

# Tidy Towns Competition 2023

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Emyvale - Sgairbh na gCaorach</b>	Ref: <b>1042</b>
County: <b>Monaghan</b>	Mark: <b>297</b>
Category: <b>B</b>	Date(s): <b>07/06/2023</b>

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2022</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2023</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	40	41
Streetscape & Public Places	80	38	39
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	39	40
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	40	41
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	14	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	51	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	34	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	33	34
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>297</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...Your entry form is well constructed and clearly outlines your programme of works. The photographic illustrations were excellent and were of great assistance to the adjudicator on the occasion of the visit. These images will be a significant record for yourselves in the years ahead, illustrating all the changes and improvements you have made. The 8 member committee are reinforced by assistance from 10 additional volunteers. This team, working together on your ambitious plans, are an indication that you remain clearly focused on your programme. Congratulations on the completion of the Eco-Trail at the river. This adjudicator enjoyed a brief walk in this atmospheric location. The promotion of your youth is evident and indeed illustrated in your submitted photographs. The application form shows that you have a good communication strategy and, further, that you are adept in dealing with other interested, relevant agencies, and work well within the partnership ethic.

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

Emyvale retains a strong and compact layout well illustrated by your aerial photographs and YouTube presentation. A feature here is the number of residential areas accessed directly from Main Street. Traffic movements through the core are constant during the daytime but notwithstanding this fact, residential areas retain a calm and tranquil atmosphere. Along Main Street, a number of premises remain vacant, a problem that affects many Irish towns at present. However, it is to be hoped that proposed government Urban Renewal Schemes, specifically targeting the regeneration of streetscapes, will be successful in the years ahead.

Bog Lane Hall, and its excellently presented threshold garden, is a very attractive intervention and a nice reminder of former times. Its prominent location provides an attractive vista introduction to Main Street. Opposite, a new colourful mural was being painted by a group of local artists at the allotment gardens. Further along Main Street, many good commercial presentations were admired. The Scarna Inn is highlighted with some very attractive gold leaf lettering and an interesting historical pictorial mural. Opposite, the presentation at the Post Office and Bus Stop was admired for its simple, bold presentation and appropriate muted colour scheme. Hanging baskets, window boxes and colourful planted tubs were in evidence throughout. A highlight here was the presentation of the Emyvale Centre, enclosed by a good quality, traditional, stone built boundary wall, seating and information boards. The Enterprise Centre has a good quality contemporary design and is very successfully sited on the banks of the Mountain Water River. It was particularly encouraging to see the a scaffolded building at the corner of the entrance area and this reconstruction augurs well for the future.

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

There is a good physical and visual connection between the village proper and the environs at the lower end of Main Street. This is very much in evidence at the previously mentioned Eco-Trail where the new entrance gate, name sign, railings and seating invite access and promote integration. The large 'Native Wildlife' board near by the Riverwalk was in need of a refresh. The 'Before' and 'After' photographs submitted were a helpful illustration of the extensive programme of works being undertaken by your committee and workers and again provided a helpful guide for the adjudicator to follow.

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

Thank you for including the history of Emyvale in your application form. This adjudicator also thoroughly enjoyed the YouTube presentation on Emyvale from the sky. This gives a great perspective on recent developments in the village particularly to the visitor. It added greatly to the enjoyment and understanding of the village and its surroundings. The animal figures, ducks at one approach and sheep near the bridge, are a reminder of your pastoral setting, bring out the child in all of us, and will forever bring up memories of Emyvale in my mind. The central location of the river is a wonderful amenity right in the village core. The atmospheric presentation of the river banks, plants at the bridge and the development of the Eco-Trail, all contribute to the impression of a community who are proud and protective of their natural and historical environs. Well done to all concerned! The biodiversity plan produced by Flynn Furney Consultants provide detailed guidelines for future projects.

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

The attendance of your committee at the Sustainable Energy meeting is noted and your decision to develop a Master Energy Plan for the village is commendable. A good start has been made by the Leisure Centre committee in upgrading the Community Centres heating sources. Local businesses, farmers and individual residents are leading the way in living a more sustainable lifestyle. The recycling of litter is a good initiative and helps to raise awareness of the importance of reducing landfill waste.

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

As mentioned already, the Bog Lane Hall and Holland's renovations are important interventions and are well maintained, tidy and litter free. This standard of tidiness is continued throughout the village. Photographs included in the application form are clear illustrations of the hard work of the committee and volunteers, aided by the Community Employment Scheme. The littering and pollution of waterways is particularly egregious and this is well highlighted in your aforementioned photographs. Before and after photographs are very illuminating of improvements carried out. This will be an important part of your archives for the future and perhaps may someday be used in PowerPoint presentations to enthuse others.

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

The programme of works embracing residential areas is considerable and has a significant enhancement effect. Millrace and Gort An Chaibleara have excellent presentations and set a high standard. Congratulations to residents of the various areas as a good standard was generally the norm.

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

The Derry Approach is animated by the cut out 'ducks' profile as a welcoming announcement intervention. At the Monaghan entrance, the Scairbh-na-Caorach acknowledgement of the historic sheep crossing provides a similar welcome. These artistic signs are attractive points of interest.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

The Emyvale committee, workers and volunteers are hard-working and the results of their ongoing efforts are to be seen throughout. Well done to all concerned.