

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lavey - Leamhaigh** Ref: **1426**  
County: **Cavan** Mark: **250**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **20/06/2022**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2021</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2022</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	33	34
Streetscape & Public Places	80	35	36
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	38	40
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	22	22
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	5	7
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	53	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	26	26
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	31	31
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>250</b>

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu don bhliain 2022. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Adh Mór...

With a population of 35 that 18 people are committee members and a further 25 volunteer is testament to community involvement in Lavey Tidy Towns. The committee meets monthly to discuss current and future projects. The application was well laid out and clearly described the projects both new and maintained which were undertaken in the past year. The photographs

Congratulations on receiving several grants from Cavan Co. Co, not without the Committee giving time and effort to preparing grant applications. The Youth group Foroige and the local drama group Draíocht have supported your fundraising activities. The Committee also has strong support from local businesses for advice and a venue for Tidy Town activities.

Communication methods include print - church newsletters, noticeboards in shops, local newspaper, and social media and text messages.

Youth Tidy Towns involvement extends from children in the local Killyconnan National School, to youth involved in Lavey Foróige Club, G.A.A. and other young people. Their involvement bodes well for the Tidy Towns movement in Lavey and beyond.

The establishment of the Lavey Growers has been your project of the year. Viewing the polytunnel from the outside it was obvious to this adjudicator that the crops within were growing very well. Site. It is obvious from your application that both the local community and the local area has benefitted greatly from your involvement in the Tidy Towns awards.

The three-year plan sets out the many maintenance tasks undertaken in each of the seasons as well as detailing new projects in the coming years. It is noteworthy that at the time of the adjudication that the tasks detailed for early 2022 had been completed.

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

The visit was to a widespread village extending from Upper Lavey to Lavey Lake to Lower Lavey. Some signage indicating the approaching village would be helpful.

At Upper Lavey there is a generous church car park, separated from the main road by a raised wall filled with mature shrubs.

Accessible area with good paths on both sides of the N3 and several pedestrian crossing areas creating a circular walk from Lees Cottage to Lavey Lake. The Lavey Lake shore area has been a very successful project, with accessible paths from the village, car parking, picnic seats and solar panel waste disposal unit. The near tragedy at the lake has resulted in an attractive venue for photographs as evident in the photographs supplied.

General maintenance of Lavey Stores by the new proprietor, sweeping of roads, management of hedges all

contribute to the high standards of presentation of the village. While the bus shelters have been cleaned, perhaps those responsible might paint the bus signs. AOH memorials are uncommon and this one in Lower Lavey is neat, tidy and unobtrusively protected from vehicles.

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

At Upper Lavey a future project could include some replacement planting in the perimeter raised beds. Planting such native shrubs as Guelder Rose (*Viburnum*) and Cinquefoil (*Potentilla*) would link with surrounding native vegetation.

Lees Cottage colours of plants in containers co-ordinated red and white of doors and windows. white. Near Lee's cottage the grass verge was mown to a width of the mower and the remainder of the grass on the embankment was unmown – an ideal solution to the treatment of grass verges, providing for pedestrians and pollinators. In your application you mention Matt Cusack who undertakes most of the grass maintenance work.

The recent planting scheme of shrubs, perennials and a hedge of native Hawthorn by the exit to Cross Keys has been given a generous mulch and will assist plant establishment. As the plants grow the poles of signposts and electricity junction boxes should become less noticeable. Other existing shrubberies show the effects of their recent rejuvenation.

There are well maintained grounds at the Lavey Inn and the removal of the wooden fence has given the area an added spaciousness.

At both ends of the village and at points in the village black coloured planters with a yellow foliaged shrub – Mock Orange (*Philadelphus*) are a subtle form of landscaping. As one leaves the village the gaily coloured garden plants give way to the more muted colours and predominant green of our native trees and shrubs.

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

What a rich resource for nature and biodiversity at Lavey lake. Allowing some Alder to develop will provide cover for wildfowl. While the recently planted hawthorn hedges by the sturdy wooden fences will link with hawthorn hedges nearby and help form a wildlife corridor through the village.

This adjudicator wondered if there was potential to identify and enhance more habitats in the adjoining sunken field where rushes, willow and alder saplings predominate. This is probably the area mentioned in your application, which is close to the N3.

Many Tidy Towns groups have constructed bee, bug, or butterfly hotels in their towns or villages, perhaps you could liaise with other them. Some have been awarded a Community Foundation for Ireland Biodiversity Grant. This might be a good starting point. Once the local habitats are mapped more detailed surveys of the flora and fauna, including fish and birds, could take place. The County Council's heritage officer may be able to advise.

The Church grounds at Upper Lavey and Lower Lavey are extensive with neatly mown grass and shrubs. Perhaps some of the grassed areas could be left unmown until later in the summer to facilitate pollinators and reduce the time spent and fuel used mowing grass. In time these areas might become outdoor nature study areas for the adjacent primary schools.

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

Whether by design or serendipity, one large car park at Lower Lavey, serves a church and graveyard, growers' group, adult exercise equipment, children's playground, a national school and community centre – multipurpose use of one area of tarmacadam.

Rainwater collection at Lees cottage water used to water plant filled milk churns and baskets.

The pillar like planters on the green opposite the filling station caught my attention. I was interested to read that they were salvaged terracotta drainage pipes which has been repurposed as plant containers. A good example of upcycling.

The work of the Committee and local businesses to introduce sustainable packaging and reusable cups is to be commended.

The plan to develop a wormery is worthwhile. You might also consider developing composting of leaves and plant debris.

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

The ongoing work with regard to tidiness and litter control was described in your application. It was heartening to read that so many people supported the Spring Clean event and that the Lavey Inn provides refreshments for participants on such occasions. The requested regular visit by a Co Council Road Sweeper will help maintain the roads litter free and assist with road drainage. The 'No sign policy' is one that could be adopted in other villages and towns.

A County Council sign for adopt a km litter control campaign indicates that Lavey and surrounding area is involved in the scheme. You mention that local volunteers go for a walk armed with a bag and picker.

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

House holders had placed flower filled containers on railings and walls and so enhanced the appearance of the village.

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

The approach on both directions on the N3 are well maintained. The exits from the N3 are clearly signposted. Cherry Laurel usually forms a substantial hedge, however by the Stradone road is growing poorly. Hawthorn which

forms a hedge on a field boundary on the opposite side of the road would be a suitable alternative. While the loss of trees is regrettable, at times they become unsafe and have to be removed. Judging by the new fencing, road safety and a view of the lake outweigh the tree loss.

**Concluding Remarks:**

Lavey Tidy Towns has achieved a lot in a few years. A strength is the local community supportive of the Tidy Towns' initiatives to enhance the village by developing amenity planting schemes, reducing litter and providing recycling facilities. The village is situated in a picturesque area where nature and biodiversity, assets already recognised by Lavey Tidy Towns, can be enhanced through future projects to the benefit of the local environment and the local and wider community.