

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Oram - Eodhruim** Ref: **2243**
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **227**
Category: **A** Date(s): **11/06/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	28	30
Streetscape & Public Places	80	31	32
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	26	27
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	23	25
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	7	8
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	48	49
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	25	26
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	29	30
TOTAL MARK	550	217	227

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 committee has an impressive organisation involving a well structured backup group of volunteers and helpers. It is good to read that you get help from your local school and that they are actively involved in your maintenance programme in a variety of projects. This is a very well worthwhile undertaking as it is somewhat difficult, in these times, to keep the younger generation enthused in relation to environmental issues. Activities at the Mullyash Centre make impressive reading, and are an illustration of the caring and inclusive attitude of your group. You are well organised in relation to the monthly meetings and use a range of social media contacts to distribute information to the community at large. The list of groups that support your efforts show that you are very successful in harnessing support from other interested agencies and organisations that have similar goals as yourselves. Well done also on attending workshops, partaking in various local events and indeed the very important issue of fundraising. The photographs submitted were of great assistance to the adjudicator and illustrate the in-depth volume of work that takes place behind the scenes. Well done to all concerned! This adjudicator was fascinated to read the Community Plan produced by Monaghan County Council (MCC) in 2018 under the guidance of Chief Executive Eamonn O'Sullivan. This report provided a number of precise recommendations and guidelines for the Oram community to contemplate. It was equally fascinating to read that the recently formed Tidy Towns committee has enthusiastically embraced these recommendations and that the committee has pursued its objectives keeping the interests of the wider community always in mind.

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

The attractively presented Rooney's Shop retains an important commercial activity in the village core. At the Community Centre, improvements to the access steps were noted. The nearby 'Big Tom' memorial garden is atmospheric, is a nice, reflective, well presented space and is now teeming with wildlife. The Art Mooney house is a significant visual enhancement. The historic Tin Hall is somewhat unique and worthy of long-term conservation. Well done on improvements and visual presentations here. The contribution of your CE workers is notable and a high standard of maintenance presentation, at landscaped areas and flower beds, located at various points throughout the village, was noted. The church and its grounds looked magnificent.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

You continue to do very well in this category and, as previously mentioned, a substantial number of well maintained green areas abound throughout the village. The Community Woodland project is a significant undertaking. The planting of 150 native trees is an environmentally friendly project. The inclusion of fruit trees will also be an

interesting educational project to monitor and survey on an ongoing basis. The presentation of your bus stop area was again a highlight. Planting carried out in earlier years, is now beginning to mature and visibly begins to enclose a number of areas, such as the road verge between the Play Park and the shop. Taking cuttings off the Mahonia is a sustainable initiative and a cost effective undertaking. Opposite the church, the attractive stone built boundary wall and post and rail fence would be hugely enhanced by the addition of a native hedgerow to create more linear enclosure.

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

It is awe-inspiring that you continue to add to your stock of native hedges, trees, bulbs and seeds. Your knowledge in this category is paying huge dividends. Hedges and trees not only increase for wildlife diversity but also provide screening and shelter for more unsightly areas. They also provide a wonderful unifying feature for your village. The three year Biodiversity Plan gives structure to your efforts and obviously provides endless ideas for development under this heading.

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

Well done on your very supportive efforts to help the creche reduce its carbon footprint. The harvesting of water, seeds, composting, holly trees et cetera is commendable. In response to last year's adjudicator report, you are working well with your farming neighbours in supplying owl and bat boxes, in addition to hedges and trees. Other campaigns such as Rooney's Conscious Cup, Ireland Light Up, Cash for Clobber, the recycling of pallets for planting, all help to highlight the committee's work, in educating the community on sustainability and adding depth and interest to local activities.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Again, MCC has been to the fore in resurfacing the roads around Oram. This serves to unify and sharpen the profile of the village. The community is playing its part in maintaining a litter-free and tidy atmosphere throughout the village. It is wonderful to read of the efforts by the Creche, National School and GFC in encouraging the younger members to be aware of their surroundings and to help in these litter free living spaces. There is no better way of guaranteeing that the committee's efforts will continue into the future.

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

Hedgerows are an important boundary feature in County Monaghan and should be conserved, protected and reinforced where possible. This is particularly important, especially where new developments occur. It is a biodiversity-friendly practice, and visually helps to integrate new developments into the landscape. An Corran is a nicely designed housing scheme that integrates well with its surroundings. Opposite, the white traditional farm buildings look particularly well and the cluster of the playground, farm and residential houses provide an interesting vista. Views of the Church from Cois Cill are very attractive. For a village of your size you have a good range of residential housing, incorporating both one-off residences and estates. All were visited and they generally retain a good standard of presentation. A number of individual colourful garden displays were admired. Both An Corran and Cois Cill would benefit from additional hedgerow planting inside the post and plank boundary, to create more enclosure on the green.

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

Approach roads again have a good presentation with good surfaces and are maintained effectively to protect wildlife. The new black bilingual announcement signs are nicely presented adorned by colourful flower beds and have a welcoming atmosphere.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure for this adjudicator to visit a community which continues to improve its location with some very well considered projects and enhancements.