

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cloonfad - Cluain Fada** Ref: **1915**
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **274**
Category: **B** Date(s): **13/07/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	36	37
Streetscape & Public Places	80	37	40
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	33	34
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	32	33
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	18	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	30	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	32	32
TOTAL MARK	550	268	274

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 entry form, your map and your long-term plan. It might be easier to separate the proposed actions by adjudication category. You have a small core committee but a large number of volunteers who work with you. Indeed up to 20 volunteers pick litter on a regular basis.

One of the challenges that you are working on, is to embrace the many new and temporary residents due to large number of new rented properties in the village. Consider various ways in which you can invite them to get involved. It will be important wherever you are working to have high visibility vests with your logo on it and even a small sandwich board saying, 'volunteers at work - you're welcome to join us even for half an hour!'

Communication is also important so if you have a volunteer good at sharing pictures, stories or printing notices for community notice boards or in local shops that would be a real help. Social media entries would also help keep a record of your work over the 12 months - and these can be copied and pasted into the entry form for next year. It would be good to have more information so we can appreciate your efforts.

You can also follow and share details of other local activities such as free recycling days at local Civic Centres.

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

One of the main areas of work this year is the upgrading of the car park at the Community Centre and National School and the creation of an outdoor meeting area as part of these works. This area looked just lovely, and we really liked how you kept the old horse chestnut tree and added the new design features next to this. Top marks!! The school was freshly painted, and bright, colourful murals and outdoor equipment looked really well as did the many maturing trees in the grounds here. We really applaud your efforts to have all the community facilities close to each other in the centre of Cloonfad. For example, the Community Centre now has the outdoor gym equipment here and just across the road is your Post Office. O'Malley's had good colourful bins and it was great to see the defibrillator again centrally located.

Premises everywhere had window boxes and hanging baskets all of which looked really well. This included the lovely Three Counties Pub where both the front and the rear of these premises were freshly painted (that's a good pub quiz question – name the three counties). Works were ongoing at Griffin Inn and the restoration of this building should also enhance Cloonfad. Kearney's Garden was a lovely building freshly painted with hanging basket planters and creatively painted windows. There are a number of commercial premises no longer trading on the main street such as the former cost cutters which are really neat and tidy. We would like to commend the owners of

these buildings for maintaining them so nicely. Perhaps some displays could be put into some windows along the themes of Tidy Towns? For example, if the children did a poster display about the wildlife of the village and this could be on show in some of the windows of properties.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

We were delighted to see that pollinator friendly shrubs and flowers have been put in at your new landscaping area. If members of the community wanted to get some good ideas, there are great plant lists from the website of pollinators.ie or just ask in your local garden shop for bee friendly flowers.

The graveyard walls were nicely painted, and the gates were of a nice design here. However we felt the two warning signs at the entrance detracted a little. Could the 'NO DUMPING' sign be located beside the taps and watering cans in the inside wall for example?

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

You have put in a lot of plants recently many of which we are delighted to see where pollinator friendly. Perhaps you can swap seeds from these plants for next year? Do you have a compost bin in the community?

It is suggested that you join some of the citizen science projects organized by charities such as Birdwatch Ireland or the Irish Wildlife Trust. They have easy projects that you could join in and helps raise awareness of the birds and bats and mammals that you might find in your community.

Do also make sure you are registered with the Roscommon PPN and are on the mailing list for the Heritage Office as they often promote projects that communities to join.

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

This category is about preventing waste, and reusing and recycling. A good idea would be to provide bicycle racks so people traveling to the school and the community centre can cycle and safely lock up their bikes. We recommend that you also reach out to the Environmental Awareness Office of your council to receive project ideas and updates on work across the county that you may be able to benefit from. Also the Tidy Towns website has the competition handbook with a new chapter all about sustainability packed with ideas such as battery recycling, rainwater harvesting, reducing your plastic waste, encouraging uniform swaps and book rentals.

<https://www.tidytowns.ie/competition/handbook/>

All of these are actions that will advance you again you more marks in this category of the competition.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The bottle banks and clothes bank looked clean and tidy, and we suggest a nice colourful community notice board could be erected here.

Another suggestion would be to paint the bollards around the crossroads in the village the same colour as the new bollards if you want to have that continuity of colour.

You have a number of colourful public benches in Cloonfad, and it suggests that some of these be repainted as the paint is fading.

Next Spring you can organise a Spring Clean for the community to all join. You may have locals that walk regularly that may do a litter pick on their travels so reach out and ask for volunteers.

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

Homes looked well...the placing of the agricultural machinery in the centre of Cnoc an Dubh was surprising, but this looked well – how nice to see this not being allowed to rust. The trees at the entrance here might be an ideal place to put up some bird boxes. The pink cottage next to Kearney's Garden looked lovely with its raised stone bed either side of the yard entrance door. Opposite another home was attracting a number of larger wildlife not normally seen in the centre of towns including swans and herons which looked great!

The fun continues at West View with a bright pink bicycle to welcome you into this estate.

Springfield Estate was quite far out of the centre of Cloonfad. Whilst there is good continuity of pavement everywhere else in your village it is not extended to include this estate. However there is an obvious track where people have been walking and perhaps this could be upgraded? Some of the houses here looked really well with hanging baskets and wreaths on their front doors. There is a large grass area here which would be ideal for a number of native trees to be planted together in a small cluster, or where ivy or other climbing plants could be grown along the concrete walls.

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

The blue name signs make for a nice welcome as you arrive in Cloonfad. New signs had just been delivered for putting up on Approach Roads also. Nearby you have nicely painted the wall of a well to clearly mark this feature that could easily be lost in foliage. The Cloonfad United clubhouse north of the village was clean and freshly painted and the playground here was lovely. Have you thought about the provision of off-road access or a separate cycle lane to this lovely amenity in the longer term?

Concluding Remarks:

There's a real sense of fun in Cloonfad with a queen on a horse watching us as we left on the road to Williamstown, and the fiddler at 'an Sean Hala, and nearby two people trying to make a phone call in your dis-used phone box! Your new village enhancement works look lovely and there are exciting changes afoot in the village. More amenities have been added to the centre of the village. Thanks to your volunteers and good luck with activities in 2023/2024 and we look forward to reading more details about these in your next entry form.