

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lecarrow - An Leithcheathrú** Ref: **790**
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **335**
Category: **A** Date(s): **04/06/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	40	41
Streetscape & Public Places	80	43	46
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	47	49
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	36	39
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	19	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	66	67
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	30	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	39	41
TOTAL MARK	550	320	335

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 is great to read in your entry form about the strong support from local businesses community groups, residents and various organizations including Roscommon County Council and Waterways Ireland. Thanks also for the photo and long-term plan provided.

For a small village you have some great amenities including the football clubs, the harbour, canal, walkways, Dolmens, schools and a shop. Kelly's bar was having a great celebration on adjudication day. We were not sure if it was the Roscommon GAA match or the Hundred Years of the bar or the giant auction but great to see so many in the community enjoying the day.

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

The new enhancement works have meant there is great continuity of pavement and villagers can safely travel around Lecarrow. Cars now have to take turns at the chicane ensuring better safety for pedestrians. You will have to update the lovely aerial photo provided!

Lecarrow Community National School and St. John's Preschool looked well. The Community Centre was freshly painted, refurbished and also looked well. Have you considered applying for any energy saving grants for this building? Maybe this was part of the refurbishments – if so, please share details of how much energy you have saved. It was lovely to read of the local pattern festival held at The Mill building annually. Are there any plans as yet for this building? Has the owner considered applying for funding to draft an Architectural Conservation Plan for this heritage building. This could identify priority actions to ensure it is not allowed to deteriorate, and outline ways in which it can be enhanced.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The diversity area by the stream and The Mill was lovely and fox gloves and lupins made for a really attractive planting scheme.

The grass is nicely managed at the harbour with many areas allowed to grow long with ox-eye daisies and other flowers. Pictures in your entry showed many dandelions in bloom providing lots of nutrients for pollinators emerging from hibernation in Spring. It was great to read about the history of the canal, what an important area this

is and to try and keep pets on leads to avoid disturbance to ground nesting birds such as redshank and curlew. Other information boards told us you about the wildlife specific to Lecarrow. One nice wildlife sign was located at the trailhead of a new walk by the canal through a farm which is just a lovely immunity to have. Thanks to the landowners for their cooperation in this project. Maybe in some of your lovely landscaping you can provide details of the plants so others can replicate your actions and hence benefit wildlife at home?

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

Your entry form was packed up so many different projects showing a strong understanding and appreciation of the local wildlife and biodiversity. We were delighted to read about the school children's project putting sheep's wool and hay into the dry-stone walls to make habitats for bumblebees. Bat walks are held in the Summer. Wildflower and pollination areas have been created.

There is a lovely mature oak tree at the entrance to St John's FC – perhaps a fundraising idea could be for the playschool children in Lecarrow collect acorns from this tree and grow samplings that could be presented to young residents as they graduate from National School.

One of the wildlife notice boards at the entrance to the car park is quite opaque and difficult to read so it suggests that these perspex is replaced. As mentioned above – there are some lovely information boards about local wildlife. Perhaps you can host a wildlife day or activity during Biodiversity Week in May, or Heritage Week in August?

A big shout out to the Leaving Cert student who completed a study on the meadow by the school. They were examining the benefits of set-aside habitats on agricultural land and domestic gardens. They came up with very strong results proving the benefits to pollinators of the Glas scheme and actions in the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

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

Bringing your own coffee cup to the shop gives you a discount, the phone box is now a library, all wildflowers sown were from seeds collected last year. You have included many wonderful projects and actions for this category of the competition.

Is there a bus stop for Lecarrow - we didn't see any bus times advertised?

You have great sports amenities in Lecarrow including St Johns and also Roscommon and District Soccer League grounds. Perhaps a grant to purchase refillable water-bottles is an idea? Are there push-button taps so those participating in sports can refill their bottles?

Finally – what enterprising students there are in the local school selling their organic, free-range eggs.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

At the harbour it was heaving with many people enjoying the sunshine which was a delight to see this and that there were little signs of litter. Everyone was using the bottle banks, carefully placing bottles into the containers here. The harbour car park fence has broken where there's a natural quick access to the car park so maybe this could be turned into a pedestrian route. There was small piece of graffiti at the playground that could easily be removed with graffiti wipes. Dog waste bags were available in dispensers. One of the road signs is damaged at the top of the road outside Kelly's bar.

Thanks to your many dedicated litter volunteers young and old.

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

Homes looked lovely throughout Lecarrow, and we were delighted to read that many have joined you in advancing actions from the All-Ireland Pollination Plan such as NoMowMay. It was great to read of recent refurbishments of buildings including the Old School, and restaurant, into lovely homes in the village. Have you shared details of energy saving grants to residents?

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

Attractive commercial premises, and road-side landscaping, along the N61 entice you to enter Lecarrow. Once in the village lovely stone walls lined with wildflowers are wonderful to see. Arriving from the Athlone Road the name stone is obscured and the writing maybe needs to be enhanced.

Roadside signs stated Lecarrow was a 'Litter free zone'. We don't really know what this means and suggest the signs are removed. On the path up to the dolmen there are two planters made of precast concrete which look out of place.

Whilst your adjudicator did not have time to enjoy the Rinnegan loop, the photographs provided were stunning - hopefully you shared them on your social media.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a delight to explore Lecarrow. Your entry was brimming with lovely projects and actions completed over the

last 12 months. Special mention to the school pupils for their many different projects. You have a strong community all working together to enhance and enjoy Lecarrow.