Your key project this year was 'Can We Recycle it' schools project. You commissioned the manufacture of 12 large mesh steel bins in the shape of a bottle and a can and gave one of each type to local primary and secondary schools to fill. From this the students could create artistic pieces from the recycled bottles and cans and were eligible for a prize. The project was shortlisted for the best 'Environmental Ecological Project 2023'. We commend you on being Finalists and receiving your short-listing certificate in Clonmel. We congratulate the students from Gaelscoil Bhreifne for all their hard work. The committee also played a vital role in relaunching the Cavan Volunteer Centre in 2023, welcoming Ukrainian refugees and asylum seekers. Many have benefited from volunteer opportunities and more have gained employment. To highlight the importance of making the community neurodiverse friendly you hosted an Autism coffee morning and created a sensory board using door knockers and key pads. The committee joined in the much-anticipated return of the St. Patrick's Day parade celebrations showing their multi-cultural diversity. Once again, thank you for your entry and the many photographs supplied. Keep all the good work.

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

The town has many entry routes to the town centre and it flows very nicely. Please commend the many businesses and houses for a good standard of maintenance. We are delighted to hear the much-awaited Abbey Lands project is now a reality with 14 million secured in funding to transform the town square. We agree your new solar bins will fit in very well with your diverse town. The Town Hall Theatre has also been awarded 250,000 for an outdoor event space and this will eventually link up with the Abbey Lands project – so great news. You encourage visitors and residents alike to eat outdoors with many attractive venues to choose from; the Hard-Boiled Egg café is very inviting

with lovely seating and planting. The Greenway is going from strength to strength with nice seating, bird boxes and flowers and the committee hopes the council will continue their work to make a connection with the new Abbeylands plaza. We are sorry but we did not observe the new approach road signage on our visit. The draft looks great and your raised beds will show them off. We thank you for organizing upgrades to bus shelter at Tractor Motors and others are in need of maintenance. One of the prominent buildings is the cathedral which is spectacular. Station House is lovely old building. Esker lodge, Cavan IT, Cullies and Gaelscoil are all worth a mention for their upkeep. We admired the skills of local artists with lovely colorful murals throughout the town. We note that you have some empty and derelict buildings and every effort is being made along with the council to make contact and seek improvements to their appearance. Continue to monitor all road signage & unused poles and remove where no longer needed.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

This year you joined up with the Cavan Gaels GAA club and distributed 600 trees to the local national schools and youth groups for National Tree Week. All commendable actions for tackling climate change and biodiversity. The Greenway has secured more funding for phase two and a big thank you to the residents of Carrickane area who put a lot of time and effort into maintenance. We appreciate the work involved in allocating 'grow wild areas' and we acknowledge the support of Cavan County Council to make this happen. A trip to the community garden at Fairgreen was most enjoyable and a superb view of Cavan from this height! We spotted the recycled bottle & can bins, and the sensory board and admired lots of growing projects. We congratulate everyone involved in the Peace Garden for the 25th anniversary and join with you in recognizing the diverse but equal aspirations of every citizen for the future of Ireland. It is evident that the skilled hands of your horticulturist, Bernie Mc Govern has doubled your pollinator friendly planting. There is beautiful perennial friendly planting at several locations throughout the town overflowing with colour. We strongly recommend that you continue to follow this form of planting elsewhere. Hanging baskets and tiered tubs were absolutely fabulous but we need to keep increasing our pollinator planting opportunities at every corner. Roundabouts would be better planted with perennials and could be sponsored by local business or residents and reduce baskets and containers as they are not sustainable or bee friendly. In general, pleasing surroundings, nice work.

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

To promote biodiversity and heritage enhancement you have liaised with residents and adopted new recycling initiatives like using waste cardboard in raised beds. We look forward to new 'Green kilometre Scheme' posters which will incorporate more than litter picking (biodiversity & heritage). A lot of effort went into the river clean-up with help from local fishermen and Cavan/Monaghan waterways and everyone gained valuable knowledge about our water biodiversity – another important habitat. As last year's adjudicator advised, it would be a good idea to survey this area to identify what species are present and again this time next year to see the difference. Check out how to do a FIT count: [https://videos>>All-IrelandPollinatorPlan\(pollinators.ie\)](https://videos>>All-IrelandPollinatorPlan(pollinators.ie)). Our Swifts and House Martins are also a vital part of urban biodiversity and are faithful to their nesting sites. Building nest boxes into building structures is best as they are long-term so well done to Bird Watch Ireland volunteer Tony Prunty for all his expertise and advice. Refurbished Bug hotels are a great initiative and offer a valuable learning opportunity for visiting primary school classes. Good to hear your group got the opportunity to get hands on knowledge and understanding with the Tanaghs One Day Biodiversity Training funded by environmental partnership fund and more members attended an introduction to Biodiversity organised by Leader. Furthermore, local councillors received a crash course about the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, helping them understand the environmental gains that can be realized. We hope they put the spotlight on the big issues.

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

As mentioned earlier the school competition was a rewarding project. All rubbish is now sorted into bins for recycling and we agree designating certain litter pickers to collect can or bottle only, will be a win-win situation and the children will have a good supply for their art projects. Don't forget to send some photographs of the children's transformations. The new hydroponic planting system is interesting, using recycled water and powered by solar panels. You have also introduced 4 more water butts to the community garden. Other projects successfully completed are the installation of 4 more electrical charging points, leaving a positive carbon footprint. Keep up the good work. Gaelscoil Breifne continues to work towards their Green flags; planting native, growing vegetable boxes, developing a sensory garden and planting pollinator friendly plants. They also had a visit from the litter warden and were given the tools to tackle litter. We also acknowledge the workshop on the Local environment.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Thanks to the TT group Ard Keen residents eradicated several cases of graffiti on walls and electrical boxes with an old school remedy recommended by a local lady. We appreciate your interest in finding a solution and would be interested in the formula as this is quite a common problem for many communities, so share good actions where possible. Chewing gum can be another issue groups face and your new task force has targeted black spots with the support of local businesses; Tesco, Supervalu and Cavan Gifts. The town was generally good overall on adjudication day so great work done. Congratulations on your bronze medal in the IBAL league dropping from no.23 to 3rd place. This is a result of several campaigns such as anti-dumping, fly-tipping & cigarette butt campaigns and dog waste projects all reinforced by diligent litter patrols. Funds were well spent on waste bins and poo scoops and wish you well in maintaining your high ranking in next years competition. We suggest you gain control of weeds at all approach islands and roundabouts as they did not portray a good impression to the town. Keep up the good work.

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

The garden competition continues to bring enjoyment to residents and it is a great way to promote pollinator friendly plants. Your wooden window boxes are available planted now with vegetable; lettuce and scallions are a big hit with the locals. It is good to see the youth involved with these activities and they also learn about healthier living. Continued support and advice to residents about maintenance grants is noted and we hope your efforts to improve the quality of life for St. Brigids Terrace/Leddys Steps, Lakeview, Bramble Lane and Tullacmongan playground will have a positive outcome. New landscaping being carried out at entrance to Ardan estate. Ashbrooke, Creighan Manor, St. Patricks Terrace, Ardkeen all looked very well. Rose bed at Churchview fabulous. Good to see Drumalee manor being finished and bricks need replacing at Ard Na Laoi.

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

Well done on road improvements, car park facilities at Tullachmongan, cycle lanes, power washing, planting management of grass cutting. The 'hands of Piece' monument looks striking and could be enhanced with signage and some soft landscaping. Thank you for all the photographs.

Concluding Remarks:

We loved visiting the town and thanks for sharing your activities with us this year. Volunteering takes time and energy and help is important to all your projects. Your contributions have made such a difference to the lives of so many in your community. We at the Tidy Towns unit are so grateful for all your work. Super job Cavan Town.