



# Award-Winning Estates



## Thank you!

13<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Dear Residents' Association, Dear Residents,

Clane Tidy Towns sincerely thanks all the estates that entered the Clane Tidy Towns 2023 Award Winning Estates Competition. This competition again is only possible thanks to the generous support of Clane Project Centre.

Please find the adjudication report attached. To reduce the printing of paper you can find the judging guidelines, together with the adjudicators report on Clane for the National Tidy Towns Competition 2023, online at <https://clanecommunity.ie/tidy-towns/>.

With your help Clane gained an additional two marks over the previous year in the "Residential Streets and Housing Areas" topic, scoring 41 out of 55 points, and we were delighted to see that the judge in the National Competition had many positive comments when considering our residential areas:

"Hedgerow boundaries are an attractive feature of many dwellings on approach roads in addition to roadside boundary walls and private gardens. Some roadside boundary walls on the Kilcock Road need refurbishment however many gardens were admired. There is a good mix of dwelling types from single storey cottages to apartments and residential estates the majority of which are tastefully presented. Green open spaces within estates are being well managed; Esmonde Avenue with its eye-catching shaped trees was especially admired. Town houses are also attractively presented to their roadside. Congratulations on the continued Estate Competitions and for the actions taken which include planting of mixed native hedging and trees, reduced mowing for wildflower displays and maintenance of green areas; the defibrillator distribution is noteworthy also as is the installation of LED lighting in estates. New residential developments and the refurbishment of vacant dwellings are welcome together with new residents and volunteers for Tidy Towns!"

Your efforts helped Clane gain an additional 16 marks over the previous year overall, and this helped us achieve our **first ever Silver Medal** in our 50 years entering the National Tidy Towns competition!!!

We are keen to build on this wonderful milestone and invite all estates to enter our 2024 Award-Winning Estates competition in the coming weeks. The online entry form and entry pack will be available on <https://clanecommunity.ie/tidy-towns/>.

We really appreciate your contributions to our wonderful village - thank you once again for your continued support.

**Tony McKenna**

Chairperson

Clane Tidy Towns

## Adjudication Report

A sincere thank you to all estates that entered the 2023 Award Winning Estates Competition, again generously supported by Clane Project Centre. After reviewing the entry forms and visiting all estates during the summer, the judges wished to highlight the following areas, initiatives and suggestions:

- **An Crocán** – Some lovely planting from the entrance. Consider planting a native hedge along internal bare walls and fencing – Clane Tidy Towns may be able to supply the trees (this applies to every estate!).
- **Clonwood Heights** – Some lovely mature hedges and distinguished trees out the front. Please remove any over-tight tree-ties. Consider removing dead stumps.
- **College Grove** – A tidy estate with some wonderful gardens. Lots of potential with the area to the rear... woodland/orchard/reduced mowing area with mowed edge/paths?
- **Meadow Court and The Meadows** – Great to see some of the recent tree planting maturing in different locations. Would you consider areas of reduced mowing of your large shared green?

After careful consideration of all the judging guidelines, the judges selected the following estates as **Clane Tidy Towns Award Winning Estates** for 2023:

- **Abbey Park** – delightful planting at the entrance. The meadow area was also impressive and neatly verged. The inside of the relief road wall looks like a great tree planting location for the future.
- **Alexandra Manor** – Some lovely planting at entrance, very well maintained inside. Do check for unused/redundant tree stakes and over tight tree-ties and remove as appropriate.
- **Ard na Gappagh** – Looked very well with no litter noticed. Consider a native hedge along the wall in the public green area...Clane Tidy Towns might be able to supply the trees.
- **Brooklands** – Some lovely gardens and well maintained overall. Some of the fence to the rear beginning to deteriorate...would a native hedge along here be lower maintenance?
- **Capdoo Park** - well maintained throughout and litter free. Worth checking tree trunks not being choked by tree-ties, and if any redundant tree posts could be removed.
- **Central Park and Churchfield** – simply stunning beds of flowers and shrubbery throughout the estate. Looking forward to see how the meadow area matures. Perhaps native hedging along exposed walls?
- **Hillview Heights and Hillview Green** – Some lovely gardens, wildflower areas, and a delightful sunflower wall – congrats to everyone involved!
- **Loughbollard** – Lovely flowers at the entrance and congratulations on the new hedge – a great way to screen out traffic. Would you consider extending the hedge, and additional wildflower areas?
- **Oatfield Park and Close** – Very impressive planting in numerous locations, including lamp-post bases! Some redundant tree posts could potentially be removed.
- **Otomy Estate** – Some wonderful gardens and planters within the estate, and wildlife corners to the rear. Some missing sections were noticed in the fencing along the front – could they be replaced?
- **Park View** – a spotless estate on judging day and congratulations on all your well-maintained planting. Some lovely gardens. Is the compost area starting to deliver compost? Perhaps you could share any tips?
- **The Cloisters** – Wonderful to see the recently planted hedge and bluebells establishing. Suggest trimming low tree branches extending into the road back to their tree trunk – facilitates cyclists too.

This year the judges deemed the **Clane Tidy Towns Outstanding Estate** 2023 to be:

- **Mainham Wood** – Congratulations! Beautifully presented when judges visited. Your transition from seasonal to perennial flowers, your later grass cutting and the addition of nest and bat boxes all to be commended. There are native orchids nearby. A reduced mowing strip may reveal additional treasures!