

# Tidy Towns Competition 2023

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Carrickmacross - Carraig Mhachaire Rois</b>	Ref: <b>586</b>
County: <b>Monaghan</b>	Mark: <b>365</b>
Category: <b>E</b>	Date(s): <b>09/06/2023</b>

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	48	50
Streetscape & Public Places	80	50	51
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	50	51
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	41	42
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	21	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	56	57
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	44	45
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	46	47
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>365</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...Carrickmacross is to be congratulated on the standard of documentation attached your entry form. The entry form was clear, easy to follow and illustrated with some colourful photographs that were of great assistance to the adjudicator. It is notable how successful you have been in your various partnerships when engaging with other groups holding similar interests, including your schools, local authority, and a wide variety of other agencies and local organisations. Well done on your successful communications strategy, particularly your contact with Youthreach, Scouts, Sport Clubs and the residents of your large number of housing estates. The focus on youth is particularly encouraging and the list of initiatives jointly carried out is impressive. Your one 'specific project' is well considered and your focus on three green areas should provide an early enhancement of these areas and indeed some substantial long-term benefits. The colourful map provided with its numbered legend was easy to follow and once again it is worth mentioning the photographs that enlivened and animated the overall presentation. Carrickmacross is now achieving very high marks in the competition and you are to be congratulated on receiving professional advice on the various aspects of the competition.

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

The rising main street is an important focal point of your town enclosed by traditional shops and residences to create a strong urban core. At the top end of the street, the imposing Saint Finbarr's dominates this vista. Lower down, the Shirley Arms, Courthouse and iconic Lace Centre have excellent presentations. Commercial signage nearby appears visually indiscriminate and cluttered and needs to be rationalised. A reorganisation and re-design of signage more in harmony with the high quality of architectural buildings in this area could provide an immediate visual enhancement in this important location of your town. Good commercial presentations abound throughout the core of the town, far too many to mention, but Nallo's, JJ McNally, Little Mix, Steels and Mc Ardail were particularly admired. The Bank of Ireland is an imposing structure worthy of long-term preservation as is the Garda Station. Here this imposing stone built frontage retains its original timber sash windows but unfortunately the walls are now showing vertical staining caused by rusting brackets. On Chapel Street, Touch and Glow have a number of shopfronts with attractive coordinated muted colour schemes on both sides of the street. Planted hanging baskets and window boxes here were huge visual enhancements. The well maintained Lime trees provide important visual softening along Main Street and help to visually reduce the impact of the vast amount of car parking. The area is colourfully landscaped with an array of well chosen street furniture including litter bins, seating, information boards and a variety of colourful planting arrangements. This central location would make for an interesting urban landscape study with a view to creating a more pleasant user-friendly retail space with emphasis on pedestrian

priority rather than the car. The contemporary Civic Offices and the adjoining TEK building are nicely designed on well landscaped grounds presented to a very high standard.

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

Excellent maintained hard and soft landscaped areas were observed throughout the urban centre. The paved area fronting Markeys is excellent and street furniture here sparkling and colourfully presented. This high presentation continues along the atmospheric Monaghan Street. The presentation of the iconic Lace Centre housing the 1916 Memorial is a credit to all involved and is a fine visual promotion of your important heritage. A feature of your landscaping is the successful integration of well maintained green areas into existing commercial, residential and community amenity areas. This successful integration was particularly noted at the nicely developed parklands linking the Phoenix Sports Centre, Clough Valley Housing up to the Patrician High School.

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

Your biodiversity plan, produced by Flynn Furney Consultants, is providing a clear structure for your achievements in this category. These achievements are considerable. The beautifully maintained park at Lios an Uisce is an interesting contrast to the natural management of the famine cemetery at Bully's Acre. It is difficult to believe that Lios an Uisce Park was once the site of the old town dump. Native tree planting, hedgerow maintenance, wildlife information boards, pathways and seating continue apace at the Linear Park for Phase 2. The additional Quigley Park, and now an innovative Doggie Park, all contribute to the wonderful amenities in your environs. It is encouraging to see that the ongoing biodiversity efforts at the six schools will now be coordinated by your newly appointed Schools Liaison Officer.

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

The collection and recycling of 330,000 plastic bottles in six months is an incredible statistic. Apart from reducing landfill waste, and the inclusion of this initiative in the Programme for Government, such projects raise awareness among us all of the dangers of plastic pollution. The launching of the refill water tap in conjunction with the MCC Environmental Section and the distribution of refill bottles to students on the day, is a practical application of the sustainability ethos. This refill tap is located on the woodland trail behind the Civic Centre. The committee is liaising well with local authorities in a number of projects on this agenda, and it is noteworthy that 12 major business/industries have signed up to the general principles of the Green Charter.

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

Again, the committee is to be congratulated on his forethought and planning under this agenda. Liaising with local businesses has achieved many successes, one being the power washing of streets, pathways and signage by Oak Enviro, thus removing the ubiquitous and unsightly chewing gum remnants. Similarly, rather than replacing the cast-iron litter bins and 50+ recycling bins, you have had them sandblasted and repainted to great effect and at considerable less cost. Surely sustainability as its best. It was disappointing to read on your webpage that mindless vandalism has tried to undermine your efforts, but they will never succeed! Cooperative efforts with the council has also led to the waiver of separate licenses for business frontage improvements. A further example of community, local authority and business, working well together to improve environmental features for all. Well done to all concerned.

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

Communication with your large number of housing schemes is obviously highly successful. Green areas within housing estates were generally maintained to a high standard surrounded by private gardens with some very innovative and colourful presentations. There is obviously a good working relationship developed between the local authority workers and the residents of various estates as witnessed by the grass cutting of open spaces within these areas and the significant contribution made by residents with some colourful planting interventions. The previously mentioned Clough Valley housing scheme area looks spectacular and many innovative coordinated colourful flower displays were admired here.

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

Approach roads are generally maintained to a high standard and create a good impression and welcoming atmosphere on arrival. As previously mentioned, the streets appear to be totally dominated by vehicular traffic at present and maybe now would be an opportune time to engage in a traffic study with a view to creating a "streets for living" concept rather than just roads for traffic flow. Well done on the management of your road verges to encourage wildlife and biodiversity. The previously mentioned Lios an Uisce Park on the Dundalk approach road is a wonderful educational amenity maintained to a high standard.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Carrickmacross is a historic town with a community and local authority that work in partnership to fulfil your long-term sustainable goals and objectives. Well done to all concerned. The impressive results of this effort is to be seen throughout the town and its environs.

