

# Tidy Towns Competition 2023

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dysart - An Díseart** Ref: **1916**  
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **316**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **03/06/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	43	45
Streetscape & Public Places	80	42	45
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	41	43
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	30	34
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	25	27
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	27	27
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	35	36
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>316</b>

### 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.

This competition is all about the community working together and everyone doing their bit. And your entry strongly showed how well you are working together. Well done on your success to get five separate community grants for Dysart in recent months. Grants include energy saving lighting – do ensure to consider lights that do not confuse nocturnal wildlife, nor contribute to light pollution. A lot of local authorities have guidance now on this.

Your new website is available – maybe have a link on this to your social media sites which will save you having to upload stories twice. You have great links with the schools and personnel including the Heritage Officer and Environmental Awareness Officer at Roscommon County Council to name a few. You are also aware of developments in the locality - a new windfarm may be built near your community, so you have been involved with the consultations.

During the nice weather in early June, we saw quite a few tidying the graveyard, watering flowers at the crossroads, and others tending to premises and window boxes. We would like to commend all your volunteers especially the young girl watering the two plant containers at the entrance to the graveyard in early June on the public holiday weekend.

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

Arriving from the West, the Church looked lovely. A lot of premises had been recently painted around the new crossroads which was very nicely constructed. Your photos showed your volunteers painting the Twilight Building, including the roof – well done. Special mention to Thomas Street stores which looked really nice painted dark since our last visit. This shop also had lovely flower baskets which were being tended carefully during adjudication. The new paving, a mixture of bricks and flagstones in a diamond pattern were very attractive. What a difference this makes, and the narrowing of the junction here helps to reduce traffic speed.

Displays and planting at the schools looked well. Finally, the Community Centre is another good amenity for the Dysart residents. Planters and the new library all added to this communal area.

### Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The new public realm works at the crossroads was lovely and enhances this whole area and hopefully encourages

traffic to slow down as it adds to a strong sense of place. The maps, signage, seating, planters, shrubs all looked week. They work nicely with the existing grotto, and the repainted status, – lovely work.

It is suggested that some mulch is put around the base of the trees and someone local becomes a tree volunteer to water the new trees especially in their first years when they need it most. Perhaps a water butt could be made here. There was an old one lying nearby possibly removed during the crossroad construction works yet to be put back. Did you find the old one useful? It should help you avoid carrying water long distances.

The planters at the Community Centre looked really well and help break up the large expanse of tarmac here. Have you used peat-free compost in your landscaping? Your mint is taking over your herb garden at the Centre but at least you have it contained within some sleepers. Look out for the possible use of weed killer along the edges of the running track.

Your adjudicator liked the curved stone seating area with its quote in memory of the deceased members of the football club. The planting of lavender adds a nice scent to the area – the smell of lavender is known to be very calming.

We applaud your work to put LED lights up around the large tree in the corner field behind the grotto. This would look lovely in the winter as it's such a fantastic mature tree. Do ensure if the lights remain on the tree to loosen them annually to allow for the tree to grow.

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

We absolutely loved the Christmas light festival delivered in Dysart. The pupils not only used recycled materials to make lanterns to make magnificent sculptures of wildlife including barn owls, foxes, hedges, birds, bees, and hares. Well done to Dysart TidyTowns and the artist Orla Clogher. Maybe a follow-up could be to devise a village logo based on the what the community votes as their favourite wildlife species?

As mentioned later, there seemed to be a lot of herbicides used in the community so perhaps you can share articles about the All-Ireland Pollinator-Plan and the importance of reducing the use of chemicals. Bees, moths, butterflies all form an important part of our agricultural economy by pollinating crops and actions to support them is to be encouraged.

Big congratulations to both local schools who have advanced massively in their respective Green Flag programmes. This is a culmination of sustained hard work, detailed research and actions to better their school and the wider communities. Best of luck to them both.

This was a strong submission – not just with the school's green flag work, and the artist in resident programme. But you have demonstrated other local groups that understand the unique habitats of South Roscommon. This includes the Karst Farmers initiative, and other works to support the associated development of meadow grasslands as turlough appear and disappear.

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

As mentioned, we loved the lanterns you made for the Christmas lights festival out of recycled materials. There are many other initiatives delivered linked to this category of the competition including the initiative to prevent air pollution – “No idling”. We enjoyed the impressive free library you have put in place at the Community Centre. It is beautifully painted by your volunteers and a nice variety of books for locals to share. You also had a Cycle Training Workshop....maybe you can have some cycling tools available for passing cyclist enjoying touring Green Heartlands. They could be positioned at the Community Centre beside the library so cyclist could have a read during their rest! Another idea could be to run a bike maintenance workshop.

There is a rainwater collection tank near the rear gutter of the community centre but sadly it was not yet connected. In the longer term it might be an idea to have post-button tap the outside of the centre to conserve water. Solar panels were admired on some premises – perhaps you can share details of energy-saving grants to residents of Dysart or has the Centre considered applying for an energy upgrade? If so – do share details of energy and cost-savings achieved.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Thanks for the many wonderful photos supplied with your entry form of volunteers of all ages, picking up litter across Dysart. You attended a Litter Management Workshop delivered by the Council. This sounded great as it encouraged you to analyse the different types of litter and the locations and times that litter may be dumped around Dysart from this an action plan was devised.

It was disappointing to see the metal Christmas tree frame in place in the summer. While its no doubt that this structure would look lovely in the winter it just detracts from the area. It appears that it can be dismantled and put into storage and then reassembled at the start of the festive season – this is recommended.

Thanks to your volunteers who inspect the bring bank weekly. Finally we were impressed to read that your local businesses and residents link in with the timetable of the local sweeper – and ensure any debris on pavements is swept out so it can be easily collected by the passing machine.

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

Many homes have availed of energy grants to install insulation, and upgrade energy efficiency. Residents have also taken part in the 'Adopt a Road' scheme ensuring the areas around their homes are kept litter-free.

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

Photos showed the daffodil bulbs looking great in Spring on approach roads. You could add to these by planting crocuses and even snowdrops which are great for pollinators and look good too.

Along the Athlone Road it was disappointing to see on both sides of the road extensive use of herbicide along the base of the stone walls. What a pity. As herbicide use was noted in a few places it is suggested that an awareness campaign is delivered highlighting other ways to manage areas.

Arriving from the West the new signs make for a nice entrance to the village and your adjudicator decided to stop at the picnic area. Lots of bees were enjoying the flowers and shrubs here. However, the bird box might be better repositioned further up the tree as it would be very easy for mammals to feed on any young birds. The painted boat is a nice nod to your location by the River Suck and the roses here looked well.

A number of your stone walls have been identified for repair. The gentle rolling landscape and stone walls of this part of South Roscommon are very different from many parts of Ireland and it's nice to sit and appreciate this. and we are delighted to read of your efforts to maintain the stone walls in a good state.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Dysart TidyTown has helped the community embrace the newer categories of the competition including sustainability and biodiversity. Your photographs and your entry form outlined the strong community action. Your volunteers and all in Dysart should be highly commended for their efforts over the last 12 months, and 12 years in this competition. Finally the legacy of the lights project will be long-standing – what an amazing project for this community.