

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Jamestown - Cill Srenain** Ref: **431**
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **311**
Category: **B** Date(s): **11/07/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	42
Streetscape & Public Places	80	41
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	43
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	27
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	27
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	36
TOTAL MARK	550	311

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.

Welcome to the Super Valu Tidy Towns Competition for 2023. We thank you for your entry, and wish you all the best in all your future work. Good luck.

Jamestown, Cill Srianáin - a mid-sized village with a population of 220 people – has entered the competition for the last 25 years and has a committee of 10 members with support of another 15 volunteers.

- The committee holds monthly meetings and informally or more often when major projects or events are planned.
- Support is received from Leitrim County Council, Roscommon County Council, Leitrim Development Company, Waterways Ireland, Heritage Boat Association, Heritage Council, Local Pubs and Businesses.
- You communicate with the public via Group Messages in the WhatsApp Group, Local notes in our local newspaper, The Leitrim Observer, and the Parish Newsletter. Updates are posted on village Facebook page, with photographs of progress and developments.
- There is a preschool in the village and you update the school of any local events and encourage the preschool to take nature walks to inspect new flower beds, bird boxes and bugs hotels which have been installed as part of the tidy town's improvements. You also encourage residents to bring their children to assist with litter pickups and general maintenance evenings carried out in the village. The children assist with planting and watering of plants.
- It is pleasing to read that your involvement in the Tidy Towns competition has led to major improvements to the village and surrounds. These improvements have encouraged new members to join your committee and assist with the implementation of various projects in the village. All of this fosters a great sense of pride and community spirit which is helpful when projects or fundraising events are being undertaken. The ordnance survey map provided with your Entry Form showing the main features of the village was of very good quality. This improved the adjudicators experience navigating around the village which in turn helped the assessment process.

The quality of the application form was good. For future entries it would be desirable to include photographs and descriptions outlining the various tidy towns works and projects carried out over the previous year. The adjudicator's assessment is based on a recent site visit and the contents of the application form, which is suitably concise at 15 pages long - well done. The text inserted on the form is also easy to read. Consider using bullet points under each of the category headings next year, as this makes the document easier to read.

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

- It is noted that you continue to undertake repair work and painting in relation to all the public seating in the village and organise cleaning and landscaping of the community garden beside the Church.
- We called to Jamestown Village on a day in mid-July, where we commenced our visit at the old water pump located in the southern part of the village. It was pleasing to note the historic sections of the original town walls built in 1622 in this area. The pump is flanked on both sides by stone work and is painted in a vibrant red colour. It is suggested that this feature be enhanced by refreshing the paint work and adding some appropriate floral displays within the enclosure. We noticed a blank sign and perhaps this could form part of the enhancement works.
- The wide range of historic features located within the village of Jamestown and its location set on the westerly side of the loop of the Shannon adds to its unique charm and character. The village exhibits wonderful stone wall boundaries, neat and tidy properties along the main street, nicely paved footpaths, attractive lighting standards and finger post signs and plaques informing and directing the visitor to its many historic features. The overall quality of the built environment is outstanding. Your committee are making great efforts to retain and enhance the heritage of your village. Even though some properties appear to be unoccupied, all were presented to a high standard. Residential properties were enhanced by mature, well-maintained gardens, trees, and boundaries. The Church in the centre of the village was beautifully presented with a floral display at its entrance.
- The signage erected in the vicinity of the Stone Arch provides the visitor with important information regarding the history of the village and the features to be found in the surrounding landscape. The welcome sign here is somewhat faded and its replacement is recommended. The section of wall at the Arch which has collapsed was noted and it is suggested that the advice of the OPW should be sought in relation to the sensitive repair of this historic structure. It is noted that this is mentioned in your TT plan for the area. There is a small green area beside the Arch which is accessed through a metal gate. There may be an opportunity to develop this area as a Jamestown Village 'pocket park' and this could be included in your future plans for the village. The floral displays together with recycled plastic seating in this vicinity were greatly admired. The Arch Cottage with its freshly painted façade is beautifully integrated into the structure of the adjoining historic stone arch.
- We called to the site of the Franciscan friary and burial ground. The avenue of Irish yew trees along the access to the burial ground, create an impressive landscape feature as does the sweep down to the river bank to the rear. The burial ground is maintained and presented to an excellent standard, providing a place of tranquillity and beauty. It is suggested that the potential to create a greenway from the friary grounds along the river should be explored.
- The car park lay-bys located near the weir are enhanced with beautiful tree planting, seating, and floral displays. These provide an attractive entrance to the village from the N4. The Cottage Restaurant looked very well with its freshly painted façade, and attractive planters/ floral displays along the frontage.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

- This year you carried out further landscaping around the site of the bottle bank with the planting of trees and shrubs to make the area more appealing. Weed control continues to be carried out by hand by local volunteers. Work undertaken at the Community Garden included planting new bedding plants and the cleaning of the area. You liaise with Waterways Ireland to ensure the grass is cut and general maintenance work is carried out at the car park at Jamestown Quay. It is good to note that you only use organic compost in your flower beds and planters and that a local resident grows all the flowers for the planters in the village from seedlings cultivated locally in his own greenhouse.
- The Shannon Quay, mooring and car park area was visited. The wonderful views across the river to the 5 arched Jamestown stone bridge were admired. The area around the Quay was presented and maintained to a very good standard with attractive stone seating and tree planting. The waterways Ireland sign on heritage boats is somewhat faded and could be replaced.
- The site of the Jamestown Bring Centre was visited. The newly planted green area opposite and adjacent to the bottle banks, include fruit trees and soft fruit planting and this was positively noted. There were some items left to the side of the bring centre which had not been properly disposed of.
- We called to the Community Garden behind the Church and noted the attractive shrub planting with nicely designed stainless steel seats.
- Reducing Jamestown Community Council's overall use of seasonal bedding plants for your floral displays is an initiative for your committee to consider under this category for the future. Colourful and permanent perennial and pollinator friendly planting e.g., using plants such as *Alstroemeria* spp. can provide a suitable alternative to the flamboyant but labour/water/feed and energy intensive annuals such as *Lobelias*, *Begonias* and *Petunias* etc.

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

- It is noted that you use organic compost only in our flower beds and planters and all the plants used to decorate flowers the village are cultivated locally under glass. You have also installed a number of bird boxes, bat boxes and bug hotels in the area and you continue to monitor occupancy. You are fortunate that many different species of birds can be seen throughout the village and on the nearby Shannon River including Herons, ducks, and swans. It is a delight to witness the extensive areas of wetland and wildflower meadows abundant with meadowsweet and purple loosestrife along the river and damp roadsides.

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

- It is noted that this year your committee has worked closely with Drumsna Tidy Towns Committee and Roscommon County Council to develop the 'greenway' between the two villages Jamestown & Drumsna and

Christmas tree recycling continues to take place on an annual basis.

- When considering new projects under this category it is worthwhile first of all considering how the proposed project will align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The information provided in the Tidy Towns newsletters and handbook is very informative in this regard.
- You might in the future consider installing a community composter in the village. These are useful and provide a quantity of mulch to use on your planted areas, which will ensure rapid establishment of the plantings.
- Other areas worthy of consideration by the Jamestown Community Council committee for the future under this category, which is in keeping with the Sustainable Development Goals, include the development of small electric microgeneration schemes for Wind, Solar and Hydro in partnership with the Local Authority - these may also attract suitable SEAI or Leader funding.
- You might look at the provision of public e-car charge points and additional bicycle parking/off road cycle tracks, greenways, and other facilities in the village, and where there are deficiencies, suggest suitable locations where these could be provided in the short term.
- The Committee might also consider in the future initiating membership of the Sustainable Energy Communities programme run by the SEAI which includes engaging in learning networks, preparation of energy masterplans and local energy action plans etc. The following are useful links in this regard.
<https://www.seai.ie/community-energy/sustainable-energy-communities/><https://www.codema.ie/sec>

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

- Your committee organises regular litter pickups in the village and environs. These are coordinated for different areas of the village, involving residents and members of the community of all ages. The local bottle bank has been adopted by the community and there is regular monitoring of the area, in conjunction with Leitrim County Council and the local Litter Warden, to ensure that it is presented to the best possible standard. Signage has been erected on local footpaths to reduce dog fouling and to encourage dog owners to dispose of dog waste in a responsible manner.
- On the day of adjudication, the village area was found to be pristine, litter free and tidy - well done.

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

- You continue to encourage the owners of all business and residential properties in the village to take care and maintain their premises and hanging baskets. This was very evident during our walkabout and residences in the village are generally superbly presented.

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

- Litter control is carried out on all approach roads to the village and this year saw the installation of a footpath along one of the approach roads into the village. This involved discussions between residents and Leitrim County Council and completion of the project has made a big improvement. You continue to have discussions with Roscommon County Council regarding the development of the greenway between the villages of Jamestown and Drumsna.
- On the Drumsna approach road, the attractive name and tourist information signage, stone walls, tree planting, neatly clipped margins and floral displays provided a welcoming entry to the village.
- On the N4 approach the natural hedge rows and trees, pedestrian footpath, name sign, well cared for residences and glimpses towards the river were very attractive and much admired.
- The road surfaces and markings on all approach roads were to a very high standard.

Concluding Remarks:

The adjudicator very much enjoyed the visit and walkabout in the village of Jamestown this year. The unique setting adds greatly to the charm of the village and its hinterland. It was pleasing to read the numerous plaques erected throughout the village, providing information on its history and heritage. You have great potential to progress well in the competition. We hope you found the adjudicators comments useful and we wish you well for the future.