

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyoisin - Baile Oisin** Ref: **2238**
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **237**
Category: **A** Date(s): **07/06/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	22	23
Streetscape & Public Places	80	28	29
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	28	29
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	23	24
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	9	9
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	56	57
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	31	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	34	34
TOTAL MARK	550	231	237

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.... We note that your committee of five are in the process of being re-organised and re-formed. It is particularly noteworthy that you focus on your youth through your contact with your school. You have made a good start and contact and advice from your County Council Heritage Officer should provide a good structure for you to set out your list of goals in these categories. Well done on encouraging your residents to assist with your target goals. This inclusive approach should prove effective in achieving your long-term goals. The Green Page on the School Website is a good and effective communication strategy and the newsletter email again strengthens contact. The school pond and biodiversity area was a worthwhile undertaking and was rewarded by the receipt of their 6th Green Flag. Congrats to all concerned with this project.

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

The attractive cluster of educational and religious buildings in the village core are nicely presented. It was encouraging to read of your plans for the conservation of your church. In addition, there are opportunities here to further enhance an already attractive area by the provision of some name signs and information boards outlining your achievements. Last year's adjudicator also made a number of suggestions that you should consider in this category. It is to be hoped that your fundraising campaign will be successful for the long-term preservation of the Church. Errigal Truagh has a nice contemporary design with good quality signage and an attractive entrance. Between the church and the centre the new hedgerow looks very well. A continuation of the hedge between the centre and the church would provide a visually unifying effect and create a sense of enclosure in this central location.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

You have outlined a realistic range of targets under this heading and the sensory garden was particularly admired. Boundary hedging is now beginning to mature, provide enclosure and is creating an attractive visual softening in the village core. Your bulb planting scheme is indeed effective in providing colour in the early spring. The new fencing here, provides definition at the playing areas. The information panels are educational and create great points of interest.

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

It is a good idea to start your recently reformed Tidy Towns committee under the auspices of an ecologically

friendly, biodiversity plan. This plan, prepared by the green school committee and Flynn Furney environmental consultants is a comprehensive detailed outline of many projects and guidelines which will safely steer you through your biodiversity program over the next number of years. Tusach maith leath na hoibre! You are so confirm that you are pleased with your cooperation with the council environmental officer. The results of all these consultations and interactions can be carefully communicated to the wider community. Part of the success of the Tidy Towns over the years has been the social cohesion fostered by voluntary groups. Covid restrictions have been a revelation to us all of the importance of local amenities to the health of the community.

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

Your school has achieved six Green Flags. This is a great achievement in such a small community. Perhaps, the school can continue to focus on many of your green activities. Your continued communication with housing estate residents and the wider community augurs well for your inclusive efforts. The doubling of school students in the last five years is a strong indicator of a thriving location.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Last year's adjudicator remarked that the recycling bins occupy a prominent position in your village. This adjudicator agrees that these could be relocated to a more screened area. The village is very compact with a good standard of building design. It is good to note that the Church is a preservation building. Your efforts to present your village in the best possible light, are working really well, thanks to your well organised and supervised litter patrols. On the day of adjudication the village was litter free and well presented.

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

New housing schemes have a nice design concept with appropriate materials and scale. As mentioned in last year's report, these housing areas would benefit from additional landscaping and planting to provide further enclosure and enhance the 'sense of place'. Maturing vegetation would accelerate the integration of newer developments with their surroundings. This adjudicator fully concurs with these comments. You are commended on your application to CLAR for the provision of funding for the central car park. We wish you well on this endeavour.

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

The name conundrum is very interesting especially when you consider the visitors interpretation and indeed social media. A research project here could prove to be very interesting and informative, could create cross community discussion and heighten local interest in your history. Results could lead to clarity relating to your place and a new series of announcement name signs in keeping with the design standard already set at Errigal Truagh.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to visit Ballyoisin and witness first hand the extent of the work carried out by your committee and workers. It is very encouraging to note that you work closely with both your residents and your schools.