

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: Shercock - Searcóg	Ref: 984
County: Cavan	Mark: 231
Category: B	Date(s): 08/07/2023

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	30	32
Streetscape & Public Places	80	27	29
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	29	30
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	12	14
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	15	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	51
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	28	28
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	30	31
TOTAL MARK	550	221	231

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. As a subgroup of Shercock Killann Rural Development (SKRD) you pool resources together to bring the best ideas to the table and your WhatsApp group keeps everyone updated regularly on projects. With 7 committee members and 17 active volunteers we are delighted you have seen this increasing year on year. You have an impressive list of sponsors and communicate via Facebook, print, email, meetings and at community events. Since last year, you are building strong relationships with St. Patricks National School, Shercock Child Resource Centre and Shercock Youth Club. To develop knowledge of Biodiversity, Heather Bothwell (ecologist) gave a Biodiversity talk in May 2023 and 25 pupils helped plant flower beds and containers. You also ran a competition to name the newly installed willow elk and over 240 people voted online and Shercelk was chosen as the winning name. The name was revealed at the Christmas Carol event in December and the winner was 11-year-old, Luke Roe from Shercock – what an honour and great name! The pictures are amazing and we are sure the children loved the outing with goodies and mince pies kindly sponsored by Lidl. They had great fun at the Easter Egg hunt with the children from Shercock Child Resource centre decorating the tree outside Barneys with colourful eggs. Your main project this year was bringing Fairhill green back to life with regular weeding, maintenance and the addition of new pollinator friendly plants: nepeta, foxgloves aquilegia and aster. The beds were mulched with bark to help with maintenance and to avoid the use of chemical sprays. All the work reinvigorates the space and is now widely used by the community – great work everyone. The willow Elk was installed in December creating a wonderful visual attraction and a talking point of the town. In May the children helped plant the beds at the former health centre and this will also add more colour for the seasons. We note hot chocolate and cookies from Smothered Café was enjoyed this time – such a kind gesture, we are most grateful. After a short break in the competition, it is to the credit of Shercock TT that you just want to get on with things and we can see you are really making a difference. You truly represent our values and we applaud the work you do. Thanks for your entry, map and all the lovely photographs.

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

As mentioned in the previous category Shercelk was installed in the Fairhill area. The history surrounding his selection is interesting with a poem entitled 'The Elk Beast of Lough Sillan' found during renovations of a house on main street. This forms part of the villages history now and requires an information board and signage to share the story. Wooden arch entering the green and seat need some attention soon and nearby railways leading to the Church of Ireland. A fresh coat of paint has 3 new properties on the Cootehill road looking great and you are working on a few others. Lough Sillan is a great amenity and the new picnic benches, bicycle rack and playground looking smart. Your volunteers have decorated the village pumps, highlighting the toppers and lion heads in gold -

very nice. The new interpretive sign at the Lakeshore considers accessibility for children and wheelchair users. Many buildings are well presented: Barneys, Traynor's, Burns, Duffy's Costcutter, Tabetex and Daybreak to name a few. Residential properties are kept to a good standard with lovely containers and baskets. Safety signage on Kingcourt road not visible and signage and fence on way to Canningstown (before church) needs attention. Roads need maintenance in many areas in the village.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The wooden planter beds at entrance signs to Baileborough and Cootehill roads are a welcoming feature and spring images are delightful. You are making progress on winter/spring bulb planting but bear in mind the All-Ireland Pollinator plan when choosing bulbs for pollinators. Find out more by visiting: <https://www.gaisce.ie/bulbsforbees/>. Planting native trees is highly commendable and we note your maintenance. Good to see residents take ownership for planters outside their homes.

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

As a committee you have been proactive in publishing Shercocks Biodiversity Action Plan to mark World Earth Day. This will we mean we will all learn more about valuing, conserving and enhancing nature in your area. Well done on organising the biodiversity walk involving the school children in May, taking in both churches flora and fauna on the way. To mark National Heritage Week, another well attended talk was organised and promoted on the new website to keep people informed about what you are doing in relation to Biodiversity. You operate a policy of not using chemicals – unfortunately we did notice some brown patches beneath Shercelk feet - grass growing around the feet is quite acceptable. Engaging in a poster campaign will help getting everybody on board. Congratulations to the Lisnakea residents who joined the buzz to save the bees, participating in 'No Mow May'. Let us know what is happening in the school polytunnels and keep us updated on any Green Flags.

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

Attention to the Recycling banks is welcomed and we acknowledge the support of SKRD and Cavan County Council. Avoidance of chemicals, reduced watering hanging baskets, seed & plant sharing and composting are favourably noted. We saw many wildflowers along the lake path and it would be a good idea to carry out a wildflower survey or you could survey the area to identify species present (<https://pollinators.ie/record-pollinators/fit-count/>). Have you considered any Eco-friendly events for Camp Gregory? For example, Leave no trace, practise fire safety etc.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Our appreciation is offered to everyone for weed & litter control and participation in National Spring Clean. You are also keeping on top of advertising flyers from streets and approach roads. The support of Cavan County Council and the CE workers is invaluable. Overall, it is looking pretty well. Good job!

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

The maintenance of housing estates is good and we see you will be proactive in linking with estate committee in the coming years regarding suitable activities. BBQ's and competitions are a great way of engaging. Many dwellings are well kept which reflects well on the community & the committee.

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

Neat appearance of approach roads and new planting beds were admired. We wish you success in funding for beds on the remaining approach roads.

Concluding Remarks:

A lot of work has been completed and it was only possible with the assistance of volunteers. Shercock seems to be an excellent group and we love that you are so committed to collaboration with the SKRD, the youth, businesses and local residents. We thank you once more for your entry, map, town plan and the many photographs and we trust that the community will carry on widening its support in the coming years. Best of luck in 2024.