

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Curraghboy - An Currach Buí** Ref: **288**
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **318**
Category: **A** Date(s): **03/06/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	41	42
Streetscape & Public Places	80	45	46
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	35	37
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	28	29
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	18	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	70	71
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	40	41
TOTAL MARK	550	309	318

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.

It was a delight to read your entry form and in particular to read the separate submissions about the wildlife-friendly planting at the Church Garden and also the endeavours of Curraghboy National School. The school should be highly commended for earning their fifth green flag, this year their biodiversity flag. You have a lot of support across from all businesses such as McHugh's, Menton's, The Outback and Mulvey's Garden Centre in Kiltoom. Other bodies also help including Roscommon County Council's Area Engineer and Environment Department, and the employee from Roscommon LEADER. You have a long-term plan and it is good to be focused on your aims. It is coming to an end next year so you could circulate an on-line survey, or have a suggestion box with pen and paper in local premises to gather ideas for your next plan.

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

Buildings on the street at Curraghboy looked well and it appeared all were recently painted. This included the Church, Community Centre, School and the Old National School. The latter premises here looked very well – could this offer a home hub for remote workers? McHugh's shop was freshly painted, as was the Post Office. It was great to read of Curraghboy TidyTown's support for such local businesses which are more than the shop but actually provide an important social aspect for the community. The Outback was busy on a lovely summer's evening, and we wish them well in their temporary premises.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The pump in front of the Church was freshly painted and the herbs behind were doing well. Perhaps a sign here to encourage people to help themselves to your locally grown herbs might be in order? Landscaping at the rear church car park was lovely - ideal for pictures after special occasions. Your adjudicator loved seeing foxgloves, trailing roses, lavender and many other pollinator friendly plants in this area. The fishpond at the rear of the Church had some nice water lilies in it. It would be unusual to have dragonflies where there are fish as the latter would eat the dragonfly nymphs. Is the pump here solar-powered? Perhaps the header tank could be covered in a trellis to make it less conspicuous. Don't be afraid to move some planters as single ones on their own can look a bit lost but where grouped clustered together they can make a strong impact.

The school also presented really nicely with lavender planted on raised beds near the entrance. Many community

groups have taken to painting and upcycling tyres which look attractive but it's important that in the longer term these get recycled at tyre facilities as they continue to leach micro plastics and chemicals. The new trees planted around the school were also admired. The different heights of the basketball nets at the school made your adjudicator's smile and you obviously appreciate the need to provide for growing children.

The hydrangea in front of the old national school needs a little attention.

Finally, the other nicely managed space was at the bottle banks. This is a location where people would visit regularly, and you have positioned notices and local information and nice planters around here.

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

You provided a lovely report about the biodiversity in the Church Garden. As mentioned, we really enjoyed this space. The area is pesticide free and managed for the benefit of both humans and wildlife. Lots of actions encourage birds and mammals – have you seen many hedgehogs? Well done on growing teasels as they can be a difficult plant to get started in a place – once growing they will provide seeds for finches. We suggest you publish this Church Garden report so others can appreciate your efforts here and know they can replicate actions such as leave a small corner of nettles at home to benefit butterflies.

Perhaps for Heritage Week next May you can organise a walk around the garden pointing out birds etc? Or better still perhaps the school pupils, fresh with the knowledge from earning their Green Biodiversity Flag, could lead the walk. Have you reported any sightings to the National Biodiversity Data Centre at www.biodiversity.ie?

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

You advance a number of initiatives to promote sustainability. We were delighted to read that the school runs a book rental scheme. The school also is working hard to reduce its use of workbooks and paper. They also have their own vegetable patch which helps understand the concepts of food miles and the benefits of 'Growing it Yourself'. Do you, and the school, use your own compost in the landscaping. Perhaps a composting class/flyer would be of benefit to the community.

It was good to see cycle parking racks at the Community Centre. Many would enjoy exercising along the Green Heartlands cycling route. The information about this on your notice boards tempts your adjudicators to return with their bikes. Maybe Roscommon's Sports and Recreation Partnership provide some cycling proficiency lessons to encourage more cycling in the area. You are on a bus route, but we didn't see any timetables on show. Do you have a good service?

The 'Midlands Warmer Homes Company' is renting premises in the village – Have many homes in the village upgraded with more energy efficient boilers, insulation etc? Perhaps you can share such information locally as it would be great to see homes with solar and PV panels in place. What about the Community Centre – have they availed of any energy savings as yet? If so – do share details of such energy savings.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The main area of your work this year has been in Tidiness – washing road signs, removing old posts, picking litter and monitoring the bottle banks. You have worked hard, and Curraghboy looked well during adjudication thanks to your efforts. Some road signs were obscured on the main road by overgrown evergreen trees – leylandii. You have litter-pickers of all ages. We loved the names of the different school litter teams which include the 'Bin Detectives, Glitter pickers, and Lunch Box monitors. No doubt they do great work too.

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

In small communities with not a lot of outdoor space it can be difficult to advance projects, so it was a delight to read in your entry form that four residents have wild biodiversity patches in their gardens. Do they share any seeds they collect? These could be put into marked envelopes and left in the local shops for anyone interested.

It was nice to see in Curraghboy most premises occupied and presented nicely, and new homes being built.

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

The road widening at the junction opposite Curraghboy National School was nearly finished during adjudication – there were just some tidying/finishing to be completed. The grass in front should quickly recover here and maybe some ox-eye daisies or other native flowers could be encouraged here. The new stone wall matched existing walls. A radical idea is to encourage some moss on it by painting it with natural yogurt!!

Elsewhere you have planted new native hedging that is coming along nicely and looks fitting for this rural community.

Concluding Remarks:

You are a small community with a small committee. Although limited in size you have kept up great work over the past 12 months and indeed the past 30 years of your involvement with this national competition. Over this time you have embraced the newer elements of the competition including biodiversity and sustainability. Well done to all in Curraghboy for your hard work, especially those talented gardeners in your community.

