

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Maghera - An Machaire** Ref: **2152**
County: **Cavan** Mark: **303**
Category: **A** Date(s): **12/07/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	45	47
Streetscape & Public Places	80	37	38
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	34	35
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	37	38
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	19	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57	58
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	30	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	35	36
TOTAL MARK	550	294	303

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. Many thanks for your entry and your continued support in the competition. At present you have 21 individuals who actively support your activities along with the support of Maghera McFinns GAA team. You mainly communicate through Facebook, WhatsApp and face to face with the local community. We were delighted to hear 6th class pupils of Carrigabruise Primary School were guests of honour for the turning on of the Christmas lights and you are eager for them to make this an annual event. They also supported the arrival of Santa with tea and cakes for guests and participate in community clean-ups whenever possible. The community has benefited from grants from Cavan County Council and Pobal and this helped with hedging and flowers. You also mention receipt of local sponsorship to build a wall and surrounds, sleepers and mulch for 100 trees.

Congratulations to all concerned and keep up the good work. We commend the committee for seeking the advice of a Local Area engineer to extend the footpath on the N3, repair potholes and flooding in the village. We wish you all the best in your fundraising for 2023 and look forward to next years projects. Your main activity this year was the Tree Surrounds. Already existing in the community soil was removed from around the trees and a weed membrane put down and topped with 20 tonnes of mulch. We are happy to report that work was done with great attention and we note the involvement of the GAA and Maghera Development Association. Apart from the visual benefits we commend your initiative to control weeds and give them the opportunity to grow to maturity – it looks great. Through your involvement over the years the community has become tight-knit and willing to help one another. The village has assisted the arrival of Ukrainian nationals and ensured integration into community events. The community has established a First Responders group to protect the needs of the community. Excellent.

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

Maghera can be proud of its entrance with colourful displays and the white gates are a nice touch on arrival. Both Circle k and Yore's Gala are well maintained. St. Mathews Church stands tall in the surrounding countryside and looks great with nice hedging and pollinator friendly planting. Universal access is valuable, so too is the recently erected guide of family plots in the cemetery. The Hall has a well-cared for appearance and has striking landscaping and beautiful flower boxes. We note your intentions to safeguard the villages culture & heritage and your continued maintenance of the old post office. We enjoyed a trip to the green and were delighted to get the details of the flora and fauna and the 16 townlands in Irish. We note your intention to erect bilingual signs for each townland in the future. The telephone Library seems to have something for everyone and as you mention may need to be repurposed. Your continued maintenance of the street trees is appreciated. Signage and Lighting is well presented.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

We feel this is a category the committee enjoy and we salute your plans to create native, pollinator friendly flowering spaces and add spring bulbs displays for 2024. Consider crocus lawns as good early sources of nectar – otherwise all alliums attract pollinators and keep interest while summer plants are establishing and camassia are great for a wild area, happiest in damp meadows where they will naturalise over the years. We acknowledge the dedication of your volunteers who help maintain areas to a high standard. Some containers need painting as you mention and the flower bed at the school and the balcony pots could do with a bit more colour. Well done on the maintenance of the heritage Orchard with grass managed to enhance biodiversity. We wish you every success with the pocket forest. Achieving sustainable planting is a worthy initiative. Again, we note your discussions regarding footpath link to the Nine Eye Bridge.

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

Compliments to everyone involved in the ongoing maintenance of all nature & biodiversity areas as they are all of high standard. Wonderful to have such a fine body of water close to the town with Lough Ramor and the River Blackwater – the Nine Eye bridge was admired. The ongoing surveys of the water bats is important biodiversity data. We applaud another bat box to promote habitat restoration. We note your repairs to the bug hotel and the maintenance of wildlife areas for flora and fauna. Last year's adjudicator advised a survey of a small area to see what species are present to see what impact your work has made and repeat the following year; [https://videos>> All-IrelandPollinatorPlan\(pollinators.ie\)](https://videos>> All-IrelandPollinatorPlan(pollinators.ie)). An app is available that allows you to carry out a FIT Count and upload the results in one go. We wish you well with the nature trail and future hedging projects. Good to note the emphasis on heritage varieties in the orchard. With a plethora of sites to visit, benches, information panels and pleasant surroundings add a lot to the visitor experience

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

Good to see you are maintaining several projects in this category. Although activities like home energy audits and the coffee cup scheme are proving to be a challenge, we acknowledge your efforts to promote good practise. AW Ennis solar energy is noted. A bottle bank facility would be a welcome addition for the community. Liaise with your Environmental Officer who will be able to give you more ideas.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Maghera presents very neat and tidy with roadsides, kerbs, footpaths weed free, swept and virtually litter free - apart from 2 coke cans placed neatly at the bus stop like you mentioned! Well done to Cavan County Council for their support and to the committee, as you are well on top of everything. Keep up the great work.

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

Good maintenance is a feature of many dwellings and this reflects well on the committee. Keep us up to date with regard to the old Headmasters House and improvements to the footpaths.

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

Approach roads are attractive with pleasant hard and soft landscaping. Particular attention has been paid to safety and we hope the walkway towards the GAA and the bridge will come to fruition in the near future.

Concluding Remarks:

Many thanks for the lovely photographs. You are wished well for the years ahead.