

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mohill - Maothail** Ref: **435**  
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **324**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **20/06/2022**

|   | Maximum<br>Mark | Mark<br>Awarded 2021 | Mark<br>Awarded 2022 |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Community – Your Planning and Involvement | 80              | 48                   | 49                   |
| Streetscape & Public Places               | 80              | 46                   | 48                   |
| Green Spaces and Landscaping              | 80              | 43                   | 44                   |
| Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality  | 55              | 30                   | 31                   |
| Sustainability – Doing more with less     | 55              | 24                   | 25                   |
| Tidiness and Litter Control               | 90              | 58                   | 59                   |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas       | 55              | 32                   | 32                   |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes           | 55              | 35                   | 36                   |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>                         | <b>550</b>      | <b>316</b>           | <b>324</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. Ádh Mór oraibh! Many thanks for your application form, complete with photographs, map and 5-Year Plan (2021-2026). Thank you for the detailed form, though in parts it was too long which makes it more difficult to pick out what is most relevant and to adjudicate efficiently. You seem to have a strong committee of 12 with 10 volunteers. While numbers have dwindled due to COVID, by holding meetings and events as you do, this should encourage more to join. Having representatives from local housing estates is a real bonus and should help with a focused approach throughout the town. Support from the various groups such as the GAA Club, Youth Club, Foróige, schools and ICA should be of great benefit to your committee. There is also an impressive array of local businesses and agencies that offer their sponsorship and advice, etc, e.g. Mohill Show, Mohill Credit Union and Tús. Communicating via both digital (e.g. Facebook) and more traditional means (e.g. local radio, newspaper) ensures you are reaching a range of age groups. You also seem to be active in encouraging young people to join your activities and events which is very positive. I am delighted that you continue to get so much out of the Tidy Towns competition after over 30 years of participation.

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

Well done on securing funding for the public realm works which will make a huge difference to Mohill when completed. I found the new Peace Programme funded building with the library and An Seomra Cairdeas to be quite striking. It is very well finished with attractive outdoor stone picnic tables. The wildflowers along the stream here were pretty too! Dereliction unfortunately continues to be an issue in towns and villages across Ireland, including in Co. Leitrim and Mohill. I acknowledge it takes effort and persistence to improve this situation, so well done for your continued work with Leitrim Co Co and local landowners in this regard. I was struck by the old, vacant bank building – this has so much potential and I hope it can be restored soon. Shopfronts that were particularly well presented included O' Brien's Tavern, Reflections Salon, O' Callaghan's and Paul's Newsagents. A few of the premises on Hyde Street looked vacant but efforts have been made to improve this area and there are a few nice shopfronts along here too. Best of luck with the plans for the Station House, this sounds like an exciting development! The Carolan memorial and Matthew Sadlier seat with paved area was a visual and cultural focal point. I noted the lovely historical buildings around, giving your town a unique sense of place. The new directional and historical trail signage is worth noting, which I also see is a project of your 5-Year Plan. There is so much included in your form for this category, though I see that you have genuinely done a lot of work here and continue to do so. I commend you for this.

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

Mohill has less green space than other places I have visited, though what you do have is managed well and seems to be sensitive to nature. The community garden was very impressive with lovely wildflower paths and seems to be well used. A new pedestrian entrance here is a good move. I see a masterplan is marked for it in the 5-Year Plan. I noted the verges into the town in many cases were not overcut, with some longer strips left for wildlife. The trees and hedgerows also looked healthy and I was glad to see they are also not heavily cut back, as is often common practice, unfortunately. Managing the Linear Park for biodiversity will contribute positively to nature in the area. Planting 70 trees this spring for your tree replacement programme deserves a mention here. 'The Deal' is an eye-catching sculpture with pretty flowerpots nearby, however the triangular piece of ground beside it was surrounded by an off-putting temporary fence and looks untidy – it has potential as there are already some nice wildflowers growing here. I could not access the LAPWD sensory garden as the gates were closed when I arrived, however it sounds like a great initiative. The addition of pollinator friendly plants and herb boxes will certainly support the local bees. Some displays had bee-friendly varieties, e.g. Salvias, although others I saw still have the traditional sorts such as Marigolds, Begonias and Petunias, which contain little nectar/pollen. Overall though, you have made great strides here.

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

The riverbank by the new library stood out for its lovely wildflowers, e.g. Ox-Eye Daisies, though I noted the stretch along Arus Carolan needs some work as it was overgrown. The water level was low and quite a bit of vegetation in the riverbed. I see you are in contact with the Co Co and LAWPRO to monitor the water quality and siltation here, however. Maintenance of the wildlife corridors and avoiding pesticides are to be commended, as are your native tree planting efforts. The flowerpots at 'The Deal' were pollinator friendly and even more impressive that they were grown in the community garden. I also noted the water butts and compost bays in the community garden. Your actions to encourage young people to get involved in nature seem to be paying off with the use of the community garden by the Youth Café, etc. Attending local biodiversity events during Biodiversity Week and vegetable growing courses as some of you did this year will only build on your biodiversity knowledge. For more inspiration under this category, check out the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) and related resources at [pollinators.ie](http://pollinators.ie). FIT (Flower-Insect Timed) Counts are also a good idea for monitoring your insect populations – please see more at [biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/fit-counts/](http://biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/fit-counts/).

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

Sustainability is a broad topic, but it boils down to actions such as conserving water, minimising waste and practising recycling, encouraging walking/cycling and public transport, as well as saving energy and using renewable energy where possible. Delighted to hear about the new solar PV project at your community centre. I saw the panel on my visit. Good that some private residents are embracing retrofits and solar PV projects. Recycling via the bring banks and during litter picks is great, as well as composting in the community garden. Your other efforts such as school uniform donations, Food Cloud Bank and Country Market (soon to be relaunched) are all worthy actions to be commended. Growing your own flowers in the community garden cuts down on resources as well as cost! I noted bike stands in one or two places also, e.g. at the Carolan memorial. These, in conjunction with the planned greenway will hopefully encourage more cycling locally, with less reliance on the car, which is clogging our small towns and villages and making us unhealthy. For more information on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, you can visit [irelandsdg.geohive.ie](http://irelandsdg.geohive.ie).

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

Overall, I found Mohill to be tidy and well kept. I note your committee and volunteer efforts here, along with RSS and Tús workers. Your twice-weekly litter pick is to be commended and glad to hear that waste is segregated. I trust you will be undertaking the National Spring Clean again next year, as per your application. I found the bring centre to be very tidy with clear signage. The 'Adopt a Road' scheme is popular and often works well, as you have experienced. Road signage seemed to be quite clean too, as well as the footpaths and paved areas for the most part. I did note that some overhead cables remain and that the Christmas lights are still up. Could the lights perhaps be removed for the spring and summer months? Your maintenance efforts are to be commended in this category, however.

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

On the northern side, both Cúirt Ó Carolan and Knocklongford estates have some nicely kept houses, but a little maintenance is needed at the estate entrances here and there, e.g. the shrubs and flowerpots. Some maintenance of the raised flowerbeds is needed along the exterior wall at Cappagh Estate, though many of the private gardens are lovely. The little cottage at Water Street has been painted – will some artwork be added to the windows to brighten it up? A few estates may benefit from a little maintenance such as paintwork, mending of walls and general tidy ups. Hyde Park in the town has lovely old houses but has the potential for enhancement. Other housing estates such as Shannagh Grove, Ard na Sí and Bully's Acre were tidy, as well as some properties nearer the town centre. One or two of the estates on the town's outskirts look a little unfinished, though the existing houses in them do look well.

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

There are several approach roads into Mohill from various directions. The road in from the northern side by the community centre is tidy with good road markings. The community centre itself is well maintained. The wooden Mohill welcome signs (here and at Shannagh Grove at the other end of town) are lovely and have scrubbed up well following some recent maintenance. Mohill Community College looks to be very well maintained, though it struck me they could perhaps mow their grounds a bit less, perhaps even during the summer months? There was a stretch of

weeds along the Youthreach court boundary at Convent Lane – although I don't like the word 'weeds', they did look untidy here. The nearby graveyard was well maintained. Station Road will be enhanced greatly when the railway building is renovated. The Centra and car park here are pleasantly landscaped though I noted some empty premises across the road, which is out of the committee's hands, of course. The Cappagh Trail signs outside the town looked great and I had a wander down a small part of the route.

**Concluding Remarks:**

I enjoyed my visit to Mohill and was drawn to the many historical features of your town. There is a lot of work going on to improve the town and I commend your continuing efforts. There is a lot of potential here and I have no doubt that things will only get better. Best of luck for the future!