

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: Knockatallon - Cnoc an tSalainn	Ref: 2194
County: Monaghan	Mark: 228
Category: A	Date(s): 06/06/2023

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	33	34
Streetscape & Public Places	80	31	32
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	27	28
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	12	13
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	9	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	51	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	29	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	29	30
TOTAL MARK	550	221	228

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Thank you for your completed application form, village map and photographs, including the excellent Bell Project. Photographs are an important record of your ongoing efforts and a good way of illustrating village improvements. They can also be a helpful method of stimulating enthusiasm amongst the residents when they review the 'before' and 'after' images showing the many improvements. For a community of your size you have a good number on your committee, assisted by an additional six volunteers. It is encouraging to read that you participate in Monaghan Tidy Towns Network meetings to share your experiences with other groups and exchange ideas. Well done on contact with the Community Development Officer and on receiving appropriate professional advice on your various projects. Your partnership involvement with Monaghan County Council was indeed hugely acknowledged in the receipt of the Pride of Place Award, a great credit to your residents. The ongoing maintenance programme is a significant undertaking and you outline an impressive list of tasks, including the nicely presented grotto and fruit garden.

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

The village contains a nice range of interesting buildings, green spaces, play areas, and amenities. St. Joseph's Church, the Rose Garden and Grotto are highlights here. Well done on the impressive refurbishment of the Bell Tower. Sliabh Beagh continues this good standard of presentation and here good quality signage has a welcoming atmosphere. The presentation of the Monument was clean and fresh and appeared as a dignified area well cared for. The little shop and office at the adventure park was again well presented and enlivens this central core area. Good quality signage here enhances its visual quality and has an appropriate colour and scale.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Colourful seating and planting displays were observed at various locations dispersed along the village core, set in well maintained linear green areas. Hedgerows are a feature of your location, a comment that is true of a significant number of towns and villages in County Monaghan. It would be a well worthwhile objective for your community to reinforce, develop and protect this aspect of your inheritance, especially when new developments take place. This would further compliment your school's plans to take part in the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and enhance your already managed wildlife areas.

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

It is very encouraging to read that new residents are interested in becoming involved in the care and maintenance of your village. Monaghan County Council is very proactive in providing workshops and information events. Perhaps,

their horticulturalist could help you become more pollinator friendly in your planting. The local school could perhaps also help in researching your biodiversity agenda. The landmark areas, the church, hotel, monument and seating area are beautifully maintained and lovingly cared for. Opposite the church, the post and rail fencing could be softened by the planting of a hedgerow along its length. This would serve to provide definition and enclosure to the village and would also increase very important wildlife habitats. This would be a major undertaking for a small village but perhaps the landowners and Monaghan County Council Environmental Department could provide assistance.

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

Your application states that you have received funding for the provision of water butts with a view to water harvesting. Perhaps this work could be extended to include composting for your planting efforts and the harvesting of seasonal cuttings to reduce costs and improve sustainability.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The village was colourful, neat and tidy on the day of adjudication. The spring clean and litter picks are obviously working well. It is good to know that you liaise with your school in organising litter picks. Fundraising is always a good way of drawing community members into assisting your efforts. Your success in the Pride of Place Award is a great acknowledgement and endorsement of your work.

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

Both Gort an Teanni and Corlatt are fortunate to have impressive amenity areas close by. The children's playground has a prominent location and is well presented. Street bollards could do with a refresh in some areas and kerbs were a little weedy. Maybe you could let us know of some of the activities of your residents relating to your Pride of Place success, and further include your list of activities and projects under each category heading.

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

The ongoing management of the previously mentioned linear green margins throughout the village core was a highlight. The colourful planting and seating interventions here encourage the visitor to linger awhile and to enjoy the ambience of this lovely setting. The bi-lingual announcement signs are well considered, nicely presented and have a welcoming atmosphere. Well done to all concerned.

Concluding Remarks:

Your group is obviously working hard and the results of your endeavours are to be seen throughout the village. Well done to all concerned.