

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: Smithborough - Na Mullaí	Ref: 1038
County: Monaghan	Mark: 229
Category: B	Date(s): 08/06/2023

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	24	25
Streetscape & Public Places	80	35	36
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	27	28
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	24	25
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	6	7
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	48	49
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	27	28
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	30	31
TOTAL MARK	550	221	229

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 completed entry form and supporting photographs. These demonstrate that you are an enthusiastic group of people, committed to the improvement in quality of life in Smithborough. They also prove that you have plans to further advance in the competition. Your committee of 6, supported by an additional 10 to 15 volunteers, are a committed group and work well together on a structured programme. You have been successful in receiving support and funding from a myriad of other agencies and organisations including Monaghan County Council (MCC) and Monaghan Public Participation Network. Your strong link with your local school is noteworthy and your encouragement of young people should prove worthwhile and pay dividends in the long term. Well done on receiving professional advice on the environmental and community aspects of your development. We wish you success in this endeavour. It is good to read about the list of contacts that you have created to spread your message in the community. You write that your members and estate residents are available to contact by email. The 'ONE' specific project was a well-considered, clever undertaking and has certainly created some very nice, visual interventions in the village. The outcome is a significant number of very eye-catching and thought-provoking wood sculptures. Congratulations to all concerned here.

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

News concerning the old Garda Barracks is encouraging. Hopefully, the anticipated redevelopment of this building will take place in the near future. The recent improvement scheme at the old Post Office has created a considerable enhancement. Well done on your efforts to deal with your derelict sites. The 'before' and 'after' photographs of the stone cottage shows a substantial visual improvement. Clearly, the restoration work enhances the quality of this traditional building and results in a good illustration of a disappearing craft. You are progressing well in this category and have outlined a significant list of improvements.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Green areas are nicely integrated into residential estates in your community. The playground area was fresh and clean and the individual play furniture brightly coloured. This good presentation was again in evidence at the Chill Out area and Mulladuff Green. We look forward to the development of the proposed Community Garden and congratulate you on again receiving professional advice for this undertaking.

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

Thank you for enclosing a copy of 'Smithborough Habitats' produced by Flynn Furney Consultants. This study gives a description of the ecologically important habitats within the immediate surroundings. In the meantime you are following guidelines within the All Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP). Your photographs illustrate the resulting low mow regimes, planting of pollinator friendly flowers and cultivation of wildflower areas.

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

You mention communication with Social Mhuire Magherarney but you do not enclose any information on Green Flag achievements. However, last year's adjudicator mentions a sixth Green Flag. Perhaps you could give us more information on this aspect in next year's submission. Local businesses such as The Skule Inn, Chip Shop and Talking Heads have all increased their recycling efforts. Eire Og Football Club encourage the recycling of football gear. This progressive club also encourages its members to bring reusable water bottles and provide very stylish, branded bottle holders. There are many other schemes mentioned such as Cash for Clobber and Stop Food Waste. It is also interesting that you have approached Ben, the Community Water Officer, with a view to analysing pollution in the Erne catchment area and improving water quality. This is a very worthwhile engagement and results of your consultation will prove educational for the wider community as well as raising awareness of environmental damage.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Again, this adjudicator is grateful to you for including the draft sketch of the proposed Community Garden behind Mulladuff housing estate as well as a photograph of the site. Under the guidance of MCC Horticulturist, Michael, you also enclose detailed plans for this development. This is a very exciting project and we look forward to seeing progress. Enhancement of the blue seating is a great result, as is the painting of walls and fences already mentioned above. The village was litter free on the day of adjudication.

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

Strong contact is maintained with the residents of your various housing estates. The Pride of Place campaign and Best Kept Garden competition appear to have been a good stimulus for residents to get involved in improvement works. Individual garden presentations were admired at Maple Grove, Oilean Carrabarra, Mulladuff, The Meadows and Magherarney. We congratulate you on organising this well-worthy competition.

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

The results of your partnership endeavours are again in evidence on approach roads and in the village street. Out at Magherarney Bridge, footpath improvements were noted. Well done to Monaghan County Council workers, your volunteers, and your C.E. workers.

Concluding Remarks:

It was obvious, to this adjudicator that the Smithborough Tidy Towns committee is very well aware of their heritage and the importance of a 'sense of place' in the village. We commend your farseeing efforts to develop, restore, preserve and enhance your traditions for future generations.