

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lisryan - Lios Riain** Ref: **2171**
County: **Longford** Mark: **292**
Category: **A** Date(s): **10/07/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	36	38
Streetscape & Public Places	80	37	38
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	37	38
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	26	27
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	18	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	62	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	30	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37	38
TOTAL MARK	550	283	292

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! Many thanks for your entry for this year's competition. While Lisryan is a small village, you have an active community, with the hub being the community park. You put a lot of effort into communication, via WhatsApp, Facebook (and now more social media pages), plus hand-delivered notifications. By doing so you no doubt reach everyone in the community and ensure no one is left behind. There will always be people who are not willing to join the committee, but even putting a callout for volunteers to help with a few activities, promising tea and biscuits/cake afterwards, can often work. Sometimes people like to help out with particular aspects but may not wish to be a full-time committee member. I noted there was a Family Day being held at the end of July which shows you are dedicated to building community spirit. The event held for local children around biodiversity sounds interesting and fun. I also admired that you have handed responsibility for the park over to them! This is an inspired idea and it looks as though they are succeeding with this, as the space was well cared for. I am delighted you enjoy being part of the Tidy Towns competition and are feeling the benefits.

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

There are a few relatively busy roads leading through Lisryan, notably the R395. I was glad to see a footpath running through some of the village, though crossing from the park and local houses to the shop/pub is quite unsafe as there was no pedestrian crossing. I see that there is a revised road safety plan due to be completed later this year, which will hopefully improve matters. Otherwise, the streetscape is well maintained. The shop/pub looked smart and the community park is a useful and attractive green space which can be seen from the road. Well done for engaging with the owner of the unoccupied property in regard to keeping it maintained. The signage looked clean and legible and the fencing and chain link fences were in good condition. I hope any issues with overhead lines can be resolved soon.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The Lisryan topiary sign on entering the village is striking and inviting. It seems to be taking shape and looked well on my visit. You have used your green spaces well in Lisryan, with green corners at the crossroads and trees planted along the wider verges. The community park was neat and tidy and is obviously the centre of your community. I would suggest reducing mowing in some areas, e.g. outer edges and less used patches, to benefit pollinators. Restoration of the pump is ongoing, though I am sure it will be a lovely heritage feature when completed. It is great you have taken last year's adjudicator's advice and concentrated on the stone planters and raised beds present, rather than the additional short-lived containers. This helps to reduce workload and resources, e.g.

compost, water and annual bedding plants. I particularly liked the planted corner at the Granard/Cavan junction.

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

It is very generous of the local farmer to give over patch of land to the Tidy Towns committee – and by doing so, to biodiversity! Well done on your hard work to clear the space. It is good that you sowed native wildflower seeds over commercial seeds. The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan does advise everyone to reduce mowing via ‘meadow management’ and allow the natural wildflowers present in the soil to emerge, as they are best for bees and suited to the soil. However, I understand you were starting from scratch, and hope the sowed patch is a success. It is positive that you have good links with the Environmental Officer in Longford Co Co for issues such as Japanese knotweed. I wish you well with your plans to create a nature walk locally, with the intention of involving local schools. The ‘No Mow May’ campaign is a great way to encourage people to manage their lawns better for pollinators. For more advice and ideas on supporting biodiversity, please see pollinators.ie. Perhaps you could also start a project with local schoolchildren to record local wildlife sightings on the National Biodiversity Data Centre website via biodiversityireland.ie.

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

The installation of water butts will greatly reduce the need for using tap water for watering flowers in the village. If a few homes install one each, this will have an even greater impact! I also noted your recycling bank and that you have LED lighting at the park. For more inspiration on how you can make your area more sustainable, check out <https://irelandsdg.geohive.ie/> Information on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is available here, in respect to Ireland specifically. It may provide ideas in areas such as waste, energy, water, biodiversity and community. Other useful websites are mywaste.ie, epa.ie and seai.ie.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Lisryan was tidy and litter-free during my visit, which shows the village is regularly maintained. The CE workers and local volunteers deserve praise for going out to litter-pick frequently. Community clean-ups also help to foster a sense of pride in the village. Footpaths and roadsides were tidy also. I can see from your photos that you put a lot of effort into keeping the area tidy. It is good to see the shop and local events being advertised on the junctions, though I would be mindful not to let these areas become too cluttered.

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

Your housing estate, Lios na Gaoithe, was found to be very well presented. It is positive that you liaise with the residents’ association and that they attend meetings. Planting a hedge where the old fence was removed is a good idea and will benefit biodiversity too. I did think the central green might also benefit from having some trees planted as it is a large green space. This would break up the area while supporting nature and adding interest to the environs. The other houses in the village looked neat and showed people have a sense of pride in their homes.

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

The approaches into Lisryan were neatly presented. The trees and shrubs looked well along the verges, as did the planters. Welcome signage was clean with planting underneath. Unfortunately, the rain came down so I couldn’t have a closer look at the flower varieties! I am happy to learn you are expecting a road safety plan later this year. I noted last year’s adjudicator’s comment on Ivy and trees. Just to clarify, while it often looks as though Ivy is taking over and damaging trees, this is not necessarily the case. Both trees and Ivy generally grow in harmony and Ivy provides extra bird and bat nesting potential. However, when a tree is already unhealthy, e.g. an Ash with Ash Dieback Disease, it can pose a safety risk as the Ivy can eventually weigh down the diseased tree and cause it to topple over. In these cases, it is worth consulting an arborist or tree surgeon for advice. They may suggest cutting it down or taking branches away to make it safer. In these cases, it would be good to plant another suitable native tree in its place.

Concluding Remarks:

While Lisryan is small, there is a lot going on in the community! You have a great public park and are improving the village year on year. I wish you luck with all future endeavours – keep up the good work!