

# Tidy Towns Competition 2023

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **New Inn - Loch Ceann** Ref: **1279**  
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **288**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **21/07/2023**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2022</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2023</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	41	43
Streetscape & Public Places	80	39	40
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	40	41
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	21	22
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	15	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	62	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	29	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	34	35
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>288</b>

### **Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:**

Congratulations on your application for 2023 and on all the hard work done over the last year and indeed since you first participated in 1960. You are deservedly proud of your small village and it was a pleasure to visit for adjudication. You have a strong committee and group of volunteers which is bolstered by the energy and enthusiasm of younger members of the community. You are using all the traditional and digital modes of communication and integrating well with other organisations and associations. This has enabled you to source sponsorship and hands on help. You give some great examples of recent events and how the support provided by group members can result in additional funding that you are putting to great use. You have had a tractor run, darts competition, scare fest and Christmas lights event. You have an active community, not in any way inhibited by the small population. It is not a surprise to hear that your community is growing and that all are made welcome. Keep up the great work

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

Your streetscape is a nice mix of residential, commercial, educational, religious and public realm making New Inn an interesting place to visit. All the important buildings looked great on adjudication day and despite your concerns about unoccupied buildings there was no sense of neglect or dereliction. This suggests that everyone's efforts in this regard are paying off. The grotto is an important point of interest, and it looked great on the day. The redevelopment of the Garda barracks and the plans to create walking/cycle pathways at the Coop are exciting. Combined with the renovation of unoccupied buildings there is no doubt that the village is experiencing a resurgence. The public realm upgrade i.e., paving, creation of raised beds and the use of fastigate Oaks have all added to a much-improved streetscape. I also want to mention your old stone walls which are an important part of your built environment that add great character. It is great to read that you also have a strong appreciation of their ecological value. Where other walls are more recent additions of concrete block, consider greening with ivy or rendering where possible

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

All your greenspace and landscaped areas were colourful and impactful on adjudication day. The area beside the grotto is pleasant. The field at the heart of the village is a huge asset, both in terms of biodiversity support and human wellbeing. For future bulb planting steer away from daffodils and tulip as they have little if anything to offer insects or birds. The Tidy Towns handbook includes a great list of pollinator-friendly bulbs. The move towards use of more perennial species is great. There were some spaces yet to be planted but the overall impact of soft landscaping is very good. The fastigate Oaks make a huge contribution

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

You have referenced the beehive at the graveyard and planting pollinator-friendly plants as your two actions under this category, but you have already referred to several other actions under the streetscape or green space categories. You are creating or maintaining areas of wildflowers and you are using a reduced mowing regime. Your cowslip photograph is a beauty. You mention the removal of briars to sow wildflowers which failed. This reminds me of the importance of the training that your members have embarked upon and the access that you have established with your local biodiversity expert. The briars, while less attractive than wildflowers could be described as an insect super food with flowers and fruit on the menu. Biodiversity support and enhancement is often confusing and its not always pretty, viewed through human eyes. Your commitment to training will pay dividends for years to come.

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

I note that last year's entry and adjudication comments focused on your Scare Fest event and the message to reuse, reduce and recycle. This year you have included examples of recycling planters, creating new planters, use of water butts and overwintering Pelargonium (geranium). This is great to see. However, sustainability is similar to biodiversity as a category in that there are so many possible interventions it can be difficult to know where to start and where to focus. Along with stemming biodiversity collapse this category provides a very useful way in which we can maintain a focus on energy and resource depletion, transport, food miles/waste, building a more circular economy and all the things that we need to address in order to avoid the fast-approaching tipping point that will leave the planet unsuitable for sentient beings. You have an excellent location with a field at the heart of your proud and committed community. It would be great to see you put an ambitious plan forward on sustainability.

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

Congratulations to Denis and all those who are responsible for doing such a good job on keep the village litter free. It was great to see the recognition received on the Council Facebook page – well deserved. On adjudication day the streets and all areas were spotless, including the recycling area, looked after by Mary. Your poop bags appear to be working and kerbs were free of weeds. Great to hear that you also clear them of leaves. Are they composted? Poster removal is also important. Your policy of immediate removal of posters and cleaning of recycling area when dumping occurs is of course the best way to discourage others who are lazy or negligent in their duty to the community and the environment

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

The Lena Rice graveyard, the old forge, the old school and the GAA grounds are all included under streetscape whereas this category applies specifically to houses estates or residential properties throughout the village. You mention the discussions re polytunnels with Fr Meehan Crescent and the preference to have all unoccupied houses filled. On adjudication day all residential areas looked well, gardens are well planted and well cared for. You could organise a competition for the best/favourite garden in New Inn. The standards are high. Please note that the photo of the beautiful cherry tree in flower has a strip of yellow where the base of the wall was sprayed with chemical.

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

All approach roads were free of litter, well maintained and well signposted on adjudication day. Your spring clean and regular patrolling is effective. Verges, hedgerows and fencing all maintained and planting under washed/painted welcome signs colourful and impactful. Keep up the great work.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

This was a first time visit for this adjudicator and it was a pleasure to spend a little time in the village. You have a vibrant engaged community and some unique assets. The time that you are investing in biodiversity training will build know-how that will be important in the future as you move back to the top of the Tidy Towns league again