

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: Doohamlet - Dubhthamlacht	Ref: 2191
County: Monaghan	Mark: 253
Category: B	Date(s): 10/06/2023

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	40	41
Streetscape & Public Places	80	32	33
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	27	28
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	33	34
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	10	11
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	48	48
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	28	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	28	29
TOTAL MARK	550	246	253

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.... It was sad to read of the passing of Eamonn Connolly, a leader in your community. Eamonn has indeed left a legacy of substantial projects and work achievements behind him which no doubt will be a meaningful testament to his legacy in the years ahead. Thank you for your completed application form, accompanied by a clear village map and illustrated with a series of informative photographs. Your committee of three, assisted by a small number of additional volunteers, have a well-structured plan for your ongoing efforts. We note that your plans were somewhat disrupted in updating your 3 to 5 year plan. No doubt you will be able to resolve this issue in the short term. Together with Doohamlet Development Association, you been very successful in your partnerships with other interested organisations and agencies particularly your Local Authority. You network well and have had success in receiving financial aid for a good number of projects. You outline a substantial number of tasks under this heading, ranging from community cleanups involving your residents, local meetings and development meetings. Working closely with your school is also commended as this contact can help and support you with many of the categories in the competition. It is good to read that you have four part-time workers in the Rural Support Scheme and, indeed, successful results of their work can be seen throughout the village.

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

Work continues at O'Neill Park, and this project is shaping up very well. It is a substantial undertaking, and a good example of the working together 'ethic'. You are, indeed, fortunate to receive help from a contractor and local farmer in relation to development at the community grounds. This project, developed and administered by Monaghan Integrated Development Ltd, is a further example of your partnership undertakings. Connolly's again has a fine, colourful, fresh presentation and is an important building located in the village centre. You are indeed fortunate to have a commercial business trading in the village, as, in many other locations, local commercial businesses have failed to survive. Public buildings, including the Doohamlet National School, All Saints Church and the Community Centre were all presented to a high standard. At the Community Center building, the bilingual signage was admired.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The Community Garden is a fine facility, located adjacent to the Community Center, and provides an attractive and functional passive space here. Well done on your substantial ongoing maintenance programme carried out at the Community Park and improvements achieved at the Playground.

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

Thank you for attaching the Biodiversity Plan produced by Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants. Your committee is displaying exemplary behaviour in promoting and disseminating information and skills in the biodiversity programme. Your achievement, in receiving financial backing from AXA Parks fund to develop biodiversity friendly planting areas, is further proof of this successful agenda. You seem to have become a leader in your region for facilitating ecological training and workshops.

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

Again the Community Center and Gardens are to the fore in activities relating to this category. From the Community Centre Investment Fund you have received €20,000 to install solar panels on the roof. The free children's library is also a good initiative. There are many other ideas outlined in your Action Plan, but it is not clear if any of these are currently being undertaken by the committee. Segregation and recycling of waste and litter, harvesting of water, seeds, bulbs and plants, collection of batteries and clothes, composting are all ways of progressing in this category. Access to the school through the Community Garden, and provision of bicycle and scooter parking, encourage Active Travel. Greenway proposals would certainly advance this agenda.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The photographs included in your application certainly underline the dramatic dangers associated with litter picks! It is always salutary to view the sheer amount of litter accumulated in your formal cleanups, as shown in your photographs. Elsewhere, road verges and hedges are tidy and well maintained. On the western side of the village, the whitethorn hedging is providing screening for the unsightly chain-link fencing, while also improving wildlife habitats.

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

It is encouraging to read that you resolved the issue of maintenance and grass cutting at Chapel Hill housing estate with Monaghan County Council. This estate is nicely designed and contains a substantial green area. The green would be further enhanced by additional planting to create more enclosure and increase the sense of place. Cois Carrig and Cois Cill have good presentations. Congratulations to the resident who coordinates the maintenance programme at Cois Locha.

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

Approach roads are maintained to a good standard. Once again, your community demonstrates the value of partnership in that works are carried out by the community workers with indeed some assistance from a local resident. Footpath improvements, carried out under the Urban and Village Renewal Scheme, were a substantial improvement and provide for a much safer environment.

Concluding Remarks:

Doohamlet has great potential and a committed workforce. Your committee is commended on their work to date and we look forward to continued progress in the years ahead.