

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killeshandra - Cill na Sean Ratha** Ref: **53**
County: **Cavan** Mark: **331**
Category: **B** Date(s):

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	46	48
Streetscape & Public Places	80	45	46
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	40	41
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	37	39
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	20	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	66	67
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	30	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37	38
TOTAL MARK	550	321	331

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

Failte chuig Comortas Na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 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 SuperValu Tidy Towns competition. Thank you for your entry, map and a good array of pictures. You hold regular public & general meetings, publish in the church newsletter and the Anglo Celt. Regular use is made of What's app, Instagram, Twitter and Facebook. Many of your volunteers are involved in local groups such as County Cavan Development Ltd, Cavan Bog Association, Birdwatch Ireland and Cuilaigh Lakeland Geopark and St. Brigid's Church Pastoral Council. You liaise with a long list of agencies who support your activities throughout the year. You take a great interest in the younger generation and it is good to hear Scoil Bhríde N.S. has received their Biodiversity flag. Your special project this year was 'Caring for Birds' and you installed a speaker and 4 new nest boxes for the Swifts on the old Bank building. Furthermore, you helped out the Sand-Martins providing them with 10 new nest boxes in the creamery yard. Our thanks go to Lakeland Dairies who made this all happen and we hope the next generation of chicks take up residence in the coming years. With over 30 years in the competition, it has led to great progress socially, economically and environmentally. We congratulate the Ceolthas group for hosting Tradfest on St. Patrick's weekend and we understand the town was decorated in flags from every county in Ireland and a bilingual banner of welcome.

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

The recently opened Fika 33 restaurant is enjoying great success and looked inviting. Likewise, Kelly's is well maintained and recently changed hands. Maintenance on all signage & power-washing is appreciated and the town is looking well. You communicate well with Cavan County Council regarding vacant buildings and we see you have organised an information meeting regarding grants and advice for July. Work is due to commence on the Resource Centre to include the main KCC office, an information hub and a Library. Wildlife murals around the village are a treat for locals and tourists alike. Your photographs submitted include a stunning Christmas tree, no wonder Santa has to make a stop here every year! The Community Hall is well kept. Works on the Jacobean piers and gate at the entrance to Rath Church are now complete. Good luck with future funding for more conservation work. The group took part in presenting a film about the history of the church for Heritage week which was shown on the strand. The TT's group was honoured to be nominated as a mentor group by the 'Adopt a Monument' section of the Heritage Council. Another important building is the Railway station and plans are on-going with Lakeland Dairies for further improvements. Health Centre is a very modern new build and we look forward to the soft landscaping. The Church of Ireland is attractive and has received funding for ongoing repairs. The Gothic style church of St. Brigid's is eye catching dressed in the local stone and nice soft pink doors. Both school & church ground look great.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The Loop walk is well maintained and we recognise the hard work of the rural social scheme. The landscape is now a hub for walkers and we applaud you on the Irish Camino experience. The trail adds real value here and an escape from the hustle and bustle. Good work on the playground and tree removal. The bench needs a little attention. GAA grounds look well. You are now working towards a Landscape Plan and grasslands are managed for biodiversity. We were pleased to see your 'protecting our pollinators' posters at several locations creating more awareness. We note your emphasis on perennial planting and TT's groups have a role to bring forth that message to the community – remember there is a climate crisis and begonias are colourful but their benefits end there. You are lucky to have a diverse range of green areas, woodland and lakes to host different activities.

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

You have taken on board the adjudicators advice from last year and are monitoring wildlife and have found some unusual moths; Swallow kitten and Double lobbed. The camera traps reveal regular visitors to the strand; otter, heron, kingfisher, badger, fox and pine-marten. And woodcock was snapped at the woods. Bug hunts at the strand attract the younger generation and offer a chance to experience what you have. The grass areas continue to be managed for wildflowers. Mini orchard is well maintained. Thanks to four Biodiversity workshops provided by Cavan Local development you now have a Biodiversity Plan to work off. Well done on carrying out Timed Insect counts and intend to carry out more. This may have identified some new local insects which will be monitored with the National Biodiversity Data Centre. Your dedication to protect the Swifts and Sand Martins is noted again. We did observe the Sand Martins on our visit. Two of your members gained more knowledge by participating in Cavan Wild Works Program. Another good initiative. We are delighted to read the church grounds are now Pesticide free. It would be a good idea to promote this with signage and spread the message. With the help of LAWPRO, a group has been established to protect the lough and one of your volunteers is a founding member. Banners stating 'Look after Killeshandra's Catchment and it will look after us' have been used to highlight river protection & water quality issues. Nice work.

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

Water harvesting, composting, food waste, battery, stamps, cartridges & clothes recycling and much more are favourably noted in this category and show you have a good understanding of sustainable living. We look forward next time to hear how you are progressing with the SEAI program and to see how many were interested in the Home Retrofits. Other ideas for sustainable projects can be found in the Tidy Towns handbook. Keep with all these good initiatives.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your ongoing commitment to tackling litter is to be commended. Continued support of Spring Clean and on-going litter picking. Many thanks to the Rural Social Scheme and CE workers. The presentation of the village was neat and tidy. Recycling area was spotless. Well done everyone.

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

Residential areas are maintained to a good standard. Market Avenue deserves a mention for presentation and it was great to see the community garden and we were intrigued with the message on the seat. It is important that food is grown locally plus it brings people together – something we now appreciate after Covid. The exercise garden is very neat and got a great clear out -great work; we enjoyed the machines especially the surfer. Overall, all residents take good care of their environs.

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

Approach roads are well maintained and litter free. Entrances signs and flower displays are welcoming. We admired the stones with inscriptions of the townlands and some lovely stone bridges. Thank you once again for all the photographs. Bulb combinations add splashes of scent and colour throughout the seasons.

Concluding Remarks:

We know you have extended a great deal of effort on various projects, sacrificing personal time for the greater good of the community. We hope all involved gained some inner satisfaction in knowing that through the group's efforts you have made Killeshandra a better place to live and work. We trust the community will flourish in the coming years. Keep up the good work.