

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: Swanlinbar - An Muileann Iarainn	Ref: 1308
County: Cavan	Mark: 263
Category: A	Date(s): 08/07/2023

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	34	36
Streetscape & Public Places	80	31	32
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	35	37
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	29	30
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	15	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	51
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	28	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	31	32
TOTAL MARK	550	253	263

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 competition. The organisation of Swanlinbar TT is excellent and the support of the Development Association, St. Marys GAA, Scoil Mhuire National School and the Men's Shed is admirable. Your committee of 5-7 and 15 volunteers is working well for the community. Everyone is encouraged to get involved and this year you welcomed Ukrainian volunteers on board to help with activities. Congratulations to all concerned in the St. Patricks day Parade and we congratulate you on 3rd place. Many thanks for the work summary, photographs and map. Your involvement over the last five years has encouraged young & old to take pride in the village and we are glad to hear the local children are more than happy to participate. Your new project in this category is a bug hotel beside the playground; a great way to inform and encourage children to learn about Biodiversity. We are pleased to hear areas have also been set aside for wildlife and we note the involvement of the Men's Shed in its construction. Well done everyone.

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

The stone wall on the Enniskillen side is a nice feature and ongoing maintenance is essential. This will no doubt be completed over the summer and rock plants added for pollinators. The yellow bicycle was admired and the planting brings a lot of colour. Many pots, hanging baskets and containers create good streetscape. Street furniture, bollards, signage and litter bins are good – one table near the playground could do with a bit of attention. Some premises need attention and the town repainting scheme to be undertaken will improve the appearance of the town greatly. At the time of adjudication, we did not observe any wall murals but these will contribute to the ongoing enhancement. The yellow pumps are an eye catcher and should be maintained. Trivia House is well maintained and provides a welcome home for Ukrainian families who love to give a hand. As this was our first visit we were intrigued to learn about its interesting geological history and information panels throughout were very informative. The playground looked very well and the presence of the mill stone is worth a mention.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Green areas are neatly trimmed and areas set aside for biodiversity. We noticed plenty of opportunity for more tree planting around the town and wonders does the committee have a landscape plan; if not it is something to work towards. A planting programme should be an integral part of the five -year plan. We applaud the signage to raise awareness regarding 'No Mow'. We admired the spring bulbs in the photographs included in the report. The use of bee friendly plants is well informed and should become the norm for all community groups. We admired masses of

mimulus in the pots near Trivia House but the phormiums provide little for pollinators and could be used at the back of the flowerbed at Furnacegardens before they become too big in those coloured containers. Saplings from Cavan County Council for National Tree week planted in Trivia Garden are welcomed. We were also impressed with work carried out in the polytunnel and spotted the apple and pear trees doing very well nearby. It is good to hear you are working with the GAA as maintenance works are needed to the facility and a planted area would be beneficial for pollinators. Ongoing maintenance is labourious and we witnessed one of your volunteers carefully tending to the containers late in the evening so well done to everyone who give their time and energy. The Swanlibar River running through the park was memorable.

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

One of the most successful ways for communities to promote biodiversity is by converting part of their grass areas to meadow. It is important to have a plan on how to manage these spaces as they are managed habitats. This is a worthwhile commitment so keep us updated on any surveys conducted. The installation of the insect & hedgehog hotels and bird boxes along the river are favourably acknowledged. As mentioned earlier your partnership approach with the Men's shed and the local school children is once more commendable. Scoil Mhuire have received their 5th Green Flag for Biodiversity – a fantastic achievement. Planting bee friendly and making bird feeders from empty milk cartons, mini beast motels for a variety of birds & insects and taking part in the Anti-Litter Competition will reap rewards. Their teachers and the Green Flag committee are to be applauded for their involvement.

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

We are pleased you are using old pallets to make your own planters and plans to rescue some unused iron machinery to make features are exciting. Under this category, try to identify projects that are appropriate for the community for example recycling GAA skorts, shorts, helmets or book/uniforms for school – reducing waste. We note your actions on water harvesting/composting from last year. Visit the Tidy Towns Handbook for inspiration and ideas for future projects.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Everyone involved in the Annual Clean Up deserves our appreciation. We are delighted to hear families have given real support to your 'Adopt a Road Campaign' and signs on it – litter is well controlled. New signage requested for Furnaceland gardens is favourably noted. Some weed growth gave an untidy look in places so let us know what weed control strategies are in place?

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

The new trees and flower bed at Furnaceland Gardens creates a good impression and will produce a haven for wildlife in the future. Ciuin Housing is well presented and adorned with lovely planters. We note bilingual signage throughout the village. From our visit it is evident you encourage the use of floral arrangements where ever possible and the hanging baskets on the bridge was yet another captivating combination for the adjudicator.

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

Village signs and approach roads are neatly presented. Colourful planting and solar lighting have been added to enhance the Failte stone. All landscaping well maintained. Some road surfaces need attention in the near future.

Concluding Remarks:

After just a few short years a good working relationship has been built up within the village with many projects completed. Well done to everyone involved and keep up the good work.