

# Tidy Towns Competition 2023

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Knockcroghery - Cnoc an Chrochaire** Ref: **519**  
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **326**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **04/06/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	46	48
Streetscape & Public Places	80	38	41
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	46	49
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	30	33
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	17	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	67	67
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	29	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	38	40
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>326</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.

It has been a great year for the village with many funding schemes and works coming to completion. This includes the Town & Village Renewal and also the Streetscape Enhancement Scheme. The former funded lovely public historical and information signage and the lovely mosaic sculpture and matching landscaping – how clever. Continuity of pavement has been addressed and now you have public paths coming from the railway house right along to the GAA grounds.

It was lovely to see the photos of your work throughout the year. Looks like you had a nice party to celebrate 50 years in the competition.

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

Commercial premises on the Main Street of Knockcroghery should be commended for their high level of presentation including JS Murray's bar and the Clay Pipe Visitor Centre. New soft LED lighting at the Church will provide lovely night light on this heritage building. The Community Centre in the old national school was also freshly painted and had lovely window boxes with lobelia and other wildlife friendly flowers.

Another building that looked really well on adjudication day was Saint Mary's National School. Their Green Flag was flying proudly, and bunting was up, and the garden had a wonderful display of pollinator-friendly flowers. This was one of the nicest school gardens we have seen. Improvement works were nearly complete at the school entrance which should make it easier for those with prams and wheelchairs to access here.

The bunting extended from the school across to the Church, so we suspect there had been some recent ceremonies. What a nice place to have family photographs taken in the Church grounds here. New information boards at the Church and at the Fair Green help outline the heritage of Knockcroghery. The new mural on the gable wall was very nicely executed and captures a key historic village moment from 1921. The painting of electricity boxes was nicely done, and we love the different themes chosen for these utility boxes - from the burning of the village over 100 years ago to the ice creams and lollies that you could purchase in the local shops. We really loved the recent street art installed recently in Knockcroghery.

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

You have very cleverly chosen flowers and plants with colours to represent the burning of Knockcroghery in 1921 under the "Burning of Knockcroghery" theme. The plants chosen were also pollinator friendly so not only are the

great to look at and tell an artistic story about your history, but they're also good for enhancing local biodiversity, something we can all replicate in our own gardens.

You were eagerly awaiting to see the results if the hay harvested from Dun Ard has helped so create a new wildflower area on a local organic farm. And the art projects continue when we came across your mosaic of the fires it's very well it's a lovely piece of artwork and it's nice nicely positioned where pedestrians can have a good look at it.

A couple of picnic tables need to be replaced but to be fair we visited quite early in the adjudication season, and they may have been on your to-do list! On the L1827 the stone wall that surrounds the fair green has collapsed and needs repair. This is probably in your long-term plan also.

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

You have put a lot of effort into wildlife-friendly planting. You manage your public areas in ways that are sympathetic to wildlife. As well as joining in the "No Mow May" allowing the grass to grow long to benefit wildlife and pollinators; you have planted many bee-friendly flowers and have also planted 46 new trees in the village. You aim to have more than 50% of flowers as bee friendly. Whilst crocsmia is lovely, do take care planting this near roadsides as Transport Infrastructure Ireland has this listed as invasive due to its ability to spread easily. Don't forget to collect seeds where possible.

The creation of the meadow at Dun Ard is to be congratulated and do share details of this with the Tidy Towns Unit for inclusion in their newsletter. Finally the school has their own biodiversity garden. This is all lovely. Have you thought about putting up some wire cages for leaves to be stored to create mulch? This could be used around your newly planted trees. Maybe appoint a volunteer/s to keep a watchful eye on these trees especially in their first few years.

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

The extension of the pavements by 1 mile allows more people to walk and cycle safely to the graveyards and the GAA club. This is to be commended. Are there bike stands at the GAA pitch? LED lights have been purchased for Christmas displays and for uplighting of the Church.

Funding has been secured to upgrade the community centre. Whilst it is not specifically focussed on energy efficiency, do monitor your energy usage before and after as the upgraded heating should help reduce energy output. The new Tidy Towns handbook has other ideas under this category of the competition including repair shops or workshops for bicycle maintenance. <https://www.tidytowns.ie/competition/handbook/>

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

Thanks to your many volunteer litter pickers. From volunteers for the big Spring Clean, to the regular pickers – you have a lot of great help. By the railway line there is a National Development Plan sign that's over 10 years old so it's outside the required display time. You should contact the Council or Transport Infrastructure Ireland to have this removed. Some of the pavement has small bits of wood and leaves and debris and it's just wondered if maybe homeowners and businesses could be persuaded to sweep this into the kerbs just before the road sweeper comes into the village.

The bottle banks need attention. There was quite a lot of broken glass in front of the bottle banks. Could a volunteer or worker be lined up to sweep under the banks when they are being lifted for emptying? It is also suggested that the Roscommon Council sign at the rear of the banks is removed. Finally, could the banks themselves possibly have a thorough clean as they were quite grubby? A small community notice board would work well here. The handball alley is very well camouflaged but sadly we don't think there's much sport played here currently. It needs to be added to your litter-picking route, but it wouldn't take much to clean up this area.

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

Every one of the older homes on the main street have been freshly painted and looked very well. One caught the eye with its yellow painting in all the window recesses. We were delighted to read about how every estate has embraced wildlife-friendly planting in various ways.

The clay pipe workshop had lovely signage and planters at the front door. It was closed on a Sunday, but the attractive window displays showing the gifts sold here will ensure we will be back.

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

The imagery of the clay pipe is good to have on your new welcome road signs. Clay pipes are synonymous with Knockcroghery having been first made here in the 1750s (we read the new notices). The signal box signal house at the railway line looks really well and there's lovely to see the continuity of payment right along the village. It is hoped that your celebrations to Mark 61 years since the last passenger train stopped in Knockcroghery went really well.

Arriving from Roscommon the pavements have been extended and trees planted. A grass strip separates the pavement from the road - all of which really adds to a sense of place and that you're arriving at somewhere special. The picnic area is a lovely little oasis where you can paddle in the nearby stream. Maybe some wildlife information

would work here? The period home directly opposite has been freshly painted and presents very nicely as it faces the traffic leaving the time this has been a very good strategic building to focus upon.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

We would like to congratulate Knockcroghery TidyTown for their 50 years involvement with the National TidyTown competition. You will have seen some changes over the years and you have embraced the newer categories of the competition. This year you have completed a fantastic Arts projects working with the community, drawing on history to make your mark through some amazing street art and matching floral displays in the village. This works across many of the adjudication categories including Community, Streetscape, Landscaping and Nature. Fantastic work – well done to all.