

Tidy Towns Competition 2023

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lisacul - Lios an Choill** Ref: **795**
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **330**
Category: **A** Date(s): **19/07/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	46	47
Streetscape & Public Places	80	38	39
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	44	47
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	43	45
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	23	24
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	64	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	29	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	34	34
TOTAL MARK	550	321	330

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.

For a small rural community you have a good number of volunteers on your committee, and you are all congratulated for your efforts over the last 12 months. Community is important so we were delighted to read that you were holding another tea party at the crossroads due to the success of the 2022 event. It was good to see the notice boards at the Community Centre. Perhaps another one could be positioned near the central landscaping area or by the central crossroads and new post box in the village? You've focussed efforts in the past 12 months to increase your followers on social media (over 1000 now). This is a great way of sharing details of your work too. We were delighted to read of the close links that you have with the national school and thank the teachers and parents for your combined community efforts.

We comment Lisacul as a community that obviously works well together with all for the betterment of your village.

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

Congratulations to all involved with the lovely bottle top mural beyond the community centre. It is very artistically crafted and raises an important message about plastic waste and reducing our use of plastic, and recycling. We wonder if we could replicate this on a screen at the field gates near the wishing well and central landscaping on the main road?

The Church is wonderfully positioned at the corner of the crossroads. It's wrought-iron entrance gates were lovely with planters with lobelia freshly planted. It will be interested to know which colour you decide to paint the church - samples tested on the rear wall all would be a good choice! The concept of the reusable Christmas tree is fantastic but we were disappointed to see it was still in situ in the summer and it really jars out of season. Can this not be dismantled easily and taken down outside of the festive period?

The Community Centre was very freshly painted and looked great - there was just the chimney left to paint. Even the walls around the Community Centre were also freshly painted and they had lovely planters in the area in a second, matching colour tone.

Arriving from the west, Creatons pub was freshly painted and looked really nice with its door seating area and freshly planted window boxes. The rings at the gable side of the building, we assume for tying up your horses, were noted. How lovely that these are still in place.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Over the past 12 months you have been adding to your Sensory Garden and planted native trees in early Spring. We loved this area and commend your efforts here - what a lovely place. We appreciated the bench newly installed to celebrate the 100 years of Mary Barrett's life and indeed we did as instructed by 'Suigh Sios'. The use of tree branches as support sticks for the many planted trees here help to create a very natural feel to this area. You should submit some photographs of this to the Tidy Towns unit for inclusion in their newsletters. Have you plans to have a harvest celebration? Or have a community workshop to show residents what they can also plant in their garden?

Work was ongoing to maintain the Heritage Trail. You have recently cleaned and painted street furniture.

You work closely with your RSS and CE workers to maintain a high standard of landscaping in the village. Indeed during adjudication they were out busy again working away so thanks to them for their work. Your planned ecologist visit would have been completed during the Summer. We would be interested to read of their suggestions for the stone landscape bed opposite the bottle-top mural and also at the head of the first golden mile road, L5585. Currently the few shrubs here were not doing so well.

The pale mauve / purple planters in the village were full of pollinator-friendly plants. You manage longer grass to try and benefit wildlife and also save money. These are all positive actions outlined in the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. Residents could copy your ideas also by checking out simple actions they can do at home such as leave a small patch of soil for solitary bees to nest in.

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

Your entry form was packed with details of wildlife advice and supports and ideas.

For example, the Lisacul Biodiversity Action Plan BAP is an excellent document. This has pulled together information about all the important habitats and wildlife in your area and made recommendations to raise awareness and to enhance these appropriately. It also has various appendices outlining possible projects, with information on wildlife in the area. This year saw you successfully get funding to work with an ecologist to advance actions from your Biodiversity Action Plan for your community. You also have good links with the NPWS and the County Council and LEADER to help you advance some of the proposed actions. Do keep us updated on how you have progressed please.

With such a strong awareness of biodiversity have you trained any of your followers to submit records to the National Biodiversity Data Centre of any wildlife they've seen?

Were any swifts recorded this year in the village? You could put up nest boxes and encouraging them back to your village. Swift Conservation Ireland provides some really good information about these endangered birds. You have a plan with recommendations also for the old graveyard with ideas to enhance pollinators in the area. How have you got on? Have you attracted more pollinators to this area or encouraged residents to copy you? Maybe you can even think about having a pollinator festival with activities where the public can join.

A series of various activities are planned as part of your outreach program to engage with your community to raise awareness and enhance appropriately the wildlife and habitats in Lisacul. Updates on these would be great.

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

Your entry form had many examples of activities that you are doing that help promote the circular economy. In a rural area it's important to support shared transport plans so it was good to see you promote rural link amenities. Have you thought about promoting car shares or carpooling?

Has the Church, School or Community Centre upgraded their insulation? Perhaps you can consider applying for a SEAI Community Energy Grant for energy improvements across all these buildings?

Your entry shows a clear understanding of how your work links closely with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals in our path to becoming more sustainable.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

A big shout out to Lisacul's Wednesday Warriors!!

Street bins were provided in a number of places and looked very clean during adjudication.

Can you please remove the National Development Plan funding sign at the central landscaped area (behind the wishing well) as it's faded and well past it's required displayed date.

Watch for cable ties on posts and the streetlamps near the crossroads had a lot of glue residue from previous stickers and maybe they could be cleaned annually? Have you thought about maybe painting your utility boxes? Likewise there's a large replaced galvanize sewage vent pipe at the school that really should be painted to help it blend more into the environment.

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

Homes were of a high presentation. We wonder if some may be persuaded to follow your example to plant some pollinator friendly flowers in their gardens?- Do you share details of the plants that you use or share the free downloadable plant list flyers from www.pollinators.ie ? Two homes on the crossroads caught the eye such as one with the fun array of gnomes, and the gorgeous display of brightly coloured dahlias at the other.

There were various groups of home around Lisacul, such as those at The Larches, and as mentioned all looked well during adjudication. Finally we recommend the cottage with the outdoor sheds at Coracoggil North covered with a great array of PV panels. You are encouraged to share and promote details of how other homeowners can avail of grants to generate their own energy also.

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

On the Loughlynn Road it was lovely to see where you have allowed the grass to grow long to benefit wildlife. Across the road will you have a strip of grass between the road and the pavement and we wonder if you could have ox-eye daisies or other plants going here that would really brighten and lift this area. The bright shrubs at Creevy Cross of Saint John's wort or Rose of Sharon made for a lovely welcome arriving from Ballaghadereen.

Speeding traffic was a concern and especially as there's no pavement towards the Creevy crossroad from The Church. We were just stepping out here where the pavement finishes, and were shocked by the speed of a passing vehicle. You are encouraged to discuss with your area engineer some ideas concepts from the DMURS manual which outlines suggestions to help create a sense of place and slow down traffic. The Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets is freely available to download from the internet.

The wooden fencing by the Community Centre on the roadside was being repaired and would look good once finished. Perhaps some hedges could be extended or planted inside the fencing on this road to provide continuity of habitat

The bilingual name signs were clean and look well on arrival in Lisacul.

Finally having not one, but two 'Golden Miles' to explore, and a bog-walk means you have lots of rural roads to explore and celebrate.

Concluding Remarks:

Goodness - you have been entering and working on the national Tidy Towns competition for 33 years. Fair play for your hard work and we applaud how you have evolved and adapted to the new themes. For example, the creation of your new Sensory Garden incorporating native plants to create this oasis is an excellent project that can be enjoyed now and by future generations. We enjoyed exploring your community and learning about the flora and fauna of the area and it was lovely to see and appreciate a strong pride from your community.