

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Virginia - Achadh an Lúir** Ref: **58**
County: **Cavan** Mark: **300**
Category: **D** Date(s): **13/06/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	44	45
Streetscape & Public Places	80	41	42
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	40	40
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	36	37
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	19	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	49	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	33	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	33	33
TOTAL MARK	550	295	300

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...
The Virginia Tidy Towns Committee has 10 members and 40 volunteers, an impressive number. The Committee meets monthly and information about decisions made passed to other groups. Communications with the wider community is via social media, text message, parish newsletters and local newspapers. The input of TUS workers and community hours from the Courts Service must be a great help with your projects. Syrian, Ukrainian and Irish gardeners can learn from one as they maintain the Community Garden – another Tidy Towns project. Youth are involved in Tidy Towns via St Mary's National School which has an outdoor classroom at the Community Garden. Virginia College Transition Year students who participate in Gaisce awards. While the town has participated in Tidy Towns for more than 40 years, recent involvement commenced in 2014. This has resulted as you write in 'Virginia being a more pleasant place to us all to live, work and do business'. The Tidy Town plan for 2021 – 24 is comprehensive and it is good to see that some projects have been completed already. Lean leis on dea obair !

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

The Tidy Towns Committee has been very active in this category. Major revitalisation is underway on the Main Street with particular attention on the New Library and Civic Centre. Already completed are the redecoration of some buildings including the Old Fire Station and some premises on the Main Street; new streetlights, car parking and significant work at the Dunacrocy Bridge. Now that some derelict buildings have been registered with Cavan County Council, it might be possible to refurbish and repurpose them. It was worth noting that some premises on the Main Street were for sale or had been sold. The Lakeshore area at Lough Ramor, a project of 2021/22 is now completed, with parking, paths, seats, exercise equipment, picnic tables, litter bins and information panels now in place. An attractive amenity area for locals and visitors, and the adjacent school, Virginia College. Other small amenity areas include the Virginia Brooch monument with boat and seats, and a tree planted area at the junction of the Dublin road and Bailieborough road and paved triangular area with trees at the junction of the Ballyjamesduff road and the Cavan road. Progress has been made rerouting cabling underground and this has made a difference to the appearance of the streets. Parking is available on the Main Street and in new car parks located off the Main Street.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

It is interesting to read that a subcommittee for this topic was formed in 2016. The committee holds planting

weekends and has planted a beech hedgerow, bulbs, developed a wildflower area and planted trees at the Bailieborough road junction. In the past year a community garden with a polytunnel was developed at near the Bailieborough road. Self-watering plant containers have been situated along the Main Street. It has also encouraged five resident's associations to maintain their estates. From their polytunnel in the town Virginia Men's Shed assists with repairs, planting and making seats.

When planning for next season's activities include maintenance of trees by the Bailieborough Road junction and some pruning of trees by the Virginia Brooch. Aim to have containers planted and well established in time for the adjudication period. Plant containers could be filled with more perennials so as to reduce the need for summer bedding plants each season. Perhaps it is already in the plans for the Main Street but the amenity area at the junction of the Ballyjamesduff Road and the Cavan Road could be refurbished. The cherry trees are poorly, the seats and water pump could be painted and the interpretative panels refreshed. Upgrading may already be planned but the path by the bus stop is very uneven and mucky.

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

As well as supporting the work at Killyconney Bog and the removal of Cherry Laurel at Coillte Deerpark Forest, the committee has developed a wildflower corridor on the outskirts of the town.

The project, completed in the past season, is located by Cranadillon Way and the Ballyjamesduff road. Has the committee considered surveying the flora and fauna of this new area? Year on year it would make a very interesting study for second level students studying Biology as they could track how this habitat develops. In a so called 'abandoned' garden to the rear of the Main Street nature has taken over and a wonderful wildflower area has sprung up.

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

Virginia Tidy Towns has made strides in this area by part funding LED Christmas lights, registering with the Green Homes scheme, using bicycle tubes as tree ties and sharing seeds from the Library. The Committee is also aware of other activities in the town such as recycling of clothes, charity shops, reducing food waste food and use of low energy lights in buildings.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The town took part in the An Taisce Spring Clean. Is the litter segregated and recycled? The decision to remove litter bins from the Main Street is a brave one, and the practice of getting people to bring their rubbish home appears to work. It was interesting to read that your 'Adopt a Patch' initiative, begun during Covid, continues and is more successful than an earlier 'Adopt a Road' project.

Reference was made to a Litter Plan and the identification of litter blackspots. In a future application do include details as to how you plan to overcome this issue.

The Virginia Brooch monument area was a little unkempt at the time of the adjudication and could do with a general clean and repainting of the two boats. On the Main Street weeds have grown by some kerbs and bollards - weeding is on ongoing task.

At the Lough Ramor shore, a facility to recycle cups and lids had been installed adjacent to the school and the woodland walk.

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

The entrance to the estate by Virginia Show is attractively planted with shrubs. At Old Mill Crescent it was obvious that householders took great pride in their gardens.

At the Drumlins the general open spaces areas were attractive and well maintained. This was also the case with several other housing areas.

Where there are large expanses of grass could a 'no mow' or a reduced mowing regime be introduced in housing estates so as to support pollinators and reduce the use of fuel.

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

There are several accessible lane ways leading from the Main Street, some with fine old stone walls and fine views to the surrounding countryside.

The approach roads from the Granard, Cavan Bailieborough directions were neat and tidy, the approach from the Dublin side less so.

Concluding Remarks:

Thank you for your well-prepared application with several new or maintained projects in each category. There are many examples of co-operation with other groups and agencies in the town and you have links with neighbouring Tidy Towns committees in Maghera and Mullagh.

Continued success with your projects. I look forward to visiting another time when the refurbishment of the Ramor theatre and Library and environs is completed.