

# Tidy Towns Competition 2023

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Rathmullan - Ráth Maoláin</b>	Ref: <b>906</b>
County: <b>Donegal</b>	Mark: <b>313</b>
Category: <b>B</b>	Date(s): <b>28/06/2023</b>

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2022	Mark Awarded 2023
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	43	46
Streetscape & Public Places	80	43	44
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	43	45
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	26	28
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	20	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	34	35
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>313</b>

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

Fáilte roimh chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu don bhliain 2023. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. Ádh Mór oraibh ar Ráth Maoláin.

- Thank you for your well laid out application form, litter control plan, 3-5 year plan, photos and the detailed map. They were all very useful guides on my visit to Rathmullan.
- Rathmullan Tidy Towns has a committee of 10 with an impressive 30 + volunteers.
- Well done on your close contact with local businesses, enterprises, the local authority and local schools.
- You communicate your message across a range of channels ensuring that people of all ages are kept in the loop.
- This is your 5th year to enter the competition.
- Well done on your wide range of activities and contacts, you have an impressive programme.

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

- Rathmullan is a beautiful heritage town beside the sea. The streetscape is a lovely mix of very well maintained residential properties, businesses, public buildings and heritage sites.
- The Pier house is an excellent facility with a changing area, toilets and a recycling book library.
- The Presbyterian church has some lovely cherry trees.
- The businesses are well maintained. The walk around the town from the pier, the Gun Tower, Rathmullan Priory, overlooking the Swilly and back up through the town is very pleasant. I spotted the attractive restored post box on the way.
- Well done on arranging the heritage course with Burren Beo. To have the knowledge to develop and maintain the heritage buildings in the town is important.
- The visitor information boards situated at different parts of the town give a good historical background on the area.
- The street furniture is bright and colourful and the painted bikes with planting also add colour.

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

- There are wonderful natural green spaces in Rathmullan.
- The walk from the pier along the shore by Millennium Park planting, the dramatic sculpture, the beautifully carved seat and the wishing well is beautiful.
- Batts walk is a lovely walkway and well done on the informative notice board.

- Well done to all the volunteers who look after the 15 planted areas, planters, wellingtons and colourful bicycles which brighten up the town. Planting a 1,000 mixed bulbs extends the season and helps the pollinators. The new planter at Ozanam Centre will add to the landscape.
- The School garden is a wonderful asset for the students. Working there is a great learning experience.
- Tree planting is the greatest long-term investment in the area. This year 10 trees were planted in Batt's walk and the remainder 70 planted locally by residents. It is good to note that the maintenance of existing trees and tree planting is included in your 5 year plan.

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

- Rathmullan Tidy Towns have a great understanding of this category. You have a wide range of habitats with areas of special SPA and SAC status. However you have linked in with many aspects of nature and biodiversity. The area is a haven for twitchers – bird watchers. Rathmullan Woods has examples of old sessile oak. There is an otter population in the wood as well as examples of other wildlife species. I love the fact that St Josephs School was able to observe a Barn Owl nest nearby.
- You are active in Tree Week, Earth Day and a 4 day biodiversity course was arranged for local people. We look forward to your Biodiversity plan.
- Through your interaction with schools, you encourage students to record tadpoles on the Hop to It website.
- Bats roost in the town and a bat walk was held to inform people about the different bats and their habits. You have erected bat boxes in the town.
- Birdwatch Ireland website have recorded sightings of rare birds in Rathmullan area. We note that you are also involved in the Swift Conservation Programme.
- Environmental Awareness days were held with TY students in three local colleges. Students from Letterkenny took the Local Link bus and brought their own lunch. This is a very worthwhile exercise Maith sibh.
- Well done on your pollinator planting, tree planting and management programme and the no mow May campaign. Consider carrying out the survey prepared by All Ireland Pollinator Plan on gathering data to assess the impact of the good work that Tidy Town's groups do. Flower Insect Timed Counts are very simple and will help track the impact of actions on insect numbers and diversity as well as providing important data for the Biodiversity Centre. Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT Count) - National Biodiversity Data Centre (biodiversityireland.ie)

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

- Well done on arranging the Sustainability weekend – it sounds like a great event. It seems to cover many aspects of sustainability – transport – ride to school, upcycling, nearly new clothes, food waste awareness and eco friendly cleaning. There is a lot of good information there to encourage environmental change in the community.
- There were also signs of positive action in this category throughout the town. The school garden near the playground – it is good that children get the opportunity to plant and work in the garden – an outdoor classroom. The book recycling at the Pier building is at a good central location. The beach toys use and return is an excellent idea and must be well used.
- The upcycled colourful bicycles throughout the town were bright and attractive but the line of planted wellingtons at the fence at the Lough Swilly Sea Angling Association putting green brought a smile.
- The sewing class is also an excellent initiative.
- The involvement of businesses in this category is very important – well done on the Conscious Cup campaign and the coffee grinds for gardens.
- Recycling bring banks in the car park are well maintained.
- Very nice to see the Sustainable Development Goals on display.

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

- Congratulations on your inspiring approach to litter management. The Litter strategy demonstrates your serious approach, I commend you.
- On my approach to Rathmullan, I saw two people with hi viz and litter pickers – a good start. After parking at the Pier, I probably met eight more people who were gathering after doing a litter pick. Wednesday is one of the clean up days. One lady was sweeping the kerbs. Very impressive demonstration of litter control.
- Well done on engaging with so many groups, businesses, schools, neighbouring towns and villages in litter control. The Picker Pals – a school based litter prevention programme is excellent.
- The 2 minute beach clean at the pier is an excellent initiative,
- Dog litter is a real problem and I can sense your frustration. Some local authorities operate a Green Dog Walkers programme – it might help highlight this issue to dog walkers in the area.
- Well done on your awareness and planning for busy periods by arranging temporary bins and extra clean ups.
- Your promotion of the use of sustainable cups and joining the Refill programme will help prevent litter.
- Keep up the good work.

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

- The residential properties and housing areas in Rathmullan are in good condition. Well done on your constant liaison with residents. Maolin Park in the centre of the town is very well maintained with a colourful planter at the entrance and a lovely line of trees at the side.
- Well done on your treatment of the unoccupied house at the pier – beautiful pictures and biodiversity information.

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

- The approach roads are in good condition and well maintained. Well done on your litter management and monitoring.
- The Ramelton Road has the well planted red boat and a nice green space with a good stand of trees. The mixed shrub planting and wildflowers there are attractive. The bulb planting adds seasonal interest.
- The Milford Road is also well maintained with beautiful stone walls.
- Well done on your close contact with the Council's road staff and plans for the future dealing with problem areas i.e. Kinnegar carpark .

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Congratulations on your systematic approach to keeping Rathmullan in a good condition in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way. You have managed to gather a large part of the community on board and have strong networks with schools, businesses, groups and agencies in the area. Your work on litter control, sustainability and nature and biodiversity is impressive. The success of the impact your efforts can be seen. Look forward to returning to Rathmullan and wishing you every success in the future