

# Tidy Towns Competition 2022

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Oram - Eodhruim** Ref: **2243**  
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **217**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **20/07/2022**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	26	28
Streetscape & Public Places	80	31	31
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	24	26
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	22	23
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	6	7
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	47	48
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	25	25
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	28	29
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>217</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 comprehensive entry form and supporting documentation and we see that you are in your fourth year of the competition. Your committee of 5 and 25 volunteers hold meetings via Zoom every month since Covid and we commend you for resuming your walkabouts to engage the entire community. You list the businesses and agencies who support you and the local school and creche are in regular contact with you. We would like to express our gratitude for the events that you have brought to life over the last year, Halloween party, the arrival of Santa and the St. Patricks day parade. It is pleasing to hear you enjoy good support from the residents who provide you with voluntary contributions and it is no surprise to read that supplies of ice-cream and hot chocolate has led to stronger response rates. The establishment of the Local awards is a great initiative. Your hard work and dedication has resulted in numerous improvements which help promote a sense of shared space.

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

We understand from your application that Oram village is a predominantly rural, farming community, made special by the late Big Tom Mc Bride. The old school adjacent to the Tin Hall looks great. We were interested to read the history of the Tin Hall. These glimpses of our heritage must be kept, and we are delighted to see them part of the communities' activities. The community centre acts as a central space and we have no doubt many happy hours have been spent here over the years. The finished work at Art Mooney's House is applauded. Your continued maintenance of public spaces without the use of weedkiller is laudable and the manual work involved is appreciated. We note you pay a fitting tribute to your CE workers. Steps at Oram G.F.C. need refreshing. The AstroTurf facility and play park are wonderful additions for the community given the strong demand for outdoor play areas. We would like to compliment Rooney's shop and the old post office on the standard of presentation. Church was admired and the colourful planters at the gate looked well. We salute your commitment to widespread bulb planting and don't forget to include the photographs in your application.

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

This is a strong category for your committee and volunteers with many new and maintained projects. It is noted that the key project for the year is the provision of a community garden, and it seems to have something for everyone. Not only a wonderful neighbourhood amenity with supplies of fruit & vegetables but also a habitat for pollinators. New trees, native hedging and primroses and bluebells have been planted by the roadsides. Flower beds have been installed in a few locations. We commend that you have considered using perennial flowers rather than annuals in line with the guidelines of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. We especially liked Tom's Garden in splendid

bloom and impressed by the diversity of seasonal plants used. As you mention a fitting tribute to Big Tom's love of nature. The cleanup of the 'Long grass area' is similarly impressive. The hanging baskets are used to good effect at the bus stop. Well done on engaging with the creche and creating a nature garden. The landscaping, logs, trees and interesting colourful frogs, butterflies and fairy doors add further interest here. A map of green spaces with sites of interest would be useful for visitors.

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

Congratulations on the completed Biodiversity Plan for the village. Your considered approach to managing natural habitats including 'low mow regimes, sowing pollinator friendly plant species and providing wildflower areas for pollinators are praiseworthy. The installation of information panels will be helpful. These are sustainable actions and gives us great confidence that your local environment is in safe hands!!! You participated in Biodiversity training, and it is noted that you plan to learn more in the future. The Local Awards initiative will bring a range of benefits particularly with respect to biodiversity. We are pleased to see future projects (bee hotel) are planned and we look forward to seeing them complete in the years ahead. As part of the biodiversity works be sure to monitor your actions. I am including a link to a short video here to show how to do the FIT count – <https://pollinators.ie/videos/>. Consider Milltown Lake for example. This will enable you to monitor your environment over time and to work out whether actions you are undertaking are working effectively or not. Why not liaise with the schools to carry out these surveys as they make great school projects. The collaboration with the Environmental Department is applauded.

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

It is pleasing to read many projects that your committee and volunteers have commenced have continued over the last year and show a good understanding of this category. You have paid particular attention to promoting safety for pedestrians to encourage people to walk by providing a 'walking lanes' on grass verges and we wish you success in funding for the new walking track. The work in making benches from waste wood is commended, another good example. Has any consideration been made to making owl boxes for farming community? This category is about changing people's behaviors and attitudes and includes training, workshops, walks & talks. To learn more about the 17 Sustainability Development Goals visit <https://www.limerick.ie/sites/default/files/media/documents/2021-03/sustainable-development-goals-helpful-hints.pdf>.

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

Litter control in Oram is very good and weed control along kerbs. It must be acknowledged the overall appearance is one of tidiness. There is no doubt weekend litter is challenging so well done on Castleblaney/Oram litter picks. We are delighted to read you encourage and help all areas. We applaud the CE workers once again. Great job.

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

An excellent working relationship has been created between the Tidy Towns committee and the residents. We admired An Corran, Oram cottages, Cois Cill and Struth an Lur. No doubt individual householders maintain their properties to a high standard and continue to make a strong visual impact like the Old Post office. We acknowledge the support of the farming community.

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

Entrances from all sides are well presented in terms of green areas, flower displays, nameplates, and stonework. The road surfaces and footpaths were in good condition although there are sections which need attention in the not too distant future. Once more thank you for the photographs.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Brilliant work completed. Keep up the good work.