

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clane - Claonadh** Ref: **368**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **360**
Category: **E** Date(s): **04/07/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	58	59
Streetscape & Public Places	80	41	43
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	49	51
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	42	45
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	20	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	58	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	39	41
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37	39
TOTAL MARK	550	344	360

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 a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Adh Mór....Congratulations on Clane's 50 years participation in the Tidy Towns competition, that is a wonderful track record; congratulations also on the 50+ volunteers available to the Tidy Towns committee of 16. Your wide-ranging network of support groups, bodies and agencies is impressive as is your "Casual-Litter-Picker WhatsApp" initiative! Your Biodiversity Action Plan facilitates actions taken with the schools and other groups; it is good to note the partnership approach with local business groups. Your Newsletter with its information on Tidy Towns events is effective and your use of digital communication channels is noteworthy too. The creation, design, presentation and maintenance of the beds in and around the Abbey Community Centre-Garden of Remembrance is impressive!

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

The streetscape of Clane features attractive shopfronts and handsome buildings. Some premises feature roller shutters to their roadside facade which is unfortunate for the visual amenity of the streetscape; Bob and Kate's Gift and Home shop have assimilated the roller shutters into the overall colour scheme which works surprisingly well. The Church of Saint Patrick and Saint Brigid together with its roadside boundary wall seems to have been recently painted and its hard surfaced and beautifully landscaped grounds enhance the streetscape. Heritage finger-posts are attractive together with heritage lamp standard; some other street furniture needs refurbishment, including utility boxes. The wire-scape free vista of the Main Street is visually appealing with cables running parallel to buildings rather than criss-crossing the road. Work accomplished for the improvement of many properties is acknowledged and we anticipate a favourable outcome to further planned improvements.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The beautiful stone enclosed flowerbeds within the Remembrance Garden at the Abbey are the highlight of the main thoroughfare together with the container flower displays along the Main Street and at several locations around the village. Landscaping within the curtilage area of the Aldi premises were admired together with the entrance to Clongowes Wood College. A newly landscaped area near the roundabout beside the Tesco / Dublin / Celbridge Road looked superb. Expansive well-maintained green areas sweep magnificently from high ground to the roadside along the Kilcock Road. The 400+ native trees planted throughout the town this year is an impressive achievement; the native hedgerow planted along Nancy's Lane by Kildare County Council is a welcome initiative. The planting of pollinator friendly species and low water requirement species together with a mowing schedule to encourage wildflowers is well informed. Well done on additions and further plans for the Liffey Linear Park and representations made to Kildare County Council and other groups on further developments.

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

The Nature Walk and Talk hosted earlier this year to celebrate Biodiversity Week showcasing local wildlife along Nancy's Lane together with the Willow Workshop are an excellent way to inform, promote and raise awareness of wildlife. The installation of nest boxes along Nancy's Lane prompted perhaps by the donation of the children's Hedgehog Club of a Bat Box is an excellent initiative and we would like details of residency rates for next year. The screening of the film "The Letter" with its message regarding how we are managing the planet is an interesting way of spreading the word re nature. Congratulations on the success of the grant application by Clane Autism Friendly Town for the creation of a Sensory Garden, we look forward to experiencing this for a future adjudication. The elimination of the invasive Himalayan Balsam from the Liffey nature Park is exemplary. Clane Tidy Towns group is very active with a host of initiatives that will have long-term benefits for the community, not all of them can be noted in this short report but all are appreciated. The children's playground is a welcome feature of the streetscape however the sign here was partially hidden by growth and should be removed or reinstated.

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

A total of 37 initiatives are offered under this category of the competition not all of which can be reviewed here. On examination it seems there are projects that fit under each of the headings of Water Management, Energy Conservation, Travel/Transport and Sustainable Planting and all of which indicate a strong level of awareness of and action for sustainable living. The committee continues to work tirelessly to raise awareness. Now may be the time to give the community feedback on actions taken for sustainable living. Give some thought on how to measure outcomes of the various initiatives, they do not have to be exact, a well-informed 'guesstimate' is good enough as a first step. The idea is to feedback information to the community on the progress towards being a Zero Waste Community which will motivate to keep the momentum going strong towards greater goals.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done on Clane's litter free status on adjudication day, a fine achievement! Graffiti, dumping, and dog fouling were not noted either. Regular litter picking actions are listed for many locations around the village and environs in addition to other initiatives such as the removal of cable ties, posters, service poles and much more. We note that collected litter is segregated for recycling and we would like to know if the amount going to landfill is increasing or decreasing. It might be worthwhile undertaking an analysis of the litter collected to identify its type, source and location found; this information will equip the Tidy Towns group to devise a strategy to cut down on the litter at source and reduce the amount to be collected. The on-going removal of occasional fly tipping in the hinterland of the village is noteworthy, thank you. Well done on actions to date to eliminate gable-end signage and clutter and maintain kerbs free of weed growth.

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

Hedgerow boundaries are an attractive feature of many dwellings on approach roads in addition to roadside boundary walls and private gardens. Some roadside boundary walls on the Kilcock Road need refurbishment however many gardens were admired. There is a good mix of dwelling types from single storey cottages to apartments and residential estates the majority of which are tastefully presented. Green open spaces within estates are being well managed; Esmond Avenue with its eye-catching shaped trees was especially admired. Town houses are also attractively presented to their roadside. Congratulations on the continued Estate Competitions and for the actions taken which include planting of mixed native hedging and trees, reduced mowing for wildflower displays and maintenance of green areas; the defibrillator distribution is noteworthy also as is the installation of LED lighting in estates. New residential developments and the refurbishment of vacant dwellings are welcome together with new residents and volunteers for Tidy Towns!

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

Approach roads and entrances to Clane are reasonably good with clear name-plates and welcoming landscaping; finger-post signage is good too and helps navigate the village with ease. Road and footpath surfaces together with natural stone walls are in good condition and some new stretches of footpath were noted particularly near the Aldi complex. Pedestrian crossings and car-parking facilities appear to be adequate for needs however on-street car-parking seems excessive. While there are good heritage finger-post signs there are no street or similar name-plates; the desired addition to the Heritage Trail with signage identifying heritage areas is laudable. Cycle lanes are a feature of approach roads but seem not to be continued into the village, due perhaps to on-street car-parking. A map identifying the location of the various residential estates, sporting facilities and schools should be permanently installed into the Community Notice board on the Main Street. The annual deep-clean of ditches along approach roads with Kildare County Council is exemplary.

Concluding Remarks:

Clane is a very busy village with a lot of through traffic which makes crossing the road on the Main Street quite difficult; the traffic light controlled pedestrian crossing takes quite a long time to allow pedestrians to cross which makes the main thoroughfare of Clane seem less pedestrian friendly. The village is beautiful and the Tidy Towns group is well-informed on a wide variety of issues and very proactive.

