Tidy Towns Competition 2025

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Carrickmacross - Carraig Mhachaire Rois**	Ref:	**586**
County:	**Monaghan**	Mark:	**389**
Category:	**E**	Date(s):	**09/06/2025**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2024	Mark Awarded 2025
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	51	54
Streetscape & Public Places	80	53	55
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	52	53
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	44	46
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	24	26
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	58	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	46	47
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	48	49
TOTAL MARK	**550**	**376**	**389**

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

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Bhailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2025. Go raibh maith agaibh as bhur iarratas a chur isteach. Maith sibh don obair atá déanta agaibh in bhur cheantar go dtí seo - guímid gach rath oraibh i bhur dtionscadail amach anseo. Ádh mór.

Thank you for your application form, plan and map. Tidy Towns, business representatives and other stakes holders are successfully working together to transform Carrickmacross into a destination and there is an air of positivity about it. Your preface highlights some areas that you have put a lot of effort into. This includes the excellent relationship you have developed with the municipal council, your response to previous adjudicator comments, and the relationship you have established with the new arrivals to Carrickmacross. You have built effective and efficient relationships with businesses, schools, statutory organisations and sporting organisations, and this has benefited Carrickmacross enormously. Your calendar fundraiser is a very creative idea, is it an annual event?

You have worked with the Monaghan volunteer centre to develop a seven-week-long programme. It would be interesting to know if the volunteers who completed the course continued to volunteer with the Tidy Towns group. Your 40th-anniversary event sounds like an excellent way to commemorate your involvement in the Tidy Towns competition.
The other organisations in your community support your committee of 10, comprising over 150 volunteers, including you. You have an array of different ways of communicating; this is good to see, as it is very inclusive and will ensure that everyone has the opportunity to get involved with your work. It must be very beneficial to have former teachers on your committee to support your engagement with the schools; you have certainly developed mutually beneficial relationships. Have you considered collaborating with schools to build a broader community project that raises awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals? Some young people are passionate about issues such as climate justice and may have creative ideas for projects. They could utilise the material developed by their transition years students.

You have a fabulous community website, that is well-managed and up-to-date; this is good to see! The live webcams are an interesting touch. The whole community is working together to make Carrickmacross into a tourist destination. Your new trails will be an excellent asset for visitors and residents.

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

The planned work to improve the streetscape, (as you mentioned in your application) was not completed yet. But it will have a very positive impact on Carrickmacross. Be sure to update next year's adjudicator on everything that

you have achieved with this funding. Could you share some before-and-after photos of the buildings that have been improved? The street furniture looked very well-painted in dark green, which helped to add uniformity to the streetscape. Main Street is very impressive, with most business owners presenting their premises in a well-maintained condition. But several gables looked a little rough. These should be included in any future streetscape enhancements. The weighbridge in Markert Square was an interesting feature. If you are redesigning heritage signage, it should be included. Some of the facades that the adjudicator particularly enjoyed included Shevlins and Markeys on Main Street
The CTEK2 building is a great way to attract more business into the community, and it is positive to see the inclusion of electric chargers. The council offices and library are a well-used amenity, with some lovely outdoor space . Do you ever organise any public events in them? There is good pedestrian access to the Convent Avenue; how do they link up the rest of the town? An interesting activity would be to highlight pedestrian and cycle access and use it to promote safe active travel.
You are very proactively working on the issue of dereliction in the town, but this challenge is not unique to Carrickmacross. Have you worked with the council to highlight the grants that are available to restore derelict properties and put them into use.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The Eco Meadow/Moineir Ecolaiocht is a very inspiring spot, and the adjudicator can see why you have selected it as being the particular project into which you put a lot of effort . The bog garden, with its water levels being managed by solar power, was very impressive. It was beautifully planted with excellent use of contrasting blues and purples. Have you considered sharing some information about the bog garden on the website? The strategically placed seats are fabulous additions, making the Eco Meadow a very inclusive amenity area, as visitors have the opportunity to stop and sit. On the adjudicator's visit, it was lovely to see the area so busy. The new sculptures were beginning to take shape! The Merlin app was not yet in place on adjudication day, but the adjudicator uses the app regularly. It is a great resource.
The whole community has gone to great effort with tubs, hanging baskets, and planters across the town, and they certainly have a significant impact. You have used an eye-catching scheme of begonias and lobelias. It must be taxing to maintain this number of planters. Do volunteers care for them, or are they the responsibility of the Tidy Towns group?
The allotments were locked on adjudication day, but it was great to see them in use, with people making the most of them. There were some great crops of potatoes. The Sensory Garden was maturing well. What a well-thought-out, inviting space to visit. Is it challenging to manage the shaded banks on the way into the park?
The adjudicator acknowledges your efforts to extend the planting season. The images that you shared primarily contained tulips. Tulips are beautiful and are a great way to provide colour in early spring, but they don't give a lot of food to pollinators. Have you considered to also plant some pollinator-friendly bulbs such as snowdrops, grape hyacinths or native bluebells? These will provide food for early-flying pollinators, such as queen bumblebees.

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

You have certainly embraced this category. Carrickmacross is a biodiversity town, and considerable work has been done to make Carrickmacross pollinator-friendly. Your efforts, including no-mow, biodiversity planting and leaving areas wild, mean that you are supporting every stage of the pollinator's life cycle. Have you considering mapping out your efforts and developing an ecological corridor through Carrickmacross.
Have you considered dedicating some area of landscaping in the Eco Meadow to nocturnal pollinators? It would work with your dark skies policy! Nocturnal pollinators are becoming increasingly threatened by issues such as light pollution and lack of habits. There is a ‘How to guide’ available on the pollinators.ie website. Could you organise a monthly walk in Biodiversity Week or Heritage Week? It could combine well with a bat walk. Your native orchard was thriving, and as the trees start to mature and fruit more, they will be an excellent food source for local people and birds. The adjudicator is looking forward to an update on the progress of your wetlands plan for next year.

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

You are investigating the opportunity to become a Sustainable Energy Community. If you pursue this path, it should offer energy-saving opportunities in the community, residential, and business sectors.
You have actively supported local schools in becoming sustainable by providing them with practical opportunities to gain hands-on experience with Biodiversity in action. In your school's update, the pride that you take in the school's achievements was very much in evidence to the reader. This adjudicator loved your bicycle upcycle programme. Well done to the girls of St. Louis for the promotion of the She Cycles initiatives. Have you considered promoting some safe cycling workshops?
The raised beds by the Civic Centre look good, but they were mainly planted with herbs. Have you considered adding some food crops, such as alpine strawberries?
There are plenty of festivals happening in Carrickmacross. Do you work with the festival organisers to try and reduce the environmental impact of the festivals? The local prevention website offers excellent tips on how to make your event more environmentally friendly. Some suggestions include creating a festival charter and improved signage for bin areas.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The adjudicator acknowledges your efforts in Nation Spring Clean; the schools and the scouts are very civic-minded and should be commended for their involvement. Do you record the amount of litter picked each year? Keeping a tally of the bags of litter collected could help monitor whether people are becoming more aware of litter and dropping less of it.Your street furniture was need and tidy, and the paint scheme helped to give a sense of uniformity to the

streetscape. The adjudicator acknowledged your work on removing vape tags from bins. It is indeed a national problem, and you have generously shared your solution to this.
The wirescape on O'Neil Street near St. Joseph was obtrusive. If works are carried out in this area, you should ask for the wires to be placed underground. There was a number of painted poles in the Eco-Meadow, the paint had started to flake on them. They should be repainted.

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

Do you have a strategy for getting to know groups in the new housing estates? A Meet the Tidy Towns group event could encourage them to get involved with your work. Your name boulders are a great way to highlight the different housing areas; well done to the people who have repainted them over the last year. Your awards night is an excellent way to acknowledge the work of the local estate committees. Have you considered encouraging groups to take part in environmentally friendly initiatives such as creating "urban" meadows in estates? These are meadows that are planted to create long-term colourful displays in urban areas. These could be developed on slopes or even mini meadows to leave enough space for recreation. You can visit the website https://www.pictorialmeadows.co.uk/pages/about-us for inspiration. But I encourage you to make sure you get seed with an Irish provenance. Alternatively, they could follow the advice in the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and manage the green area so that wildflowers will recolonise it. The Highfield estate looked very good and had some lovely planting by the sign. The contrast between the pink and orange on each side of the sign was beautiful, and the hanging baskets looked very good. The Gleann Droimnín housing estate gave a very good impression and had some lovely landscaping at the back of the estate by the steps. However, it was a little sparse in places.

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

Your approach roads indeed highlight that you are about to visit somewhere special. Your roundabouts are a gem, and well done to the businesses that have supported this initiative. The pig and drover roundabout is fabulous and is a nod to times gone by ! You have excellent directional signage around the town that is very clean and easy to read. Your housing estate signage is a wonderful addition to the town. Have you ever considered developing a project that focuses on some of the laneways in the town centre? The adjudicator would like to reiterate last year's advice about entry signs to the town. They are beautiful but very hard to read.

Concluding Remarks:

The adjudicator would like to encourage you to think about reducing the material in the entry form, as some information was repeated over several categories, which isn't necessary. However, despite this, your entry form was very well put together, and your excellent colour-coded map made adjudicating Carrickmacross a pleasure. You have truly embraced sustainability and biodiversity and have kept a focus on action, not just words!