

# Tidy Towns Competition 2023

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Loughglynn - Loughlinne** Ref: **103**  
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **314**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **19/07/2023**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	36	38
Streetscape & Public Places	80	40	42
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	40	43
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	39	41
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	22	24
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	26	26
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	38	40
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>314</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.

Thank you for your entry form outlining all your activities since June last year. One of your major projects was the creation of the wildflower area and in the development of this plan you ensured to liaise with many including residents, the Local Authority, the Area Engineer and those involved with the CE scheme to name a few. This was excellent as it is important in any community project to have such discussions to ensure you have strong buy-in. You do a lot of community projects such as hosting a flowers sale. They are not only important fundraising events, they offer an important social outlet.

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

The Church of Our Lady of Good Council is a lovely historic building from the 1900's. It was nicely framed with mature trees along both boundary edges. Nice planters at the gate help enhance its entrance, maybe a couple of replica planters could be positioned at the front door? Is a second pillar to be re-built for the pedestrian gate?

Buildings and commercial premises on the main street all appeared very well. For example Sharky's Funeral Home was freshly painted and look lovely, as did Creaton's Grocers store.

There is a lovely statue of (we think) Lady Erin that we feel could do with some attention and professionally cleaned. It does not feature on the map viewer of <https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/> so we could not find out any details about it. But we felt the railings surrounded it were quite industrial. If these were removed and some planters (with your lovely selection of flowers) were positioned here, it would greatly enhance this area.

The school was freshly painted and looked great with maturing gardens and posters outlining their commitment to the All Ireland Pollinator-Plan (AIPP). Nearby the Community Centre looked lovely on adjudication day. The defibrillator was prominently positioned for ease of access. The clever addition of the five stone pillars on the front of this building greatly enhances its design.

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

You have done exceptional in this category of the competition. You have grown from seed and planted pollinator-friendly flowers everywhere. We particularly liked your placement of planters at junctions - key points where they can make a really strong impact. Also the planting around your freshly painted Community Centre was stunning. Indeed we recommend you take photographs to submit to the national Tidy Towns unit for inclusion in their newsletter and other publications. The 1916 monument looked very well except for the fact that a new light

post has been put right in front of it - what poor positioning. The 7 trees, representing the signatories, and the planted flowers and the nice backdrop of the stone walls all looked lovely. As mentioned, the landscaping was enjoyed everywhere. At the Church we loved how the tiered mowing has allowed wildflowers including rosebay-willowherb and meadow sweet to grow at the edges of the grounds here. The two raised stone beds in the Church Grounds make a big difference breaking up the expanse of mown grass here. The camelias and heathers and other plants all looked great here. You have also planted this year some fruit trees in the Church Ground. This area would be idea for more native trees so well done for planting these. Indeed, maybe an additional small cluster of silver birch trees would work really nicely here also?

Even old tree stumps and water troughs were used for planting and landscaping!! We also love the old climbing rose on the wooden street lamp. And finally the stone bed at the Castlerea end of the village was full of hostas and other lovely perennials that looked well during adjudication.

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

Local wildlife information was clearly displayed and you have shown a strong awareness of the important habitats and wildlife in and around LoughGlynn.

The significant project on which you've worked since last June is the creation of the wildflower meadow in the fields off the Castlerea Road. Sedans, lavender and many other flowers attract birds bees and hedgehogs to this area. Sadly whilst we were at the entrance to the fields indicated on the map we could not locate this planting. This could be another story for the TidyTowns national newsletter.

Did you involve many residents of Loughglynn in this project? Perhaps you organise wildlife walks and surveys? What is your favourite bird? Maybe have a community vote on your favourite flower.

On the road number L1243 there are a number of lovely silver birch trees planted inside the fence. We recommend that all the support straps here are loosened and plastic ties removed. Have you thought about providing a raised herb bed near the school for people to help themselves?

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

The school garden and the poly tunnel at the back of the Community Centre were all admired. These projects help advance the themes of sustainability including food miles using homemade compost and growing from seed. You have again put a lot of time and effort into this. Do you ever run workshops or activities to involve local residents so they can replicate your planting in their own gardens?

It was good to read that you have a rainwater harvesting tank for your landscaping at the Community Centre. How do you move the water around the village? Perhaps you can also install some more rain water butts near to planters so you don't have to carry water long distances. Your entry form says you have them in place but we didn't see many.

Is there a good bus service for the village or a Rural Link scheme that you promote?

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

Thanks to your litter volunteers for their help and participation in the An Taisce Spring Clean. In a rural area it was great to note you are vigilant and report any illegal dumping quickly and monitor for this. There was a high standard of litter control in your village. Watch out for old Circus advertising posters on lamp posts and the odd cable tie left behind on a lamp post also. Little bins were in use and clean. Dog waste bags were also provided. We love seeing flags flying and keep a watchful eye on these to encourage that they are replaced when they get a bit tattered.

It was a little messy around the bottle banks and they lack a frame/surround. Maybe some nice fencing and a community notice board could be positioned here to enhance the banks? An additional community notice board could also be positioned outside the Community Centre to spread details of your good work.

Underneath one of the road signs at the junction for the graveyard is an old wooden frame obviously from an advertising sign. Can this be removed please?

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

There are many nicely presented homes in your village and it was lovely to see a lot of buildings that were refurbished and now inhabited. The home across from the ambulance building caught the eye with its lovely front garden packed with planters and eye-catching statues. Many other premises looked well such as the old grey barn building with its corrugated iron roof which presented very nicely. Opposite the school, there was another lovely two-story building with lovely flowers and a sundial and garden gnomes in their garden. Overall the presentation of homes was very high. We recommend you continue to promote energy saving initiatives encouraging homeowners to apply for grants for insulation or solar panels. It was lovely to see the planted boat at Radharc na Locha which you made from recycled wood – you have a talented sign-writer also.

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

Arriving from the west we first encountered the lovely Cuiltyboe cemetery. The hanging baskets and the flowers and the lovely gates looked really well. There is a lovely carved stone name sign built into the wall here as well.

However we would recommend you remove the very large sign asking you not to bring your dogs here and replaces this with a more discreet one as it distracts from this nice entrance. There is good continuity of pavement from the school right to the graveyard.

The new Town and Village Development funding has been applied to good effect at the Castlerea end of the village where it narrows the road and helps slow down traffic. The ramp and pedestrian crossing to the school is an excellent safety initiative. On the Tallahadreen Road the wide curve still feels as if traffic passes quite quickly and indeed one of the warning signs had already been damaged. It's suggested maybe follow up with your Area Engineer on whether or not some strategically placed planters or tree planted at the end of the raised kerbs would help give the impression of narrowing the road and reducing traffic speed here?

Many communities try to plant and grow hedging into words – which to be honest can be difficult to read – but not in Loughglynn. Your 'Failte and Slan' signs on the Castlerea road were excellently executed.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

We're delighted that you came back for your 13th year in this national competition. Your efforts have contributed to the wonderful community spirit and friendship and pride in your village. It was a delight to visit Loughglynn and to enjoy all the efforts that you've put into enhancing your community.