

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Loch Gowna - Loch Gamhna</b>	Ref: <b>55</b>
County: <b>Cavan</b>	Mark: <b>322</b>
Category: <b>A</b>	Date(s): <b>15/06/2022</b>

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	45	46
Streetscape & Public Places	80	41	42
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	44	45
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	33	33
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	16	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	64	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	35	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	37	38
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>322</b>

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

Community planning and involvement 46

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...

Loch Gowna has been in the Tidy Towns awards for 20 years, winning awards on several occasions. This has promoted 'a pride of place' among the local community. The TT committee of 10 members is assisted by 16 volunteers. Local schools and newly arrived Ukrainians are also involved.

Some ten local agencies, including Gowna Housing Association, Cavan Co. Council, Pobal and the local churches support their work.

The T T Committee uses newspapers, social media, church notices and posters to communicate with the local community.

Their principal project in the past year was the construction of an AstroTurf pitch in the school grounds. On the day of adjudication it was being put to good use by the pupils.

The three-year plan mid July 2020 – mid July 2023 and general work plan were included. Many congratulations on achieving so many of your goals despite the restrictions caused by COVID 19. No doubt by this stage your proposed community meetings to discuss the next three plan have taken place.

The map provided was clear and very useful during the adjudication.

An informative collection of photographs was also included. In future applications, if relevant do include before and after photographs of your projects.

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

Stone walls are a feature of the village. Those by the the Gowna Community Centre and Catholic Church linking with Gort Mhic Thiernán. Seats are part of the lengthy wall opposite the old national schools While the recently constructed walls and features on the other four roads provide a unity of design in the village. There are wide well maintained paths throughout the village.

The streetscapes are well maintained and painted in subdued colours. It was obvious that the local hotel had given thought to the colours of walls, signage, name plates and plants in hanging baskets.

A lot has been achieved in this category, with the recent planting in the Village Green, installation of street furniture, gravel paths and sporting facilities. A notable feature is the inclusion of wheelchair and stroller accessible picnic benches in the Green.

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

Village Green, church grounds well maintained with trees in these grounds adding to the overall tree coverage in the village. There is ongoing maintenance of the trees and grass area by Swan Lake. A future project might be the refurbishment of the amenity area enclosed by a fence and bollards and replant the stone planter holding the town's name plate.

On the Longford road the mature amenity planting with single trees and shrubs encircled by stones are colourful and well maintained. Nearby more recently constructed stone wall and newly planted perennial plants were evident. As was evident on the day of adjudication school children were involved with planting their own school grounds with colourful plants.

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

As you mention in the application Cloone Shore amenity is to be developed.

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

The Committee has one notable example, the purchase of the Old National School by the Committee and Gowna. The recently installed picnic benches and plant containers in the Green were made from recycled material. The items within this category, Minecraft, bicycle parking all relate to the school. While these projects are valuable what about sustainability and the adult population? Elsewhere in your applications you mention other sustainability issues which are being addressed in the village such as the use of LED lights, the provision of an EV charge point and a solar panelled litter bin.

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

Congratulations on maintaining the village 100% litter free status in the Cavan County Council's survey. The Easter Monday clean up received huge support with 250 people involved. And two lorry loads of rubbish were collected. What happened to the litter, can you segregate it? What might be done to reduce litter?

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

Entrance and green area in Gort Mhic Thiernán were well maintained with a low grass cutting regime on part of the site. The two housing estates leading to and opposite the Swan Lake shoreline were well managed. In the former perhaps some trees could be planted in roadside grass verges.

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

The four approach roads have suitable town name signs. Good footpaths lead to and from the edge of the village. The construction of the Stop junction at the crossroads in the centre of the village must make vehicular movement around the village much safer.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

In several places in the application, you mention Cavan County Council, the T T Committee collaborates very well with the Council.

My lasting impression of Loch Gowna is how much is packed into a small area, a village, with a green, playground, sports facilities, well maintained housing estates and streetscapes with shops hotel and churches and lastly Swan Lake. The plan to upgrade community walks around Loch Gowna should introduce many more people to the village.