

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: Keshcarrigan - Ceiscarraigan	Ref: 432
County: Leitrim	Mark: 309
Category: B	Date(s): 12/06/2023

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	44	45
Streetscape & Public Places	80	40	41
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	45	46
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	31	32
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	20	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	56	57
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	32	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	35	36
TOTAL MARK	550	303	309

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....

Thank you for your application form, 5-year plan and map. Your maps were excellent, and it was a great help in guiding the adjudicator through the beautiful village that is Keshcarrigan. You are very committed to the Tidy Towns competition, with regular work meetings and a committee that meets quarterly or as needed. It is good to hear your commitment to encouraging new residents to participate in your Tidy Towns work. Your Tidy Towns group uses various communication methods to spread the word about your excellent work. It is good to hear that the children at the local, national school are being educated about the importance of not littering. The shed you have renovated must be a great asset and give you a safe place to store equipment. Twenty-seven years of entering the Tidy Towns competition is quite an achievement, and it is good to hear that it has helped you to foster a sense of community pride. Well done to the village and association for winning the Community Resilience and Heritage awards in the 'Love Where You Live' competition.

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

There has been a lot of maintenance of the public spaces in the village. The street furniture and the signage looked very well. The disused Garda Barracks is an imposing building that will benefit from your plans to renovate and turn it into a community resources centre. The public square outside the building is well-kept, and the quirky High Nelly planter enhances the area. Have you considered developing a board for this area highlighting the history of Keshcarrigan? It is good to see the vernacular thatched house maintained so well in the heart of the village. The walnut plug had some very unique signage. The mural by the quarry enhanced the area. Have you considered identifying more locations for street art in Keshcarrigan?

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Keshcarrigan has embraced managing its verges in a wildlife-friendly way. On the day of the adjudicator's visit, the verges are full of colour, and they are a valuable resource for wildlife. It is good to hear about your commitment to using only manual methods to control the weed. The adjudicator commends the bold contrasting colours in the Fair Green planting scheme. The Stepping Stones Garden is an attractive public space enhanced by public art. The brightly coloured bicycles help to create visual interest at the back of the park. On the day of the adjudicators' visit, a Tidy Towns volunteer was painting in the park. The Fr. Mychal Judge Peace Park is an excellent resource that was very busy on adjudication day. Your application form mentioned the planting of native trees in the village; it would be welcomed if you could include the location of these trees in next year's application form. The planting in the area by

the quarry was looking tired. Have you considered updating this area? The Shannon/Erne Waterway Marina is a well-maintained public space and a lovely place to stop and take a break.

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

Lakes and the Shannon Erne waterway border Keshcarrigan. You have developed an excellent understanding of the wildlife supported by this waterway. Have you considered creating some information boards about the local wildlife? Another possible project would be to organise a nature walk so residents can learn about wildlife. It could also raise the Tidy Towns group's profile. Seeing many dragonflies and the Father Mychel Judge Peace Park was heartening. The wildflower garden is an excellent project; it was good to see so many orchids flourishing. There was a large patch of Japanese Knotweed at the site. Have you considered getting advice from the county council on managing it? It is crucial to ensure that the knotweed does not spread any further into the village, as it can damage infrastructure.

You have embraced managing your verges and green areas in a wildlife-friendly way. The orchids were in flower in the wildflower garden. Have you considered recording the actions that you took on the pollinators.ie website?

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

The Tidy Towns committee encourages the local community to use the village's recycling centre and clothing banks. It was good to see that these facilities are kept to a very high standard on adjudication day, and the clematis on the trellis has successfully screened the area from the road. The regular yard sale is excellent for fundraising and promotes reuse in the community. The Tidy Towns handbook is an excellent source of inspiration for ideas for new projects in this category. It is accessible online -Sustainability-Doing-More-with-less.pdf (tidytowns. i.e.)

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The village is very kept, and the adjudicator did not spot any litter on adjudication. Well done to the residents for being vigilant about litter control and the work of the Rural Social scheme workers. You have put a sustained effort into managing dog fouling and encourage dog owners to pick up after their pets. Residents have been encouraged to weed the verges in front of their communities.

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

Residents and business owners have put a sustained effort into managing their premises and gardens to a high standard. There is undoubtedly a need to provide more pavements and safe crossing areas in the village. Have you approached local councillors to discuss this need for better infrastructure? The houses in the estate behind the shop units are very well presented. Have you considered getting a nameplate for this housing area? The estates were very well maintained in the village. Have you considered promoting some public seating areas in the outdoor spaces in the estates? Some more public planting could further enhance the entryway to An Gairdin housing estate.

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

Keshcarrigan Tidy Towns maintained the approach roads very well in a way that was in keeping with the rural nature of the area areas. Additional footpaths would benefit the Mohill approach road and allow for safer pedestrian accessibility. The entryway to the quarry where the mural was located could do with some TLC, enhancing the Carrick-on-Suir approach road.

Concluding Remarks:

Keshcarrigan is a beautiful village that the work of the Tidy Towns group has enhanced. Your management of road verges in a wildlife-friendly manner is to be commended.