

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Scotstown - An Bhoth** Ref: **542**
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **304**
Category: **B** Date(s): **08/06/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	38	39
Streetscape & Public Places	80	36	36
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	38	39
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	41	41
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	16	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	35	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	34	35
TOTAL MARK	550	298	304

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 submission which included a completed application form, a clear village map outlining the locations of your various projects. This was of great assistance to the adjudicator and added to an enjoyable visit. Your community has long experience in the competition and we note that some of your volunteers and committee members are planning to retire in 2024. We wish you well for your dedicated service over the years and congratulate you on your lifelong recognition award. It is to be hoped that new enthusiastic recruits can be found to replace the retiring committee. Your plans to attract new members from widely dispersed groups such as business, public bodies, residents groups and your school, will hopefully be successful. Your communication with your school and promotion of your environment is admirable and the results are encouraging. The committee have successfully used a wide range of media outlets to promote your campaign. Your partnership development approach is illustrated by the assistance you received from Monaghan County Council (MCC) and a myriad of other organisations interested in your promotion. Your activities in relation to the 'ONE' specific project were very interesting and the research was wide-ranging. It is a good idea to hopefully hand on a list of projects for a new committee to peruse. It is to be hoped that you will be successful with your application for grant aid to engage in the proposed biodiversity projects.

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

Public buildings, including the church and school, have a nice presentation. The school has a bright colour scheme, highlighted by individual lettering using the Irish language. This theme was continued at Cassidy's where the Irish language was again promoted. Scotstown Pharmacy has a well-presented shopfront with an attractive colour scheme, highlighted by good quality lettering at the fascia board. McCagues corner pub has a prominent and important location in the village core. This traditional frontage is worthy of long-term preservation and is an attractive visual presentation in the village. Elsewhere a number of former residences, with substantial character, need regeneration and renewal. It is to be hoped that their long-term preservation will remain an objective of future committees.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The Village Green, containing some fine mature trees, plays an important role in village life. Colourful seating and picnic tables were being well used by a number of visitors on the day of the adjudication. Outdoor furniture including lighting standards, flower tubs and the highlighted, blue-coloured, pump feature looked very well.

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

Your ongoing communication with Social Naisiunta 'Iorball Sionnaigh an Both' on their green agenda is productive. Perhaps you could include photographs of the annual winner of the Art Competition in your future application. The additional exposure should encourage participant numbers. It was disappointing to read that the wildflower garden efforts did not achieve the results you wanted last year. However, you have adopted a very positive approach in seeking expert advice in order to maximise your biodiversity results.

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

The Green School programme has been a success in raising awareness in the village of a more sustainable way of life. Shopping local reduces our carbon footprint as well as helping the local economy. The Local Link makes public transport more available and reduces the number of cars on the road. The enthusiasm of children is infectious and brings ideas of best practise into every home, and from there spreads out into the wider community. It is interesting to read in your application form that you can look back over the years of volunteering and realise the importance of your role in looking after the environment, both built and natural, and hopefully passing on to your successors an appreciation of the truly important things in life.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Problems of dereliction are ubiquitous in Ireland. As you have learnt, it is difficult to handle and solutions are not always readily available. Well done on continuing to bring individual cases to the attention of MCC. We hope that remedial action will follow. The village had a very neat appearance on the day of adjudication. There was no litter to be seen on the streets, the recycling centre was clean and bright, footpaths had been power hosed and road verges were neat and weed free.

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

It is very encouraging to note that you continue to promote the use of the Irish language in the naming of various housing schemes and your previously mentioned school. An advertising sign for the Fleadh Cheoil further highlights this agenda. Well done to all concerned. We note you continue to liaise with your residents and the MCC to encourage a good standard of maintenance in your estates.

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

The new footpath on the Tydavnet approach road was a major achievement and creates a safe, functional, pedestrian link. We note your ongoing maintenance programme to deal with the presentation of the approach roads. Well done to all concerned.

Concluding Remarks:

Scotstown is a charming village with its central buildings overlooking the village green. The committee are to be congratulated on presentations here.