

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Loch Gowna - Loch Gamhna** Ref: **55**
County: **Cavan** Mark: **330**
Category: **A** Date(s):

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	46	48
Streetscape & Public Places	80	42	43
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	45	46
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	33	34
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	18	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	65	66
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	35	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	38	39
TOTAL MARK	550	322	330

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 SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition for 2023. We thank you for your entry and map with the locations clearly marked. However, it would be great if you could mark projects New (N) or Maintenance (M) completed over the year. You have links with a wide range of agencies to support your work and the youth also play an important role. Your committee of 10 makes good use of traditional methods to promote activities and hopefully the planned Facebook comes to fruition in the near future. We are delighted to read you had a huge response to the Easter Clean-up, with over 120 people; very impressive. The village has welcomed many international residents and volunteering is a great way to meet the locals and make friends. Well done on engaging with the entire community. Your main project for this year is the legal acquisition of the old National school and it is good to note it will be transformed to cater for all users. This is a great achievement for the village and we thank the TT committee & the Community Development Association for returning it to the community and we look forward to the new heritage and community hub. With over 20 years involvement you are performing very well, making all extremely proud. Well done to all concerned.

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

Plenty of improvements have taken place over the last few years including making the picnic benches wheelchair friendly, stone wall repairs, bicycle holding station, LED lighting and slow sign. Well done on the ever popular, Astro turf facility, well maintained and clean. The Grotto was admired and the village pump is dressed in the GAA colours and looking amazing. Others would look great painted the same. Many premises are striking with beautiful displays of flowers, including Fitzpatrick's Tavern, The Pikers Lodge & Sloane's. Projects this year include the installation of a public e-car charge point at the Community Hall, ESB connection on village green and solar bin and wire fencing at Dernaferst Amenity. In addition, residents now have access to 3 defibrillators in the village. We also note work carried out in front of the Church of Ireland. The derelict house opposite the old school, now near completion is a great improvement. Unfortunately, some premises are vacant presently and could do with a coat of paint. Overall, well done to all your volunteers for the work carried out.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The Village green was looking smart with all trees and shrubs doing well. Conveniently situated on Loch Gowna they aren't many places as beautiful as this around the country. It's ideal for a family day out and the picnic area

walk along Swan Lake was well maintained. Cloone Shore is another lakeside area and picnic tables need some attention. The local GAA is a superb facility. Nearby Dernaifest was not looking it very best but was busy with visitors enjoying the lake. Old picnic benches should be removed as it really takes from the shore line; a little maintenance could make this look a lot better. Otherwise, this was a great open space so focus on litter and general maintenance.

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

Under this category we note steps are being taken to enhance the local natural resources at Cloone Shore. In addition, you are supporting the National School Green Committee with several projects. We look forward to their new garden designs – as usual we love to see their ideas on paper! We applaud all the children for their posters raising awareness on keeping their village neat & tidy. The school wildflower garden continues to blossom and many thanks to Bosca Dulra for the seed kits and the local gardener for the bluebells. With many wildflower areas now, is there any monitoring of bees/butterflies? Check out <https://pollinators.ie/videos/> on how to do the FIT count. With the aid of Woodies 'Budding Gardeners Programme', SuperValu DIY Programme and the Incredible Edibles', pupils have been busy with fruit, flowers & vegetables for the summer season. The school looks very colourful and we note the school children's participation in all projects.

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

We positively note your ecofriendly Solar Panels on the Community Centre as part of the conservation plan for the hall. Other initiatives include the student's participation in the Minecraft competition which won them a place in the top 20. Pupils are invited to support many good initiatives such as 'Walk to School', energy, litter, waste, water and recycle batteries and ink cartridges. We are pleased with plans for a heritage trip this summer and look forward to details in next year entry. Conservation efforts by the community will help ensure and maintain a sustainable quality of living for subsequent generations.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

A vote of thanks to all involved in the National Spring Clean. With over 120 volunteers it really shows great community spirit. Kerbs and footpaths were well maintained and litter free. As mentioned earlier Dernaifest needs maintenance but overall, a good standard was achieved. Very well done. We acknowledge the work of the Green Schools Committee in the upkeep of the grounds and the maintenance of the Litter Free Zone. We are pleased to see participation in the Anti-Litter School Poster/Slogan Competitions by the entire school run by Cavan County Council.

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

All residential areas are managed to a good standard. The introduction of more trees & shrubs is a great way to create wildlife corridors. Have you thought of a competition for best landscaping or best garden etc?

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

The name signs on all approaches were admired and the planting. Any soft landscaping around welcome signs should consider guidance available through the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. There are some lovely stone walls throughout the village which add character. We strongly recommend the removal of ivy from all manmade structures. Safety signage on Longford side could do with cleaning.

Concluding Remarks:

The village is ideal for those who enjoy their lakeside relaxation with some wildlife spotting, great food and a friendly community. Good luck with this year's competition and we look forward to visiting again.