

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Louth - Lú</b>	Ref: <b>899</b>
County: <b>Louth</b>	Mark: <b>287</b>
Category: <b>B</b>	Date(s): <b>28/06/2022</b>

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2021</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2022</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	46	46
Streetscape & Public Places	80	37	38
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	36	37
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	28	29
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	15	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	62	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	31	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	28	28
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>287</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... Thank you for your 2022 entry to the Tidy Towns Competition, your application form with accompanying map. We are delighted that you have now been entering the competition for seventeen years and thank you for your hard work and dedication to your community.

You have a good sized committee with an impressive number of volunteers. This shows the community spirit that is clearly evident in Louth Village. It is heartening to know that new residents to the village are getting involved and your positive relationship with St Mochtas National School, the Irish Girl Guides and the St. Mochtas GFC shows that the Tidy Towns Committee is an integral part of the village and this is to be commended.

You receive excellent support from a wide range of agencies, businesses and bodies which surely enables you to advance ideas, costs and progress on your projects. Well done to the 12 businesses in the village who sponsor your work. Your communication methods are varied as is fitting and include social media, regular articles in local newspapers and notices in local shops.

The application form did not list the new projects by number through each category and in some categories no new projects were specified. This is a pity as clearly a lot of work has been carried out and there are new projects in place. That said, any new projects identified by the adjudicator have been taken into account. Unfortunately the map provided was not practical for this adjudicator. No projects were mentioned or numbered on the map and specific areas that had been mentioned as key projects for this year, including Lawlesses Green and the credit union were not marked which made locating the projects all the more difficult.

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

Your main priority this year has been continued improvement works at the Abbey. The ruins of this impressive church, possibly the longest priory church in Ireland, is indeed a worthy project and well done for working with Louth County Council's Heritage Officer to design a new information panel which is very nicely presented for both St Mary's Abbey and St. Mochta's House. This is an exciting project and the ancient dwelling discovered as you were clearing the rubble is fascinating. Do keep us updated on your progress. The walk down to the church with the lovely seating is very pleasant and surely a big attraction to Louth village for visitors.

You have also finalised the installation of over 25 new heritage signs, and provided sensory equipment for the playground in Fr. Finn Park garden.

What good news that the house beside the church will remain as a family home. The revamp of the Community Centre funded through Louth Leader is also good news.

The 5 Year Public Realm Plan for the village will transform your village and your input will be invaluable in ensuring that it is developed in a sensitive and sustainable way as desired by the community.

The businesses in the village centre were all looking particularly well maintained. Those that caught the eye included Shang Garden Take-away, Sark's and Ardee Credit Union. You mention that private house owners pay particular attention to existing colour schemes when refurbishing their houses to blend in with the immediate landscape and this is very obvious and wonderful to see. It is also indicative of a Tidy Towns Committee collaborating and working with the local community in a very effective way. The planning permission granted for six houses on the site of a derelict property will greatly enhance the area.

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

You continue to maintain many areas in the village including the four main green areas in the centre. The planting on these areas consisted of a range of perennial shrubs with bursts of colour and many pollinating plants. This is to your credit. Mature trees are an integral part of the village and are well maintained. The church grounds and St. Mochta's National School were also beautifully kept and as you rightly say, the church grounds are likely to be remembered most by visitors to the village.

Overall the village was so nicely kept with green spaces, mature trees, colourful planting and then some annual flowers for pops of colour that it was a pleasure to visit. Well done.

Many of the gardens of houses were really nicely planted and contributed hugely to the pleasing and characterful appearance of the village.

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

Fr Finn Park is a central point beside the playground and as such is undoubtedly well used. The area around the arbour, while left to grow wild, was also just a bit untidy. Some litter was gathered there and there was an old stone left lying under the seat. The edges did appear to have been sprayed with herbicide and the hanging baskets on the walls seemed to lack any plants. Perhaps it would be better to remove the hanging baskets and have some climbers to cover the walls. There seems to be a little more work needed here to turn it into a sensory garden but it is nonetheless a lovely space.

A biodiversity area outside the grounds of St. Mochta's GFC will be a wonderful addition. Please do show us before and after photographs next year.

There are areas of stunning planting schemes full of pollinating plants both on approach roads and in the village which must be a haven for wildlife.

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

You have many ongoing projects in this category although most are projects that have been in place now for some time such as the bring bank, textile bank, kerbside green bin collection and Trashion Fashion.

You work closely with St. Mochta's National School, a Green Flag school and the sustainability message invariably travels from the pupils to their homes.

The installation of energy efficient lighting when the church was being rebuilt, collection of water in five water butts and an increase in awareness of sustainable travel are all excellent initiatives.

Dividing this category into the four headings of waste, water, energy and food enables a committee to identify the areas and work on each one. It is good to try and quantify the savings that your initiatives are producing and also to try and increase savings, awareness and project in this category year on year.

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

Louth village in general was clean and tidy on adjudication day. There were a few minor issues noticed. One litter bin by the seats in the centre was quite dirty and the dog waste sticker half torn off and unfortunately there was no sign of any recycling bins at all. One seat on lane to St. Mary's Abbey is missing the back. There was also some litter on this lane.

An old waterpump was missing its top and looking somewhat sad. These historical items form a part of the history of the area and it would be good to try and replace this top.

You are clearly continuing with your litter management programme and it is good to know that new residents have now joined your regular tidy ups.

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

You have undertaken significant works and new landscaping at the second phase of Fr Finn housing estate and are to be applauded for this. It is still early days and hopefully as it matures it will provide the pollination friendly planting that you are aiming for.

Well done also for working with the residents' associations to ensure their planting is in line with the National Pollinator Plan.

Chapel View was nicely maintained. Some area could be softened a little with planting, particularly around the two large stones and against some of the blank walls. The trees were in good condition and gave a lovely sense of calm to the area.

The Abbey Court rose bed at the entrance was a blaze of colour on adjudication day.

Houses along the main streets were also very nicely maintained with lovely window box and planters.

Please do remember to use bi-lingual names for any new signs.

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

The approach roads were very effectively maintained with plenty of grass left to go wild, cleanly mown strips at the edges, large mature trees and hedging. The village name signs on the approach roads are original and effective

with wonderful planting schemes. It is a shame that they are in English only and not bi-lingual. One slight blot on the landscape were two signs for businesses (Louth Timber Products and Cobra). Both signs would benefit from a refurbishment and this would greatly improve the stretch of road they are on.

**Concluding Remarks:**

Louth village is clearly a close-knit community with a hard working Tidy Towns Committee who are making a big difference and are to be commended. Good luck in the Tidy Towns competition.