

# Tidy Towns Competition 2023

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardaghey - Ard Achaidh** Ref: **529**  
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **316**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **06/06/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	49	50
Streetscape & Public Places	80	37	38
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	38	39
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	39	40
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	16	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	67	68
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	30	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	34	35
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>316</b>

### 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...Ardaghey is situated on a busy road, where a substantial amount of traffic passes through picturesque countryside, thus dividing the village into two distinct areas. We note your difficulty in recruiting volunteers and helpers. Thank you for your completed application form, accompanied by your clearly presented, numbered village map and a fine range of colourful and informative photographs. The well-documented application form was of great assistance to the adjudicator on the occasion of the visit. We acknowledge your difficulty in recruiting volunteers and helpers. This issue can sometimes be a problem in small communities such as yours. We note your proposed September meeting to address this issue and we wish you well on this endeavour. You are working well in partnership with other agencies and organisations, who have similar interests as your own. You continue your strong link with the local national school. This link with your school should give you the support needed in many of the relevant categories in the competition. Big congratulations to Ms King on her success in the 'Learning from Extremes' pilot program. Promotion through the use of social media, including Facebook and Twitter, is a very positive initiative and obviously effective. This again applies to the use of the noticeboard at the Community Centre as a way of spreading your message. Well done on your ONE specific project, to promote and develop the walking track and green play areas.

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

The old forge at the 'Cross' is a reminder of the importance of this building in the earlier life of the village. The storyboard here makes for interesting reading and highlights why village meeting places are so important. Presentation at the Community Centre is excellent (the new village meeting point). Perhaps a hedgerow could be planted along the post and plank boundary fence here to create screening and enclose the forecourt area. This endeavour could achieve a nice 'sense of place'. Public buildings, including your school, community hall, and church have good presentations and are a credit to all concerned.

### Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

We note your involvement with the church and here the presentation of the grounds was admired. The grounds were neat, tidy and nicely manicured. An array of planted beds and hanging baskets were observed at various locations throughout the village and added great colour to their respective locations. A highlight was the Forge Garden.

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

Rockwallace National School obviously plays a very important part in the life of the community. It is clear from your submission that communication between the committee and the school is a two-way process. The Flower Box Rota drawn up by parents to water flowers and maintain school grounds during the summer months so that the school is welcoming for returning staff and students in the Autumn is heartwarming. Your Biodiversity Plan is providing a basis for planting pollinator friendly flowers and shrubs throughout the village and details many ways the village can increase biodiversity. Managed mowing and maintenance of grass verges and the cultivation of wildflower gardens are important contributions to the richness of living nature. Raising awareness amongst the wider community, and particularly school children, is an important side effect of this aspect of the tidy towns movement.

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

The aerial photograph of the Community Centre and Amenity Walk clearly conveys the care and attention paid by the community to this project. It is very encouraging to read that an energy audit has been carried out here and that you intend to implement various aspects of the report. We wish you well with your plans to replace all external doors of the centre to improve energy efficiency. The harvesting of water and the reduction in petrol usage by purchasing robotic auto mowers are examples of your commitment to a more sustainable future. Again your proactive school is to the fore in rehoming old school furniture.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Your location on a busy road and close to the Scotch Corner Recycling Center leaves you exposed to inevitable littering from passing traffic. However, you are lucky to have a C.E. scheme in place, in conjunction with your organised litter picks, and these are obviously working well as the village was litter-free on the day of adjudication. The painting of the fence from the Forge to the Bog Road junction, cleaning of signage, maintenance of verges throughout and the shrubbery at the Church, all combine to present a village much loved and appreciated by its residents.

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

Contact with your residents is important and you have been successful in this undertaking through the use of social media. Further, the inclusion of weekly notes in your local newspaper promotes your agenda whilst strengthening your community contacts. Congratulations on holding an Awards night and on partaking in the National Spring Clean.

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

The roofed announcement signage on various approach roads are substantial structures and are nicely presented in each location. Colourful planting highlighted the signs and had a welcoming appearance. On the school approach road some trimming of the rosebush was needed as growth is now somewhat obscuring the view of the sign and making it difficult to read. The management of road verges to promote wildlife is well considered and visibly effective. Native hedgerows are a great feature of the County Monaghan countryside and it would be a well worthwhile objective for your committee to both preserve and reinforce this important inheritance of your environment. The stonework at the new Ballybay bridge was admired.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Ardgahey was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. You are doing good work in all categories of the competition. We wish you well with your campaign to harness additional support in the community.