

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: Ballinode - Béal Átha an Fhóid	Ref: 585
County: Monaghan	Mark: 321
Category: B	Date(s): 07/06/2023

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	43	44
Streetscape & Public Places	80	41	42
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	43	44
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	35	36
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	18	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	40	41
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	35	36
TOTAL MARK	550	314	321

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...Your newly formed committee of 3 have commenced your campaign in a very focused fashion and you outline a good number of tasks to make up your work programme. It is to be hoped that your 'callout' for help will be successful and that you receive the anticipated support and assistance for your cleanup days. Well done on the receipt of grant aid under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme for village enhancement, incorporating the Community Centre. The list of community activities outlined in your submission is substantial and makes impressive reading. The partnership between Monaghan County Council and Ballinode Tidy Towns works well and has insured that you received a good share of available support and financial grant aid. The production of the calendar was a somewhat novel undertaking and a very effective way of keeping your campaign in the spotlight throughout the year. This adjudicator was impressed with your communications Display Board and use of Facebook and WhatsApp. Your application form contains a good selection of photographs illustrating your various projects under each category heading and they were of great assistance to the adjudicator during the visit. Well done to all concerned!

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

The charming village core is superbly maintained and is visually highlighted by the restoration of good quality stone built walls enclosing the setting of the historic Mill Wheel. Opposite, the Mill Cottages are eye-catching, retaining a charming scale, highlighted by a very attractive colour scheme and set in a nicely landscaped surrounding. This very special picturesque village scheme is worthy of listing for long-term conservation. Colourful planting including hanging baskets, window boxes and tubs further enhance this very attractive focal point. It is good to note the ongoing improvements at nearby McAree Engineering and Jamesons. The improvements here will further reinforce the attractive visual core of the village.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

It is no wonder that the Village Green has become a popular venue for wedding photographs. You have a good programme of work outlined in this category and your photographs were most helpful, especially the contribution of various planting initiatives at different times throughout the year. Well done to your workers who ensure good work practices to promote wildlife and increase biodiversity.

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

The Biodiversity Action Plan produced by Flynn Furney Consultants contains ideas, information and guidelines which will steer the committee through your various projects. The replacement of annuals with perennial flowers and shrubs in your wide-ranging planting programme is commendable and the advertising of these plans in various media outlets will inform and raise consciousness amongst the wider community. The proposed bat and tree surveys will further improve awareness and knowledge. The intensive planting schemes carried out by your committee and Community Employment workers and volunteers will continue the aim of general softening and providing enclosure to the village environs.

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

The Ballinode Community Plan, attached to your submission, underlines the fact that many houses are energy inefficient and expensive to heat. Improving the energy performance of houses will result in increasing comfort and decreasing cost. Providing information on grants and subsidies available, and perhaps supporting the completion of forms and facilitating discussions on community wide retrofitting, will all contribute towards the reduction in the village carbon footprint.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done to the volunteers who turned out for Cleanup Day in March and filled 5 bags of rubbish. Your letter of appeal on Facebook has a very positive approach. It is a good idea to emphasise the social nature of these occasions and who can resist the offer of a cup of tea and biscuits! Mention has already been made of renovations throughout the village and the power washing of the railings at the footbridge and the weeding of pathways all contribute to a well maintained appearance. Volunteers are again to the fore in emptying public bins at the Village Centre and Sports Grounds. A difficult but very important job. Well done to all concerned!

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

Village houses are generally well presented and some excellent garden presentations were noted. The well-maintained appearance of residential areas will ensure that your village will remain a much sought-after place in which to live. The presentation of the village is a credit to your volunteers and workers. Hopefully the thatched cottage will find new owners and regeneration will occur here in the near future. Monaghan Road residences again had some innovative garden presentations.

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

The pictorial announcements signs are attractive and welcoming. Road verges are maintained to a good appearance standard while carefully promoting biodiversity and wildlife. Connolly's corner is well considered and you are to be congratulated on receiving funding for this undertaking.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to visit Ballinode and to see the results of the excellent partnership being carried out by your workers and volunteers. Well done to all concerned here and we wish you well in your future endeavours.