

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Emyvale - Sgairbh na gCaorach** Ref: **1042**
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **276**
Category: **B** Date(s): **28/06/2019**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	37	38
Streetscape & Public Places	60	37	37
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	38	38
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	35	36
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	12	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	48	49
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	32
TOTAL MARK	470	271	276

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte Emyvale–Scairbh na gCaorach páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019. I thank you for your application and supporting documentation and your ongoing participation in this competition. I want to congratulate you on your Endeavour Award received in 2018 along with the other significant awards received in recent years. Your dedicated committee of 8 supported by 4 volunteers are making great progress. I am delighted to note your intention to form a Junior Tidy Towns Committee and the dedication of one member of your committee to work with the Green Schools. Your participation in the annual spring clean event is noted as is the 'Grow at School' initiative developed in partnership with Silver Hill Farm Shop. The supporting documentation that accompanied your application was comprehensive and the photographs also assisted. However, on page 5, 6 and 7 of your application you list 29 different projects attributing status such as (N) (M) or (F) covering a wide range of activities which should have been attributed to the specific categories as you worked through the application. At this stage of your application you are requested to 'identify any specific project where particular effort was applied since June the 1st 2018'. Not projects. It is clear to see from your application that you have a strong working relationship with Monaghan County Council with funding secured from the CLAR programme and applications progressed for Village Renewal funding demonstrates this. Your community centred hub is a good initiative well done. I note progress with your draft Community Plan and the associated app. This plan is important as it sets out a vision for the future and strategies and priorities to getting there.

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

The recent survey carried out on buildings and bridges as part of your 3-year plan addresses the dereliction issue. As your committee is well aware this is an issue in the village, and I am delighted to see your committee's participation in this initiative. Your survey of protected structures and areas of local importance is very comprehensive.

I like my predecessor must highlight the absence of a decorative lighting scheme in the village core. Such a scheme will help to define the village core and should be accompanied by a civil works plan to underground all the overhead wire-scapes. Local businesses must also be commended for their efforts. The Lounge Bar, the Rambling House, the Village Inn, the Scarna Inn, and the Donagh Oratory all presented beautifully. The Coach House and Village Inn dating back to 1798 has obvious historical value. The carpark at the rear of the Leisure Centre was found to be clean and well maintained and the recycling facilities particularly so. The flagpole to the front of the building would benefit from painting and 2 information panels were noted one of which needed attention. Corracrin NS, the adjoining church and graveyard were visited, and all were well maintained. The trees in the area give a nice sense of maturity. Of particular note was the beautiful grotto dedicated to our lady and the high-quality stonework employed at this site. The signage on the Credit Union Building needs to be addressed and is not of the standard

necessary for such a high-profile building. The ground of Glaslough Harriers and the enterprise unit's opposite were found to maintained to a very high standard.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The recently resurfaced car parks at the Parish field and at Emy Lough has improved facilities at both locations. The facilities at Emy Lough are superb. The 4 km looped walk is a wonderful recreational facility. The carpark and the walkway were found to be litter free clean and well maintained. Information panels were admired and noted is your intention to upgrade the litter bins at this location. A single piece of play equipment in the form of a children's slide was found adjacent to the walkway. This piece of equipment does not meet the required standard and should be removed. Some of the large trees adjacent to the walkway would benefit from rectification works. Consideration should be given to applying for funding through the Neighbourhood Scheme to further develop resources at this location. See more at www.agriculture.gov.ie

The children's playground at Oriel Park is a wonderful facility that is well maintained. One minor issue was noted the Rules and Regulation sign needs cleaning and other signage is positioned too high making it difficult to read. I note the efforts of CE participants and your committee in maintaining this facility and securing significant additional funding through Monaghan County Council to upgrade the playpark. The planting of saplings on the bank of the Mountain Water River in association with Monaghan County Council was noted. The floral displays fixed to the railing on the bridge looked fantastic as did the seating area along the riverbank. Here, the grass was found to be recently cut, and the area was found to be clean, well landscaped, well maintained and litter free.

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

You clearly demonstrate that this is an important category for your community. Your participation in the all-Ireland Pollinator Plan is noted with specific actions assigned. Your work to identify and map invasive weeds as part of your plan is important but should be followed up with a treatment programme carried out in partnership with Monaghan County Council. I am particularly delighted to note local school children attending a 'Voice for Recycling workshop'. Your partnerships and efforts to raise awareness of water quality initiatives provided some interesting reading but should have been condensed as a short summary in your application for reasons of brevity. The desktop survey of wetlands in the Emyvale area carried out by Wetland Surveys Ireland is noted and your intention to protect them in any future development around Emyvale is commendable. The Biodiversity training and Butterfly workshop, the wildflower survey and the new Bee, Bat and Bird boxes shows a great effort by your committee in this important category.

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

Your efforts in upgrading the community centres heat sources and other energy efficient measures on this building are excellent. The local resident obtaining free electricity using wind turbine technology shows what one individual can achieve. Perhaps your committee could build an even stronger partnership with Silver Hill Farm in developing projects under this category following on from your success in the community allotment project. I am delighted to note your progress on the allotment project and your strong partnership with Silverhill Farm. I thank you for providing the information requested by my predecessor regarding green flags. The work you are doing with the Rivers Trust is invaluable, well done and keep it up. I have addressed the issue of overhead wire-scapes under Streetscapes & public spaces above as I believe that provision of a decorative lighting scheme and undergrounding wire-scapes go hand in hand.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your efforts in this category is paying dividends. Very low litter levels were noted during adjudication. Your 'adapt a road' strategy is working well. Over 30 participants in your spring clean event is a fantastic turnout and I was delighted to note the participation of the youth. Your map highlighting areas of illegal dumping is excellent. The involvement of CE workers also assists your efforts greatly and your segregation of litter is important. The Rivers Trust clean on the River/Emy Lough is amazing, congratulations to all involved. The difficulty associated with signage from the recent local elections is understood but appreciated is your co-operation with the local business community in tackling unwanted signage.

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

Included in this category of your application was reference to the Road Works underway on the N2 which should be referred to in the category below. The Cois Locha estate was found to be well maintained with no litter detected. Outstanding maintenance landscaping levels were found at Gort an Chaibléara housing estate. The terrace of houses what I believe to be called Old Park was well-regarded. Individual houses in Lake View Estate and Old Park looked fantastic. The cherry trees are impressive as you enter Oriel Park with the two additional trees recently planted also noted. The block walls as you enter the estate could be screened effectively by planting climbers (variegated ivies) possibly. The Bog Lane Hall building is in a superb location and looked clean and well kept.

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

I feel the frustration of your committee with regard to the N2 road works which were progressing on the day of adjudication, however favourably noted were the canopy covered welcome signs and the quality of the landscaping was admired. The line of mature trees was also favourably noted on the Southern approach. The new Water pumps were admired on both approach roads to the village and it was good to note that the pump on the Southern approach will serve as an actual working pump. On the day of adjudication bolts were found to be protruding from

the ground fixing base plates holding the pumps at both locations which should be removed. Individual private houses were admired on the Mullan Road.

Concluding Remarks:

I enjoyed my visit to Emyvale and wish your every success in the competition. Some of the issues highlighted in this report require resources from the Local Authority which are not always available.

The devoted efforts of your Committee together with the partnerships you have forged with different agencies combined with the natural beauty of the area will serve your committee well in this competition into the future.