

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: Clones - Cluain Eois	Ref: 710
County: Monaghan	Mark: 318
Category: C	Date(s): 10/06/2023

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	52	53
Streetscape & Public Places	80	51	52
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	43	44
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	30	31
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	20	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	51	51
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	30	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	34	35
TOTAL MARK	550	311	318

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.... Thank you for your completed application form, accompanied by your 3 year work plan, habitat survey and habitat maps. The photographs, included in your application, are a significant illustration of the works carried out throughout the year by a large group of workers. These include local authority workers, community employment workers, volunteers and indeed school children. Clones Tidy Towns is to be commended on working in partnership with a number of other agencies interested in your development. These include Monaghan County Council (MCC), Leader, Monaghan Public Partnership Network and all of your schools. It is a proud boast to be able to claim that all of your schools are recipients of Green Flag awards. The committee has planned strategically for the years ahead and now have a range of plans that are clearly focused, for the renewal, redevelopment and refurbishment of your town. Well done to all concerned!

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

The promotion, by the Municipal District, of Social and Affordable housing is very encouraging, as is the shop-front renovation scheme. It is to be hoped that this will make a significant contribution to urban renewal in the short term. It was good to read of proposals for the former Starlight Ballroom. Renewable energy storage would surely be a sustainable project. Hopefully, planned developments for a digital hub at the former cinema will happen in the near future. Redevelopment here would make a substantial contribution to the revitalisation of the urban core of the town, whilst visually enhancing the streetscape. We look forward to the completion of improvement works at the former Lennard Arms Hotel. The Cassandra Hand Centre has a lovely presentation, enclosed by attractively built traditional stone walls on mature grounds. Opposite, the Round Tower and historic burial-ground continue this attractive presentation. Nearby, a gable mural presentation makes a substantial colourful impact on the street. The Creighton Hotel is an architectural gem, and this Italianate building was brightly coloured and presented with an imaginative planting scheme in its attractive forecourt.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The contemporary design of the Business Technology Park is a lovely intervention in this green area. The setting of The Busy Bee Montessori School, and St. Tiarnach's Primary School, are enhanced by the excellent landscaping of their nicely maintained surrounds. You are commended on the planting carried out by school children, and noted in your excellent photographs.

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

The habitat survey and 3 year plan carried out by Billy Flynn and Furney Environmental Consultants, will provide an excellent data source and strategic guidelines for future endeavours. The micro-park on Lipton's site and the planned mini-park at the Met Station are excellent additions to your urban biodiversity. St. Tiernach's Primary School is again to the fore in fundraising for Self Help Africa and were rewarded with 14 trees. ABP Food Group generously donated 30 further trees, which the school has planted in their new St. Tiernach's Wood.

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

The Tap to Save campaign at SuperValu, to supply funds for local sustainability projects, is a good initiative, not only to raise much needed funding but also to raise awareness of more efficient use of resources. It is commendable also, that the committee members partner the Family Resource Center for energy workshops and recycling days, and arrange local workshops for wildlife friendly and waste free gardening.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The repurposing of vacant buildings and sites, and the shopfront renovation scheme funding, are timely interventions post covid. The derelict factory has been replaced by a new HSE centre and the former cinema site has planning for a new digital hub. The removal of an unsightly utility pole and undergrounding of cables have greatly improved the visitor's perception of the town.

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

We note your comments concerning contact with your various housing estates. We did indeed, as you suggested, visit O'Neill Park, and confirm that the many plaudits relating to this area were well deserved. Elsewhere, at various housing locations, including streets and estates, many imaginative colourful garden presentations were admired. This category of the competition highlights the great partnership that your community and residents have built up with your local authority. Well done to all concerned!

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

Good quality native hedgerows, enclosing roadside boundaries, are an important inheritance of your environs. Their protection and reinforcement would be a will worthwhile objective to include in your long-term plans. The Clones announcement signs are well considered, nicely designed and have a welcoming appearance.

Concluding Remarks:

Clones is a historical town, containing a substantial stock of buildings with a significant architectural character. It was particularly encouraging to note that you have plans for the regeneration of this charming town.