

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mullagh - An Mullach** Ref: **1097**
County: **Cavan** Mark: **290**
Category: **C** Date(s): **12/07/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	37	39
Streetscape & Public Places	80	39	40
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	41	42
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	27	28
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	15	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	29	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	34	35
TOTAL MARK	550	282	290

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

Welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns competition. You tell us you have 5 committee members and 20 volunteers who meet for the general cleanup of the village and join with business owners and private dwellers 4-5 times a year for general sharing of ideas. You list from Cavan County Council, Pobal, Community Finance Ireland, Leader, Project Ireland 2040, Inland Fisheries and local sponsors who have supported your activities over the last 18 years. Communication is by way of Facebook, newsletter and regular notices to encourage a greater awareness of having a more pleasant looking town and facilities. We appreciate the work of your Picker Pals in the national school and note their involvement in the local Geography Syllabus called a 'Sense of place'. Well done to the children and teachers who help with these initiatives. Great job. Your main project this year was the makeover of the flowerbed at the old school. This will serve the community well and benefit the environment. Please include a snap of the pollinator plants in next's years entry and remember to mark your projects (N) or (M) on the map.

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

Trees, landscaping, lighting, benches and eye-catching yellow containers filled with colourful floral displays dress the main street making it comfortable and interesting. Navigation is easy with wide streets. Disabled parking space could do with painting. The People's Park is small and intimate and is easily accessible. This serves the heart of the community with children enjoying the freedom to run, kick football and explore safely and similarly, we noticed many dog lovers and their pets enjoying the enclosed facility. Public spaces do not have to be large to have a positive impact on the local community and we feel this is a great example. Nearby they are more opportunities for activities like basketball, tennis and soccer on the tarmac court. Another great achievement is the Biodiversity Park, popular with walkers and incorporating a boardwalk over the wetlands. This provides a safe walkway all year and hosts a weekly Parkrun. Other areas of interest viewable on your doorstep is Killyconny Bog, and it continues to be a leading example of the Living Bog Project and is important as you mention in terms of culture, climate change and storing carbon.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

We applaud your support for the Trees for Communities initiative with 50 native trees planted in and around the Wetland area - tagged to prevent accidental strimming. It is good to note sustainable planting with your intentions to plant into flowerbeds rather than containers as they take up a lot of time. Follow nature as far as possible when cultivating the rear of the church car park for sowing wild flowers and you can find more details at www.pollinators.ie where the 'How to Guide – Collecting and using pollinator friendly wildflower seeds can be found. As mentioned earlier you have several good green spaces well managed. The GAA Park was admired. We noticed an ash tree at the Virginia/Bailieborough junction suffering from ash die back. As it is located along the street, it will likely pose a

hazard overtime, be safe and remove it even though it provides valuable habitat for wildlife. We noted lovely containers and colourful benches in Scoil Naomh Cillin. The Heritage centre was maintained to a very high standard with plenty of outdoor furniture - As was the church and graveyard. Great turnout.

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

SAC, Wetlands, Mullagh Lake and Mullagh hill are prime conservation areas and you are lucky to have these on your doorstep. Mullagh Lake had good information panels and a wildlife notice board. We were interested in reading your articles about water quality, gadwall ducks, swans, heron, wigeon, little grebe and St. Mark's flies. These were so informative and a brilliant example of what we are looking for in this category – pop a date on articles next time. We note the expert help sought and this is to your credit. One of the wooden barrels at the lake was empty and if you took seeds from the nasturtiums that filled the big wheel container at the bring bank (which was gorgeous) you could easily have a fabulous display of pollinator blooms. All your biodiversity habitats support native flora and fauna and it would be a good initiative to record the species present on one or all of these sites next year and again the following year to see how the data compares. Check out the FIT count – <https://pollinators.ie/videos/>. We welcome the planting of Spring bulbs and do include some photographs in next year's application. Include snowdrops, grape hyacinths, alliums, crocus or camassia/ fritillaria (in damp areas) in your selection next time. Great job.

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

Three projects make up this category and the adjudicator appreciates the work the committee and the wider community play in reducing waste. We note the sportswear recycling with the GAA, the reusable cup campaign and the efforts to litter pick while out for a walk. These actions are giving a strong message about recycling. Future initiatives would include any walks, talks, workshops or training the group has organised or participated in to earn extra marks.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Our thanks are offered to all involved in litter and weed control as the town is pretty good. We are delighted you have noticed a decline in household rubbish in street bins as this can be a problem and well done on your signage to highlight the issue. It has obviously got people thinking. We hope the new dog waste bins and bog dispensers prove successful too!

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

Congratulations to residents of the various housing estates who assist you in your work. It is a good idea to involve residents in a competition such as best window box, best kept garden or best kept landscaping etc.

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

We are happy to report a good standard of maintenance was achieved on approach roads.

Concluding Remarks:

You have a lovely place and your commitment to the competition is appreciated. We wish you all the best for the future. Great work everyone.