

# Tidy Towns Competition 2023

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Ballinadee - Baile na Daibhche</b>	Ref: <b>275</b>
County: <b>Cork(South)</b>	Mark: <b>344</b>
Category: <b>A</b>	Date(s): <b>10/06/2023</b>

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2022</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2023</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	40	40
Streetscape & Public Places	80	45	47
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	46	47
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	31	33
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	20	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	73	75
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	37	39
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	39	41
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>344</b>

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu don bhliain 2023. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amachanseo. Adh Mór... thank you so much for your entry into this year's competition, and for a smaller village you appear to have a very active and engaged Committee and volunteers, which includes monthly meetings, daily litter picks as well as clean ups on Wednesday. It is also great to hear of the involvement of Foroige, as well as your local Macra na Feirme, and if all goes well a junior TidyTowns group as well, and we wish you well in getting that off the ground. In addition you benefit from a CES participant as well as Pobal and County Council Funding, it has been observed that those towns and villages who do better in the competition are those who work hand in hand with other organisations, both state and voluntary. You seem to have good communications in place and let the community know about the work that you are doing through social media such as your Facebook page, WhatsApp, as well as the Parish Newsletter, and local magazine. We look forward to seeing your new 5-year plan when ready, best of luck with your work on this, and remember that this does not need to be overly complex once it highlights all that you hope to do and which projects are the priorities.

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

There are some fine buildings and structures to be seen in Ballinadee, including both the Sacred Heart church as well as the Church of Ireland, the Grotto, the beautiful stone walls etc. and all looked to be very well cared for, and the old Pump House also looked very attractive..

The Community Hall which was refurbished in 2019 looked extremely spruce and smart, with very fresh looking paintwork.

Along with many villages and towns in Ireland there are some derelict and empty buildings, however, you have tackled this and the painting of the empty building with the cat and kittens playing in the window was charming and turned what could be an eyesore into something with quirky charm. Are there any conversations with the County Council in relation to the issue of derelict buildings to see if anything could be done to ameliorate this situation?.

The eye catching mural proclaiming 'Isn't it beautiful where we live' is obviously a sentiment which reflects the evident pride that the residents of your village take in making sure Ballinadee is a great place to live.

Some colourful buildings in the village included O'Driscoll's bar and Corcoran's, as well as Ryan's Shop pending its new use.

### **Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:**

There was some lovely landscaping to be found throughout your village, in particular we loved the vibrant red and black benches to be found that were very striking and smart looking, particularly the scenic spot to have a picnic down by the river as part of the Millennium Project. There is also very good maintenance at the Grotto area with nice landscaping to be seen here as well.

The wildflowers at the wall near Corcoran's Bar were admired, and well done on ensuring that you are using more pollinator friendly planting.

The hanging baskets to be found throughout the village are very attractive and great to know that you are including pollinator friendly plants.

One very tiny comment is that along the riverbank there is some plastic sheeting that has become exposed, and would benefit from being covered with some soil

Nature & Biodiversity

The 'Ballinadee Bug Hotel' was spotted and it was nice to see the short note explaining the importance of helping our bug and bee population. You are trying to do your bit to help our bee population by increasing the number of pollinator friendly plants throughout your planters, hanging baskets and landscaping.

Other measures you are taking to help in this area include rainwater harvesting, as well as engaging with your Local Authority to assess the quality of the water in the river. We also note that you are undertaking a study of local bird life and intend to produce a board providing the information on these in the future and we look forward to seeing this, and maybe in time there could be studies done for other flora and fauna to be found in the area.

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

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

We were glad to read about the new energy efficient lighting leading up to the school.

You have also used recycled plastic containers near the school and Grotto areas, and other measures you have taken include rainwater harvesting, village composting as well as ensuring there is less visual clutter by making your village poster free.

The website for Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland is a useful source of information and grants, and it might be worth looking at this to get even more ideas and energy saving tips.

The green water pump outside the grotto area was noticed, and forgot to check if this was working, as if it was it would be perfect for refilling reusable water bottles when out on a walk to prevent waste from plastic bottles.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

The area around the Bring Bank was spotless, and your village looked absolutely immaculate throughout, so very well done to the Committee and everyone involved in keeping it this way, fantastic work. This is done through a combination of daily litter patrols, the 'Picker Pals' school programme, as well as your participation in the An Taisce Spring Clean. You also make sure that entrance signs are cleaned as are the approach roads and recycling bins. Thank you for sharing the pictures of the Foroige team helping out, along with their cleaning 'To Do' list, great work in this category.

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

All residential areas and houses looked well cared for including Rosan Estate which is being well maintained by its residents, and some lovely pops of colour to be seen in the various planters throughout the village. One small point, the planters at the mural could benefit from a small bit of attention as they were looking a wee bit sparse on the day that we visited. It was good to see so many pollinating plants being used as mentioned before, it might be an idea as mentioned by a previous adjudicator to try and get the entire community behind this endeavour and to perhaps adopt a small patch of their garden or green area to pollinator friendly plants.

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

Thanks for submitting the before and after photographs of the road improvement works, and resurfacing of the village as part of the Village Renewal Scheme definitely makes a big difference, as does the wild flower project running from Corcoran's bar towards the school, great work done here. The beautiful carved stone with Carraig Thuathail carved in lovely traditional lettering was an absolute

treat to see as you enter your village and creates a wonderful first impression, with the black and white sign just beyond it looking very smart.

Overall the approach roads and roundabout as you approach were of a very high standard, the Castle Road and Barryscourt Road and Roundabout in particular looked very smart and tidy with very neat edges and very good visibility, with the Killocloyne Roundabout also looking very well kept. .

**Concluding Remarks:**

This was my first time visiting your beautiful village, and it was an absolute pleasure to visit it, and we look forward to seeing what you hope to do in the future when you have completed your 5 Year Plan, and wish you all the best in your future endeavours.