

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Batterstown - Baile an Bhóthair	Ref: 574
County: Meath	Mark: 345
Category: A	Date(s): 30/06/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	48	50
Streetscape & Public Places	80	40	42
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	47	48
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	35	36
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	23	26
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	68	69
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	33	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	38	39
TOTAL MARK	550	332	345

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.

Thank you for your application, plan, map and copy of your master energy plan. The committee has ten members and a large number of volunteers. The group hold an AGM every five years. At the start of the five year plan all members of the community are invited along and encouraged to give input into this plan. Meetings are held on the first Friday of the month. You are fortunate to have a number of different skilled people involved on the committee who can help out with various projects. Sub committees are put in place to drive different projects such as the old graveyard project or the sustainable energy community programme. The men's shed are very helpful and this year Kilcloon men's shed are building a model train for the track at the Sidings. Communication to the wider community is through WhatsApp, village notice board and word of mouth. You engage well with all agencies and businesses who help with advice and funding. There is a good working relationship with the school especially through the Green School Programme. The Tidy Towns group and school support one another with projects. Batterstown is twenty-five years taking part in the competition and look forward each year, to meeting up to see how they have done in the competition and plan for the year ahead.

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

The village centre consists of Caffrey's Pub and Restaurant with adjoining buildings and carpark, which is bright and colourful with an abundance of well cared for landscaping. The shopping area across is also well presented but the flower beds at front need planting. The area of the Matchmaker is impressive work and makes a splendid feature in the village. The stone wall at the front of the sculptors enhances this area, however the green artificial covering takes from the overall effect. The pump in this area needs painting. The National School was well presented. The Church also looked fresh and bright. The GAA Club House and surrounds, an important amenity for the community looks superb. Work is ongoing in this area with continuous developments to the buildings and surrounds with a new walkway being organised, which will provide a safe walking route for the community. The old graveyard was also visited and what a transformation to this site since this adjudicators last visit. The wild flower planting, fruit trees and other planning was noted and admired. Well done to the volunteers who continue to work and care for this important part of the heritage of the village.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Good landscaping is noted along the approach roads and in the village centre. The planting at the Pub and Restaurant consisting of hanging baskets and ground planting is bright and colourful. The landscaping at the

railway bridge brightens up the grey stone work. There were many other good areas of planting at houses in the village with a number of brightly coloured hanging baskets noted. Planting of pollinator friendly plants is encouraged. Ground planting where feasible is also encouraged reducing the work associated with container planting if possible.

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

The village is rich in biodiversity and it is important that all projects undertaken should be researched to ensure continuous protection and enhancement of nature and biodiversity in the locality. The planting of wildflower areas and reduced cutting of grass all helps enhance biodiversity. There are already a large number of mature trees, hedging and stone walls that provide natural habitats. It is important to carry out a study on the biodiversity and habits in the village. The old graveyard would be one area where this study could be carried out. Bat boxes and bird boxes are good but it is important to know if these boxes are used and what type of species uses them. Working with Bird Watch Ireland would also be helpful to learn more about the wildlife that could be identified and appreciated in the village. Working closely with the school in this category is also important. With two bee hives installed in the village a workshop on bees has been completed by the school children. Two members have also completed the beginners course. We look forward to learning more about the bees and their activities in due course.

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

In this category groups are asked to look at if they are managing their resources efficiently and as a result are helping to reduce waste generation in the locality. The four main themes are water, waste, transport and energy. Some of the measures you have in place such as harvesting of rainwater which can be adapted by the wider community is good. Composting of grass and reducing the amount of grass and the frequency of cuts are all ways of saving. The GAA are doing good work with reduced use of electricity. These savings are also being done by the community with the retrofitting of homes making their homes more efficient. The use of solar panels and the use of LED lighting are all good ways of helping to reduce waste generation. Growing of vegetables such as was noted in the Railway Station House Garden could be extended to the wider community. The Master Energy plan is very comprehensive. Your aim for this plan is to see a 30% reduction in residential energy consumption over 10 years is applauded.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

There is a good plan in place around the control of litter. There are regular litter picks. The village have now entered the green kilometre which has replaced the anti-litter league. The group takes part in An Taisce clean up each year which creates awareness among the wider community. All roads into the village are part of the litter plan. Traffic is high through the village and results in litter being thrown from cars. The local bins are sometimes used for domestic rubbish. At the Sidings there was a heap of cut grass which looked untidy.

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

The houses along the approach roads and throughout the village have well painted facades, neat gardens and hanging baskets, bringing great vibrancy to the streetscape. The estates have good landscaped entrances, well maintained green areas, trees and hedging. The residents are commended on the work they have done in maintaining their homes to such a high standard. Well done to Batterstown on receiving four awards in the Pride of Place awards Rathoath Meath District. These awards are:

Best Village

-Climate Action Report

-Best Vacant Premises

-Residential Streetscape (Bush Lane)

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

The entrance signs to the village on all roads are good. Verges are neat with corridor of grass left for wildlife. The railway bridge is enhanced by good landscaping. The bollards in the village need to be straightened and painted. The train at the Sidings is very impressive. Bush Lane is also admired with many items to keep the walkers interest. The cemetery was admired. Signage is good. The Bus stop seat needs freshening. The area around the composter also needs some attention.

Concluding Remarks:

Batterstown as always is a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. You are doing good work to enhance this lovely village. Keep up the good work and you are wished well in the future.