

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: Newtowngore - An Dúcharraig	Ref: 436
County: Leitrim	Mark: 293
Category: A	Date(s): 14/07/2023

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	44	45
Streetscape & Public Places	80	39	40
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	36	36
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	22	23
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	18	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	33	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	33	34
TOTAL MARK	550	286	293

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. Newtowngore has entered the competition for the last 20 years, a committee of 3 persons with the support of 3-4 volunteers and the children help out in general clean ups. Your rural village is quite a typical Irish one with many residents involved in farming. Being a tight knit community, you rely on informal chats, text messages and phone calls to get things done and you also have an active Residence Association in the Woodford Green Estate and a Church Hall Development Group. Much of your work would not be possible without funding from various organisations and local patrons. Your cooperation with Leitrim County Council and the Rural Social Services assists you in achieving your goals. We are pleased to hear you have a good working relationship with the local National school as its fosters a good sense of community spirit and they contribute to your many tasks. The village has welcomed new businesses and new residents which will be of benefit to the community. We note you are negotiating with the new trucking company regarding plans for the undeveloped site and traffic flow through the village. We are confident you will provide them with practical assistance and advise. Keep up the good work.

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

Newtowngore streetscape has stately mature trees and well-maintained stone walls. The Methodist Church and St. Patricks Church of Ireland enjoy excellent presentation and were admired. It is clear you have made good strides to enhancing the streetscape with some ESB cables gone underground with more to be completed. Newtown Inn, Nearby, California Girl and Kearney's Cuts are well presented with attractive floral displays and Lunney Tractors Ltd roadside façade is good. Landscaping around the junction adds both character and visual appeal with interesting art features. Thanks, you for the photographs.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The Peace Garden at the centre of the village is a treat for locals and passersby. The phormium is best removed as it provides little for pollinators and more colour could be introduced – keep in mind native species if at all possible. The Welcome stone at the junction could also do with a splash of colour being careful to choose clump forming plants so as not to spill out onto footpath. The golden euonymus needs a trim. Most of your maintenance concerns road side grass verges, hedgerow management and flower display's which is a handful for one worker and is noteworthy. These green areas are strips of habitat and should be considered as complete ecosystems and you are lucky to have them in abundance. A varied composition of plants provides a continuity of food for insects, birds and small mammals. The more species of trees and shrubs we can introduce the more diverse the wildlife. We are

aware the weather has been wet and this slows outdoor work considerably.

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

We are pleased to read your community partakes in the Annual National Park's and Wildlife Programmes as well as visits to various Leitrim bogs. You have identified 23 species so far and this would be ideal to include on an information panel to raise awareness. As a group and lovers of wildlife we can help restore pollinators populations by observing activity in our garden and by catering for their interests by planting flowers they prefer in return. To record your efforts regarding pollinators, visit <https://pollinators.ie/record-pollinators/fit-count/>. We note that bats, foxes and badgers are present in the village and these could be highlighted with wildlife signage. Could your local resident who feeds 150 birds daily be encouraged to carry out a winter garden bird survey with your help?

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

Congratulations on the success of home composting, old engine oil in Lunneys and the maintenance of the Recycling banks. Try to work on at least one project under the headings of water management, energy management, efficient transport and sustainable planting for next year. Visit the Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas on projects. Look at rain harvesting, seed sowing or a workshop on energy saving as possible new initiatives.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your RSS worker is an immense addition to your team and supports community efforts by conducting regular pickups. A small bit of weed growth around the welcome stone at the junction but overall looking good. Your 'See it, Zap it' is working for you. You mention one of your hotspots is Garadice Lake; could your annual anti-litter poster competition highlight this problem? The help of Leitrim Council is welcomed and appreciated.

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

Lovely residential estates throughout look very neat with nameplates and neat grass areas. We commend the residents for their efforts and we suggest events like BBQ's or competitions like best window box or vegetable garden can build rewarding relationships.

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

Plenty of fine stone walls, grass verges allowed for biodiversity, LED lighting, Pedestrian crossing, good road surfaces all compliment the approaches to this countryside village. We wish you success in your endeavours to upgrade the walkway/cycle way from the village to Haughton Shore.

Concluding Remarks:

The weather was most unsatisfactory to really enjoy my visit but the hospitality in the local shop and a warm cuppa capped off a good afternoon. A world apart from a busy town, well kept streets and historic sites make it a perfect place to visit. We wish you all the best for the future.