

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cloone - Cluain** Ref: **425**
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **341**
Category: **A** Date(s): **14/07/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	43	45
Streetscape & Public Places	80	47	48
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	46	47
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	29	30
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	27	28
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	66	67
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	37	38
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37	38
TOTAL MARK	550	332	341

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. We are delighted to receive your entry, map, photographs and 5-year plan. Your committee of 5 has also a volunteer group of 5 who meet regularly to ensure the village and its surrounds look well. The permanent closure of the last shop in Cloone in 2022 and a dwindling population along with the loss of many members having served their time and retired from active duty has presented challenges for volunteering. Despite these setbacks the Cloone TT group has remained steadfast in their efforts to retain community engagement. This was very evident during Heritage Week in August 2022 with the official opening of the Garden of Remembrance and Commemoration of 200 years of the building of St. James Church of Ireland. Thanks to your many supporters including Leitrim County Council and Leitrim development Company that have helped with sponsorship, resources, funding and advice etc. Cloone Tidy Towns and Bothar na Naomh Facebook are popular platforms for communicating with the community at home, across Ireland and abroad as well as the parish newsletter, Community notes in the Leitrim Observer, emails and texts. You have direct links with the National school and the Faoige members who participate in your activities throughout the year – adventure Duathlon, orienteering, Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween trails, Teddy bear picnics, cycles and Heritage walks; helping them build multiple skills. Your main project this year was an overhaul of the shrub bed opposite the national school and it looks like it is still in progress at time of adjudication so we look forward to the transformation next year. With over 30 years in the competition your achievements are impressive. Last year was particularly great with best in category A in Leitrim, Won Leitrim 'Love where you live' Cleaner and Greener category, runner up in the Heritage Award section and commended at this years 2023 West Regional Tidy Towns ceremony. We are confident you will achieve more awards in the coming years. Continued success.

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

Cloone is a quite village which presents itself very well. Paths, fencing, lampposts, benches, business owners and private houses all presented beautifully on the day. It was a pity the day was so wet and windy as we would have loved to spend more time appreciating the Garden of Remembrance. Many thanks to everyone involved especially the RSS workers as it is superbly managed. Post repairs, the old school has a well-cared look and we admired the window boxes. Well done on your commitment to native tree and perennial planting in your schemes. Management is essential and odd trees etc do need to be replaced from time to time so good work. Those beds of antirrhinum or commonly called snapdragons are an excellent example of bee friendly annuals with wow factor and certainly stood out even in the spills of rain. The Community Centre was excellent with lovely window boxes too. Bothar na Naomh Recreational Sports, Heritage and Nature Park is a true asset and a great range of habitat for walkers, runners and equestrian users. Way mark signage was in good condition and funding for on-site toilet facilities will be a real

bonus. Funding has been promised for works on St. James Church and for more planting so we look forward to the outcomes. We wish you well in securing permission for the pathway extension under the Clar scheme. A planted maze for the children play area along the trail is definitely sometime to look forward too. Overall great streetscape.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Walkable neighbourhoods and green spaces in this rural community are plentiful and make it an attractive place to live and work. There are ample places to meet interact and enjoy. Your activities to go green and build a more resilient community will instil further pride in the community as a whole. Your landscaping is well thought of for wildlife and we note the links to the Sustainable Goals throughout this report. Overtime you wish to change the community's approach to mowing, annuals and plants such as weeds and you make good use of social media to educate and encourage residents on how to manage these habitats. Floral displays everywhere were admirable and achieving sustainable planting is a worthy goal.

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

With the help of John Matthews (NPWS) and Michael Archer (Botanist) the area was surveyed and appropriate signage was erected in 2021 to list the flora and fauna in your area. A wildlife sanctuary has been set aside in the Park. This year biodiversity training took place to increase local knowledge with great attendance despite the weather. Cloone residents are active in recording sightings of hedgehogs, butterflies and wildflowers and we thank the teachers at Fatima National School for helping the children with these activities. Your efforts to support the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan are noteworthy and we look forward to more actions in next year's entry. Keep us updated on the Green Flags.

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

We commend you for your ongoing efforts to bring vibrancy back to the village by supporting regular events like the Cloone Agricultural show and Duathlon etc – all aspects that are enjoyed and valued in society. Your committee shows a good understanding of initiatives in this category with water harvesting, composting, perennial planting, minimising energy use and rewilding. You may find more ideas at <https://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/for> . A Village Heritage Day might be a good idea as suggested in the village survey.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Our thanks are offered to volunteers for their participation in the Annual Spring Clean and regular litter picking. The national and playschool have recycling days and well done to the committee for their 'leave no Trace' Campaign. The provision of signage is a good reminder. We wish you success with the renovation of the post box and we applaud Leitrim County Council for their contribution. The village looks very neat & tidy. Well done everyone.

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

The committee is lucky to have residents who are keen to maintain their properties to a good standard. Please commend the owners. We acknowledge your work to engage with owners of derelict properties.

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

Upkeep of fencing is noted on the northern side and colourful planting in stone surrounded planting beds. Your commitment for improvements is clear in your efforts to have safe walkways, renovations to bridge and road markings completed. Roads surfaces are generally in good condition. Grass verges are well maintained. Good work.

Concluding Remarks:

The high standard of upkeep was singled out for praise as one of your responses in the village survey. It's certainly a well-loved locality with lots of excellent projects completed and proposed. We look forward to more enhancements in the coming years. Go n-eiri an bothar leat!