

Tidy Towns Competition 2024

Adjudication Report

Centre:	Julianstown - Baile Iúiliáin	Ref:	1217
County:	Meath	Mark:	355
Category:	B	Date(s):	25/06/2024

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2023	Mark Awarded 2024
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	51	53
Streetscape & Public Places	80	42	43
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	52	54
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	43	44
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	23	24
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	41	42
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	34	35
TOTAL MARK	550	345	355

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu don bhliain 2024. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Adh Mór...."

The Committee has the support of the local authority, among other state groups as well as many local organisations and businesses. It is noteworthy that you liaise with other Tidy Towns groups in the area. The Committee also keeps the local community apprised of your various activities. As well as using What's App and Facebook you also supply articles to the local newspapers and a monthly magazine to communicate with locals. Delivering a magazine, though time consuming, must give you an opportunity to talk with local people.

Children from the school are participating in GYO, sowing wildflowers and a survey on air quality linked with Sonairte and other schools. Never too young to learn and the afterschool children participate in weeding in the Community garden.

Congratulations on winning your 4th An Taisce Green Flag for Community and several Pride of Place awards in 2023.

The directions supplied were very clear no matter which route was chosen.

The map supplied was very clear, showing the roads leading to the village, the new and maintained projects which were named on the accompanying legend.

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

At the Lime Kiln the decoration of the building in bold colours and associated planters, hanging baskets and seats was to a very high standard. Line of older buildings on both sides of the road.

The recent upgrading of the paths, railings, footpaths and pedestrian crossing at the school must have been welcomed by pupils, parents and teachers alike.

A good footpath links the village centre with the school in one direction and towards the community garden in the other. The community garden has many features, not only native trees, ornamental plants and vegetable and fruit area but a well-furnished play area for young children and a wildlife area. It is also well screened from the busy road. From your application and from my visit new areas such as the Story Teller's chair have been developed this past year.

There is an attractive amenity area with seats on the Dublin Road. Two well filled colourful planters were placed by the bus shelters on the Dublin Road – a particular use of planters not seen elsewhere in the county. They must gladden the eye of those waiting for a bus. Planters have also been situated throughout the village.

The site of the derelict hotel has been noted by you in the application and you have had it listed on the derelict site register. It is true that nature is reclaiming the area and the site is now less obtrusive than some years ago.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

This past Spring the spring bulb planting must have looked very attractive and should improve in the coming years as the bulbs multiply. The last of the large globe shaped Allium were in flower in June. For summer time perennial and annual plants were used to fill the many planters in the village and very well they looked too.

On the main street while some properties were well maintained, some weeding on the foot paths in front the Swiss Cottages was necessary. Perhaps in time the Tidy Towns could take this on.

At the amenity area on the Dublin road some pruning of shrubs and herbaceous plants is required. You have already considered replanting some of the ornamental cherries which are now reaching the end of their lifespan. Opposite the school the ornamental shrubbery is well maintained.

As was noted last year the area in front of the golf course could be improved. Rather than spraying with weedkiller could wild flowers be allowed to self-seed ? There is a shrubbery of mostly native shrubs at the entrance, extending this area would be another solution to establishing vegetation on the embankment.

The community garden will require a lot of maintenance and it is obvious that work is ongoing. The Rowan trees on the Laytown road are now well established and the stakes and ties may no longer required.

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

There is an extensive wildflower area by the school which was in full flower on the day of the visit. It is good to read that pupils from the school won a Junior Pride of Place award for their wild flower bed. Signs indicate that the area is maintained for wildlife

The Village Garden was a haven for nature, with trees and pollinator plants, bird and bat boxes and a pond. So as to improve the educational value some new signage to add to the existing interpretative panels, is needed at the Bee Friendly and Pond area. Are any surveys undertaken of the birds nesting or feedings in the garden ? The FIT BIT app from the National Biodiversity Data Centre would be a valuable tool to record the insect life there.

One invasive species was noticed from the bridge. On the left hand bank of the river Nanny, Giant Hogweed was in full flower. From your application you have already brought the need to remove this plant to the attention of Meath County Council. As you are probably aware it can cause skin irritation in humans.

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

The free little library and water butts in the Community garden are two examples seen during my visit. However the application lists many more activities in this category.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The Committee has good links with Meath County Council concerning the removal of rubbish from the village and wider area. The Committee conducts regular litter picks and later segregates litter.

There was some rubbish on the main road by the Community garden, likely from car users. Some additional sweeping of paths in the village is necessary.

Mutt Mitts were available at the Village Garden, one of the few towns or villages in the county where they were available for dog owners.

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

The housing estate at Aney View was well maintained, with a well selected group of plants at the entrance. Given the extent of the grassed area, could a reduced mowing regime be adopted in at least part of the area so to promote pollinators ? A similar approach could be taken in the housing estate on by the Laytown road. Also residents might plant some more trees in the open space.

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

Name signs and planters signal the approaching village. Pathways are litter free.

Concluding Remarks:

Despite being on a busy road, the town is an attractive village, with older and newer buildings, a new school to one end of the village and a village garden at the other and housing estates fitted in to the overall village layout. That the Committee has been busy is evident in the numerous awards you have not only achieved but maintained.

Bain me taitneamh as mo chuirt chuig Baile Iúiliáin – Go raibh agaibh !