

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tullaghan - An Tulachán** Ref: **1523**
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **269**
Category: **A** Date(s): **25/07/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	42	44
Streetscape & Public Places	80	36	37
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	30	32
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	21	22
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	14	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	25	26
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	32	32
TOTAL MARK	550	260	269

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 back for your ninth year in this national competition. You have a strong committee and a good supporting number of volunteers and businesses that help you. Thank you for supplying your long-term plan and it's important that you have such documents to ensure your work is focused and to help you review your achievements. We were delighted to read that one of your major projects in your long-term plan is coming to fruition - the provision of a coastal path, the only one in Leitrim where you can access the Atlantic.

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

The Community Centre has changed a lot since we were last here. The recycling banks have been removed from the front-entrance. In their place you've created a lovely outdoor seated area and the new mini library is full of many different books for people to enjoy. The outdoor gym equipment has just been installed here also and overall the Centre looked lovely. Nearby the brightly coloured fence at the Montessori looked very attractive.

We appreciate that works were still ongoing at the Community Centre and suspect that once these are completed, the back will be tidied up and the waste removed from here.

Kelly's Diamond Bar looked very well on adjudication. It had been freshly painted and there are many planters around their outdoor seating. There was even an appropriate diamond shaped landscaped floral bed with lavender and roses for the public to enjoy and also that pollinators could benefit from.

The Silky Restaurant look very attractive with our lovely dark blue painting and nice planting nearby.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

We were absolutely delighted to see the sign directing us to the sea coastal walk... The first access point to the ocean in County Leitrim. This is a fantastic amenity and congratulations to you as a community for advancing this and thanks to the Council and the funding bodies for making this happen. The specialist seats with your names on them are of a lovely design. We suggest at the top of the path, by the carpark, which has a pedestrian symbol painted on the tarmac, that you also show that wheelchair access is possible. We were one of two visitors trying to work out from the car park how far we had to walk to get to the coast as it is not obvious to first time visitors. You can easily rectify this by providing on the empty notice board trailhead information such as 'one minute's walk to the viewing point – suitable for wheelchairs'. You should add a wheelchair friendly picnic table. Information could be available about wildlife that can be seen as you walk down here or explore the shore. Indeed laminated sheets, one

version for adults, one for children, listing items that they could find whilst enjoying this path could be provided in a dispenser at the notice board. People could return them when finished. We suggest you also have in your longer term plan a permanent image of the Donegal coastline and mark on it the towns visible including Killybegs or Slieve League.

We love the new Park and the works that you have completed here. The stone outdoor picnic bench ties in with the repositioned stone cross. There is a pipe sticking up in front of the cross that we suspect might be for lighting in the longer term. Maybe one of the planters could be put in front of this just to hide it from view from the N15.

Planters have been recently repainted white which look lovely but a suggested the one as you come off the N15 to North Tullaghan is moved. It is in front of the lovely bed of carpet roses and blocks the views of these. It could easily be positioned across this road at the other side.

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

A nice feature of Tullaghan are the many traditional stone walls. We like how the top of one was planted with flowers at the car park for the Selkie restaurant. One idea might be to integrate more pollinator-friendly flowers into your planting schemes. There are great lists of Irish plants available from www.pollinators.ie.

During Biodiversity week each May you could organise a guided coastal walk with a volunteer to highlight the species you could see. Indeed in June there was a hump-back whale in the Bay! You have close links with Clean Coasts and their regional co-ordinator may be able to direct you to some good speakers.

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

It was great to see the bike stands available at the top of the new walkway and indeed during adjudication several bikes were locked up here as people were enjoying walking around Tullaghan. Perhaps another set of bike stands could be provided near the bus stop? Is this back coast road part of a promoted cycle route- it would be lovely. It was good to see the bus times clearly displayed at the bus stop.

The TidyTowns website has a handbook, divided by adjudication chapters, and there is a great resource for this category packed with ideas that you could maybe implement also.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

It is great to read in your entry form of the help that you've been getting to keep Tullaghan Tidy. Local businesses and clubs and your boxing club members and even the play school have all helped pick up litter in the village.

You have relocated the recycling banks which are now in a much better position at the Garage. We'd like to thank the garage for facilities the banks of the garage. So we hope they do not mind us suggesting that some of the signage around the garage is tidied or replaced where needed. Dog waste bags were available for people to use. Is this a problem? If so, maybe the local Youth Club could design a poster to raise awareness of this as a local problem.

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

The homes in the centre of Tullaghan were lovely with nice coastal colours and many of which had hanging baskets or flowers for all to enjoy.

We were delighted to see so many homes refurbished and being upgraded. The fresh blue and white painting of the apartments looked very nice.

Homes in Carbury Coast have a lovely communal area which was nicely managed with some raised beds. One suggestion is to allow climbing plants such as honeysuckle to grow on the concrete block entrance walls into the estate. This would help cover the walls and to make for a nicer entrance

Homes in Duncarberry Orchard looked well and we enjoyed the lovely communal garden with the pigeon loft and the statues.

Just two trees here had strap supports on them which need to be removed. The entrance planting by the riverside was lovely at Duncarberry Orchard also.

We were delighted to see that the Heritage Home in the centre of Tullaghan was being refurbished and a new roof was being installed. We wish the new owners the best of luck.

Have many homes in Tullaghan a field of solar power or PV panels? Perhaps you can promote any such energy-saving grants.

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

The lovely new stone name signs can be seen clearly approaching from the North and the South on the busy N15. You have kept the grass immediately in front of these moon to ensure they are visible, and this is important.

There seem to be quite a number of trailers with commercial signage on the Donegal approach road into Tullaghan and this does detract. Perhaps the County Council's Litter Warden can contact the relevant businesses to place these signs somewhere more appropriate. What is Donegal's Council's policy for road-side advertising on wheels? On the Kinlough Road an '80 km' road speed sign had been turned side on and needs to be straightened. On the Church Road there is lovely continuity of pavement and the blue streetlight. These run from the old bilingual names

sign right down to the new seaside car park in Tullaghan.

Concluding Remarks:

Tullaghan you are very modest! Since our last visit you have achieved so much. You need to be shouting about it to everyone. We suggest you have some notices put up with your name at the new seashore car park, outside the Community Centre, at The Park, and anywhere where you have worked. This should help people appreciate the local effort put into the many projects. Well done to all your volunteers for their hard work over the last 12 months.