



BEST KEPT AWARDS



**Northern Ireland
Amenity Council**

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SPONSORED BY

George Best
**BELFAST
CITY AIRPORT**

18 October 2022

Mr Mark McAdoo
Mid Ulster District Council
Burn Road
Cookstown
Co Tyrone
BT80 8DT

Dear Mark

2022 Best Kept Towns, Villages and Housing Areas

Congratulations on your achievement in this year's Awards and I know that your participation has helped in no small way to improve our lovely environment.

I have pleasure to enclose the judges' reports and would ask you to bring them to the attention of the appropriate people in the Council.

I look forward to working with you in 2023.

Yours sincerely

Bridgeen McIlroy
Executive Officer



**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2022 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Small Village Category)**

Place Name:- Donaghmore

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- 13 September 2022

Weather conditions:- Sunny

Category Entered: SMALL VILLAGE

Limits Used: 30 mph

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)

*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

Donaghmore

Date: 13th September 2022

JUDGES REMARKS

(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

(1) General appearance: to include approach roads, streets, road signs, car parks, litter bins, public seating, welcome signs and re-cycling.

The overall impression of Donaghmore is a kaleidoscope of flowers, in beds planters and hanging baskets. There are recycling facilities and a self-service laundromat behind the supermarket. Plenty of litter bins and good public seating. Signs indicating winners of Best Kept small estate.

(2) General cleanliness and tidiness; to include long and short term litter, vandalism, graffiti, fly posting, inappropriate advertising and dog fouling.

The only inappropriate advertising is the hanging of two banners advertising local events high up beside the magnificent mediaeval High Cross in front of the Catholic Church

(3) Business Premises (including public transport facilities) decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate) and efforts to improve dereliction.

The Centra grocery store is decked outside with flowers. The off licence is enhanced with posters of barrels. The school grounds are superb, the stonewalls all the way down to the church hung every few yards with planters containing fuschias and begonias. The railings of the primary school are hung with butterfly decorations

(4) Natural Environment and Open Spaces to include presentation and management of open spaces and evidence of activities to promote conservation of flora and fauna

The road from Castlecaulfield is decorated with a mini train surrounded by flowers. It celebrates the GNR railway which ran 1861-1955. Verges have been planted with wild flowers and left uncut to encourage biodiversity. On the Dungannon road is a floral display celebrating the soap works which used to be nearby. It features two large cauldrons filled with flowers. Nearby are notices with details of sponsors including Donaghmore Horticultural Community. A large planting of blue and yellow flowers supports of Ukraine. Opposite a canoe filled with flowers indicates the proximity of the river. Green spaces on the Pomeroy road are decorated with a large peacock created out of flowers.

5) Presentation of Private Residential Areas; including house frontages, hanging baskets, planters and gardens:

Residents take great pride in their homes and gardens. A Georgian cottage displays beside it an old cart filled with flowers

(6) Judge's discretionary mark and comments; to include evidence of Business and Community Involvement:

One cannot but be impressed at the effort that has gone into the floral displays. The community clearly work together to produce this effect and businesses play their part

NOTE;

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

(i) Superb flowerbeds

(ii) the display of matching planters along the wall of the school and graveyard

(iii) Peacock made of bedding plants

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

(i) Remove banners beside High Cross

(ii)

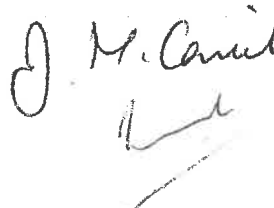
(iii)

Signed

(Judges)



Handwritten signature of a judge, appearing to be 'J. M. Carril'.



Handwritten signature of a judge, appearing to be 'J. M. Carril'.

Date

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2022 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Small Village Category)**

Place Name:- Donaghmore

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- 6 August 2022

Weather conditions:- Cloudy & Dry

Category Entered: SMALL VILLAGE

Limits Used: 30 mph

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)

*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

Date: JUDGES REMARKS
(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

- (1) **General appearance: to include approach roads, streets, road signs, car parks, litter bins, public seating, , welcome signs and re-cycling.**

This is a lovely well kept village with good approach roads and some lovely flower displays leading into the village. Signage is good, clean and clear and includes a welcome sign with their best kept village awards. Some hanging baskets around the signs too. The train made out of wooden barrels with flower displays inside on the approach road is impressive. Along the approach road opposite the school lovely wildflowers had been planted. There is good public seating and litter bins throughout the village and on street carparking. Two clothes and shoes recycling bins located in the Spar carpark area, would be good to have more recycling facilities.

- (2) **General cleanliness and tidiness: to include long and short term litter, vandalism, graffiti, fly posting, inappropriate advertising and dog fouling.**

The village is very clean and tidy and very little litter anywhere around. There was no sign of vandalism, graffiti, fly posting or inappropriate advertising. There were some weeds in the walls on the main road leading down to Spar and these could be tidied up.

- (3) **Business Premises (including public transport facilities) decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate) and efforts to improve dereliction.**
-

Business premises, commercial properties and schools and churches all are well maintained and there are lots of floral displays and hanging baskets throughout the village and all look well cared for. The peacock display opposite the school is especially impressive. The area around the Celtic cross is a lovely focal point of the village. The flower boxes and hanging baskets outside business, schools and churches are all well looked after. Bus stop areas were clean and tidy.

- (4) **Natural Environment and Open Spaces to include presentation and management of open spaces and evidence of activities to promote conservation of flora and fauna**
-

The open spaces in the village are well looked after and during my visit about ten people from the Donaghmore Horticultural Community were out looking after an open space with flower arrangements. The peacock display on Pomeroy Road beside the residential area is particularly impressive too.

- 5) **Presentation of Private Residential Areas: including house frontages, hanging baskets, planters and gardens:**

The private residential areas are generally well presented and tidy, with some having good flower displays.

(6) Judge's discretionary mark and comments: to include evidence of Business and Community Involvement

There is great evidence of business and community involvement in the village and maintaining and looking after it. There is some sponsorship by local businesses of the Donaghmore Horticultural Society and clearly an active group of people part of the society and looking after the village. It was very impressive to see about ten people out on a Saturday afternoon looking after one of the open spaces with flower displays. This is a lovely village and clearly a lot of effort is going into looking after it.

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

(i) Volunteer group of Donaghmore Horticultural society and the work they are doing

(ii) Flower displays, including peacock and seated area on Pomeroy Road

(iii) Flower displays around the Celtic Cross

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

(i) More recycling facilities

(ii) Remove weeds in the walls

(iii) _____

**Signed: Emma Corry
(Judge(s))**

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2022 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Small Village Category)**

Place Name:- Castlecaulfield

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- 13 September 2022

Weather conditions:- Sunny

Category Entered: SMALL VILLAGE

Limits Used: 30 mph

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)

*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

Castlecaulfield

Date 13th September

JUDGES REMARKS

(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

- (1) General appearance: to include approach roads, streets, road signs, car parks, litter bins, public seating, welcome signs and re-cycling.

The first impression is of a very smart village enhanced with floral decorations. Castlecaulfield is well provided with seating and litter bins. Well-stocked planters line the main street. A lamp post decorated with giant cut out sunflower. Recycling facilities at sports ground which has a large car park and a children's play centre. Our first reaction was that it was unused on a beautiful morning, but while we were there a car arrived with a family of children to enjoy the facilities. Good information signs

- (2) General cleanliness and tidiness: to include long and short term litter, vandalism, graffiti, fly posting, inappropriate advertising and dog fouling
There is some fresh litter in the grounds of the castle. Otherwise, the place is spotless

- (3) Business Premises (including public transport facilities) decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate) and efforts to improve dereliction.
Business premises are impressive. The butcher's shop has flower plantings outside. A disused Art Deco garage is surrounded with flowers. There is a workshop making wooden benches and a number of them sit outside local houses, certainly an example of community involvement. The Methodist Church has seats outside with planters beside. It is flanked by a beautiful Georgian house, its front covered in clipped ivy. One wrong note was struck by a small railway carriage which had been decorated in support of the NHS but is now looking rather shabby.

- (4) Natural Environment and Open Spaces to include presentation and management of open spaces and evidence of activities to promote conservation of flora and fauna

Ruins of the castle which gives the village its name, looked splendid in the sunshine. This historic site could do with better information boards. A metal plate is about 12 ft up on the wall. Two oak barrels which obviously had been planted with flowers now just contain dead foliage. The grounds are separated from a housing estate by a tall "Tapestry" hedge planted with mixed shrubs. At the end of the road is a floral display featuring milk churns celebrating the creamery which was part of the village's industrial history. A small open space beside the Parish church has planters and seats. A verge at the entrance to the village has been left uncut to encourage biodiversity.

5) Presentation of Private Residential Areas; including house frontages, hanging baskets, planters and gardens:

House frontages are very well maintained. A house near the castle grounds features a charming Wendy House in the garden. Residences along the main street are well decorated with window boxes and hanging baskets

(6) Judge's discretionary mark and comments; to include evidence of Business and Community Involvement: A beautiful village with imaginative ideas for enhancement. Clearly a community working together.

NOTE;

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

(i) Planting on main street

(ii) Creamery planting

(iii) Butcher's shop

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

(i) Parish Hall, in contrast to the rest of the village is grey pebble dashed and completely unadorned

(ii)

(iii)

Signed

(Judges)

Adrian
YV Hwa

J N Caird
[Signature]

Date

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2022 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Small Village Category)**

Place Name:- Castlecaulfield

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- 6 August 2022

Weather conditions:- Cloudy & Dry

Category Entered: SMALL VILLAGE

Limits Used: 30 mph

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)

*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

Date: JUDGES REMARKS
(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

(1) General appearance: to include approach roads, streets, road signs, car parks, litter bins, public seating, , welcome signs and re-cycling.

This is a lovely well kept village with clearly lots of community involvement. The approach roads are well kept with some flower displays on entrance into the village and planted verges. There are a good number of litter bins throughout and public seating, some with flower boxes beside them. There is good on street parking and a large carpark at the sports ground and playground area. The information signs about the local area are good but need cleaned. There are clothes recycling bins on the main road beside the park/sports ground and in the parish church hall grounds and the area around these was clean, could have more recycling facilities.

(2) General cleanliness and tidiness: to include long and short term litter, vandalism, graffiti, fly posting, inappropriate advertising and dog fouling.

General cleanliness and tidiness of the village is very good, with very little fresh litter and no evidence of vandalism, graffiti, fly posting or dog fouling. The telephone box in the village was clean and no posters on it. The area around the old Castle grounds is very well kept. Lots of flower displays in the village helps to add to its appearance.

(3) Business Premises (including public transport facilities) decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate) and efforts to improve dereliction.

Business premises, public buildings, churches and schools generally all look well maintained. Teners butchers lots of lovely flowers outside the premises and outside Davisons were old barrels with flowers on top. St Michael and All Angels Church particularly too have made a big effort with flower displays outside their gates. Local business are also sponsoring the village as some signs included 'Agripro NI supporting CC in bloom' and 'H2 buildings supporting CC in bloom'.

The main street bus stop area was clean and tidy. There is also a bus shelter beside the sports ground area which doesn't seem to be in use but was clean and tidy.

(4) Natural Environment and Open Spaces to include presentation and management of open spaces and evidence of activities to promote conservation of flora and fauna

The open spaces are well looked after, the park and sports ground area looks very well kept, with minimal litter and a great children's playpark in a large open space and picnic tables. The area around the Castle is also well looked after and the site of the Castlecaulfield creamery, beside the river is a lovely display and addition to the village. The path down to the river also looks well kept and promoting flora and fauna. An old railway carriage with 'NHS' on it seems like it previously had flowers displayed but currently it looks like weeds in it and would better to remove or tidy up if not planting with flowers again. The flower display with the castle is a lovely addition to the

flowers in the village.

5) Presentation of Private Residential Areas: including house frontages, hanging baskets, planters and gardens:

Generally the residential areas look well kept and some had hanging baskets and flower displays outside and well kept front gardens.

(6) Judge's discretionary mark and comments: to include evidence of Business and Community Involvement

This is a lovely village and clearly huge efforts go into keeping it clean and tidy and looking after flower displays throughout. There is good evidence of business involvement with sponsorship and also looking after areas around business and presenting flower displays. The general presentation of the village suggests that there is great community involvement in looking after and maintaining the village.

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

(i) Flower displays throughout the village and evidence of community involvement

(ii) Area around the castle and old creamery

(iii) Well kept sports area and play ground

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

(i) Replant or remove or tidy up the old railway carriage that has previously had flowers in it

(ii) Improve recycling facilities

(iii) Clean the information signs in the village

Signed: **Emma Corry**_____

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2022 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Small Town Category)**

Place Name:- Coalisland

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- 26 July 2022

Weather conditions:- Sunny

Category Entered: SMALL TOWN

Limits Used: 30

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)

*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

Date:26.7.22 Coalisland JUDGES REMARKS

(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

- (1) General appearance: to include approach roads, streets, road signs, car parks, litter bins, public seating, welcome signs and re-cycling.**

The general impression is one of a busy little town, well provided with car parks and litter bins.

- (2) General cleanliness and tidiness; to include long and short term litter, vandalism, graffiti, fly posting, inappropriate advertising and dog fouling.**

It was a pity to see fresh litter beside the flowerbed on the approach road from Dungannon. This was the only evidence of litter in the town. No graffiti or vandalism

- (3) Business Premises (including public transport facilities) decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate) and efforts to improve dereliction.**

Business premises were smart and cheerful with hanging baskets on lampposts along the main street. The large shopping centre is smart with a small play park behind it.

It is sad to see the former Coal Island Enterprise Centre closed up and fallen into decay, especially as there is much reference to the town's industrial heritage elsewhere eg mural.

One thing that did impress us was the price of petrol – 10p a litre cheaper than in Belfast

- (4) Natural Environment and Open Spaces to include presentation and management of open spaces and evidence of activities to promote conservation of flora and fauna**

The grounds of the GAA are pristine. The sports field is well equipped with keep fit equipment and a play park.

5) Presentation of Private Residential Areas; including house frontages, hanging baskets, planters and gardens:

Many attractive properties with mature gardens. The terrace houses on Kings Row have been updated and present an appealing appearance.

The Old Mill has been converted into a block of apartments that the town can be proud of

(6) Judge's discretionary mark and comments; to include evidence of Business and Community Involvement:

The visitor is made aware of the industrial heritage of Coal Island , with its brickwork factory buildings, mill chimneys, canal and mural

NOTE;

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

(i) Old Mill conversion

(ii) Kings Row Cottages

(iii)

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

(i) Disused Enterprise Centre

(ii) Speed bumps need re-painting to alert visiting drivers.

(iii)

Joy M. Grew

fish

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2022 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Small Town Category)**

Place Name:- Maghera

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- 26 July 2022

Weather conditions:- Sunny

Category Entered: SMALL TOWN

Limits Used: 30

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)
*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

Date: 26.7.22

Maghera

JUDGES REMARKS

(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

- (1) **General appearance: to include approach roads, streets, road signs, car parks, litter bins, public seating, welcome signs and re-cycling.**

Maghera gives a general appearance of neatness. There is a flowerbed on the main approach road with clear signage. Some signs in two languages. The car parks are all clean and tidy. The one near the cinema has an electrical charging point- in use at the time. Litter and salt bins provided

- (2) **General cleanliness and tidiness; to include long and short term litter, vandalism, graffiti, fly posting, inappropriate advertising and dog fouling.**

There was no evidence of vandalism, no graffiti or dog fouling.

- (3) **Business Premises (including public transport facilities) decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate) and efforts to improve dereliction.**

We had plenty of opportunity to observe property in the main streets as Maghera suffers very badly from traffic jams, caused by narrow streets controlled by traffic lights.

Most commercial property is in good repair. The former Ulster Bank building has been preserved and is now the town's Heritage and Cultural Centre.

The Leisure Centre is an excellent facility, though missing a café. There is a map of places of interest at the entrance and the area was decorated with red and white bunting. There is plenty of parking, with litter bins provided. There is a colourful children's play area.

Someone in Maghera has a taste for garish wall art: the walls of the toilets off Meeting House Lane are decorated in psychedelic floral designs. Inside the toilets are clean with working soap dispensers. Adjacent to the architecturally beautiful modern Catholic Church is a youth centre, again garishly painted, probably by the same artist. It sits uncomfortably beside the elegant church.

- (4) **Natural Environment and Open Spaces to include presentation and management of open spaces and evidence of activities to promote conservation of flora and fauna**

The Walled Garden in the grounds of the old rectory is a beautiful space, with colourful raised beds. There is also an area left to nature to promote bio-diversity. The GAA Club grounds are immaculate.

With the exception of the Catholic Church which is set off by green swards, most of the churches are surrounded by tarmac, which while obviously providing necessary parking space, gives a bleak appearance. The ruins of the old St Lurach's Church are surrounded by grass.

The town centre is well decorated with hanging baskets and planters on railings

5) Presentation of Private Residential Areas; including house frontages, hanging baskets, planters and gardens:

Pensioners' bungalows in Meetinghouse Lane area are well kept with colourful gardens. The area is set off with green spaces planted with trees. Housing in that area benefits from a high leafy hedge surrounding the estate. One garden features a bicycle used as a planter. Housing in the rest of the town is generally of a high standard with many attractive gardens. There is a derelict bungalow on the Coleraine Road (awaiting development?)

(6) Judge's discretionary mark and comments; to include evidence of Business and Community Involvement:

Maghera makes the most of its historical landmarks. The mediaeval ruins of St Lurach's Church are well-preserved. The use of the former bank building as a Heritage Centre is commendable.

NOTE;

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

- (i) The Leisure Centre
- (ii) The Walled Garden
- (ii) The Heritage Centre

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

- (i) Tone down the murals
- (ii)
- (iii)

Joy M. Giv
H.

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2022 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Medium Town Category)**

Place Name:- Dungannon

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- 13 August 2022

Weather conditions:- hot and suny

Category Entered: Medium Town

Limits Used: 30

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)

*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

Dungannon

Date: JUDGES REMARKS
(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

1. **General appearance:** to include approach roads, streets, road signs, car parks, litter bins, public seating, welcome signs and re-cycling

The town's appearance was good overall with excellent modern street furniture and clear and effective signage in the town and on approaches. Car parking is very good in the town. Like the street furniture, the paving has been maintained well and remains very attractive.

2. **General cleanliness and tidiness:** to include long and short term litter, vandalism, graffiti, fly-posting, inappropriate advertising and dog fouling

There was a little litter in some of the lanes between Irish Street and Scotch Street, and one bin was overflowing in Irish Street itself. At the top of Market Square towards Ranfurley House there were some discarded fast-food packaging. However, there was very little graffiti noted, no sign of vandalism and an absence of dog fouling. A number of dog litter bins were noted.

3. **Business properties:** (including public transport facilities) decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate) and efforts to improve dereliction

In general, these are presented very well. A few commercial buildings especially in Irish Street, look a little unloved but the central square is very attractive with tubs and hanging baskets setting the scene very effectively. There are some trees in the square too, but just two are broadleaved.

4. **Natural Environment and Open Spaces:** to include presentation and management of open spaces and evidence of activities to promote conservation of flora and fauna

Much of this has been noted for Market Square, but another finely presented area has been developed on the Hill of the O'Neill. The landscaping on the Hill of the O'Neill is most attractive, although the use of gabions seems a little excessive, and it provides walks and seating areas which complement Ranfurley House effectively. There is a space, partly tented beyond the hill, but part of the same complex, which is a useful community space. The planting at the roundabout in front of the hospital is particularly attractive.

5. **Presentation of Private Residential Areas:** including house frontages, hanging baskets, planters and gardens:

In general, these are very good and often excellent.

6. **Judge's discretionary mark and comments:** to include evidence of Business and Community involvement

This is a fine and attractive town with a rich history and some fine buildings.

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

1. Ranfurly Arts Centre
2. Roundabout at hospital
3. Market Square

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

1. Some small litter and overflowing bins
2. Some weeds, litter and a little graffiti on Shambles Lane
- 3.

Signed  (Stephen Roulston)  (Marie Roulston)
Date 13th August 2022

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2022 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Medium Town Category)**

Place Name:- Cookstown

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- 13 August 2022

Weather conditions:- Warm and sunny

Category Entered: Medium Town

Limits Used: 30

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)
*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.
Cookstown

Date: JUDGES REMARKS
(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

1. **General appearance:** to include approach roads, streets, road signs, car parks, litter bins, public seating, welcome signs and re-cycling

Most approach roads are neatly presented and attractive. Particularly impressive is the approach from Dungannon, with very good planting at the roundabout and beyond, and an attractive welcome sign. Also from Moneymore, with a rose bed. The approach from Lough Fea is more restricted in scope, but even there was a welcome sign. Litter bins, seating and other street furniture is well maintained and attractive.

2. **General cleanliness and tidiness:** to include long and short term litter, vandalism, graffiti, fly-posting, inappropriate advertising and dog fouling

Generally the town is clean and well-maintained. There was no graffiti spotted on the day of the visit, nor fly posting or dog fouling. Very little litter was visible, even though there were busy street market stalls operating.

3. **Business properties:** (including public transport facilities) decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate) and efforts to improve dereliction

Business properties are in good order. Many have incorporated hanging baskets or other planting to the advantage of the business, and also the whole town. The bus station is well kept.

4. **Natural Environment and Open Spaces:** to include presentation and management of open spaces and evidence of activities to promote conservation of flora and fauna

The playpark on the Fairhill Road, and the playing fields are well kept and neat and the main toads , and some of the side roads such as Molesworth Street, hare tree lined and well planted.

5. **Presentation of Private Residential Areas:** including house frontages, hanging baskets, planters and gardens:

These are very good and some particularly impressive.

6. **Judge's discretionary mark and comments:** to include evidence of Business and Community involvement

A very pleasant town to visit which has shown improvement on previous years. It looks prosperous and welcoming and shows considerable promise if it continues to improve.

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

1. Dungannon Road roundabout
2. Tree-lined roads
3. Children's Play park on the Fairhill Road

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

1. A few gaps along the main road await development
- 2.
- 3.

Signed  (Stephen Roulston)  (Marie Roulston)
Date 13th August 2022

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2022 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Medium Town Category)**

Place Name:- Magherafelt

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- 13 August 2022

Weather conditions:- Warm and sunny

Category Entered: Medium Town

Limits Used: 30

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)

*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.
Magherafelt

Date: JUDGES REMARKS
(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

1. **General appearance:** to include approach roads, streets, road signs, car parks, litter bins, public seating, welcome signs and re-cycling

Well-tended verges and plantings at the major entrances to the town. Public seating and other street furniture is good order and car parks are plentiful and well maintained.

2. **General cleanliness and tidiness:** to include long and short term litter, vandalism, graffiti, fly-posting, inappropriate advertising and dog fouling

The main streets are very well maintained and free of litter, graffiti and inappropriate advertising. There was no evidence of dog fouling or vandalism. There was some litter and graffiti on the walkway behind Princess Terrace.

3. **Business properties:** (including public transport facilities) decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate) and efforts to improve dereliction

Generally in good condition. There is some dereliction which needs attention, for example the yard behind the former Emergency Medical Care Building in Rainey Street and a former pub close to the Church Street/King Street junction. Meadowbanks Sports Arena and the Greenvale Sports Centre are well maintained. All the schools in the town, and the Regional College, looked very smart, as did the Bridewell, operating as a library.

4. **Natural Environment and Open Spaces:** to include presentation and management of open spaces and evidence of activities to promote conservation of flora and fauna

The central Diamond is particularly attractively planted with a feature sculpture in the main roundabout. Plentiful square tubs and hanging baskets throughout the town. The trees in Broad Street are particularly attractive. There were some weeds in Rainey View.

5. **Presentation of Private Residential Areas:** including house frontages, hanging baskets, planters and gardens:

These were very good in the main and some were excellent.

6. **Judge's discretionary mark and comments:** to include evidence of Business and Community involvement

This is a nice town to visit and it is clear that efforts have been made to enhance it for visitors and residents alike.

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

1. Greenvale Leisure Centre
2. The Diamond – planting and sculpture
3. The Bridewell and Broad Street

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

1. Some removal of graffiti
2. Some attention to the derelict properties
- 3.

Signed  (Stephen Roulston)  (Marie Roulston)
Date 13th August 2022

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2022 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Small Village Category)**

Place Name:- Swatragh

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- 6 August 2023

Weather conditions:- Cloudy

Category Entered: SMALL VILLAGE

Limits Used: 30 mph

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)

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In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

Date: JUDGES REMARKS
(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

- (1) **General appearance: to include approach roads, streets, road signs, car parks, litter bins, public seating, , welcome signs and re-cycling.**

Good approach roads into the village, on the Moneysharvan Road from Maghera there was a lovely flower display beside the village sign which was clear but needs cleaned. Car parks at the church park, restaurant and on street parking. Reasonable number of litter bins. Paper recycling at the Solo petrol station and church grounds. Litter bin at Solo petrol station, looks old and not secured to the ground. Some public seating in the village, might be beneficial to have more.

- (2) **General cleanliness and tidiness: to include long and short term litter, vandalism, graffiti, fly posting, inappropriate advertising and dog fouling.**

Generally the village was clean and tidy with a small amount of short term litter. There was no sign of vandalism or graffiti. The telephone box had old advertising banners on it that have started to come off and could be removed. There was no sign of inappropriate advertising or dog fouling. The area around St John's primary school was clean and tidy.

- (3) **Business Premises (including public transport facilities) decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate) and efforts to improve dereliction.**
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Friels bar and restaurant have made a huge effort with flower displays around their premises and as they are situated on the corner of a road junction it really helps to brighten up the village. The flowers and hanging baskets were all in good bloom and seem well cared for. The entrance to the business park on Garvagh Road had a small amount of fresh litter and overgrown weeds on the kerb. The bus shelter on Kilrea road was clean and tidy (just a small amount of fresh litter) but could be repainted. The other bus shelter has a lovely plant display beside and public seating.

- (4) **Natural Environment and Open Spaces to include presentation and management of open spaces and evidence of activities to promote conservation of flora and fauna**

The park is a great asset to the village with good parking space too. The gym and play park area look well maintained and clean and tidy. One litter bin looked quite old and perhaps needs replaced. The information signs about the park and local area are good but could be cleaned.

- 5) **Presentation of Private Residential Areas: including house frontages, hanging baskets, planters and gardens:**

Residential areas were generally well kept and some had lovely flower baskets and displays. One house on the main street looks unloved in and had lots of overgrown plants and weeds outside, beside another house with lovely displays.

(6) Judge's discretionary mark and comments: to include evidence of Business and Community Involvement

A good effort has been made in the village to look after it and keep it clean and tidy. The park is a great asset and seems to be well looked after by the community. Friels definitely stood out as great evidence of business involvement, the area around the business park could be improved.

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

(i) Friels bar and restaurant for all their flower displays

(ii) The park area which was clean and tidy

(iii) Area around the bus stop shelter with plants and public seating

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

(i) Clear area around business park of weeds and tidy up

(ii) Remove old advertising posters on telephone box

(iii) Replace old litter bin in the park

Signed: **Emma Corry**
 (Judge(s))

Date: **7th August 2022**

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2022 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Small Village Category)**

Place Name:- StewartsTown

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- 6 August 2022

Weather conditions:- Cloudy

Category Entered: SMALL VILLAGE

Limits Used: 30 mph

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)

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In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

Date: JUDGES REMARKS

(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

- (1) **General appearance: to include approach roads, streets, road signs, car parks, litter bins, public seating, , welcome signs and re-cycling.**

The village has a good overall appearance, the grass on the approach roads looked recently cut and on the approach road from Pomeroy there was a Welcome sign and flower display in a wooden train. There is on street parking in the village and in the square area with a good number of litter bins and adequate public seating. The public toilets were clean and seem well looked after. The recycling centre and Morgans stores just has one clothes recycling bin and so more recycling facilities here would be beneficial. There is one paper recycling bin in the St Mary's Church car park and the area around was clean and tidy but it isn't very accessible at the far end of the carpark.

- (2) **General cleanliness and tidiness: to include long and short term litter, vandalism, graffiti, fly posting, inappropriate advertising and dog fouling.**

On Loughview Close a sign says Stewartstown Community Garden but it doesn't look like much is happening here now and there was some rubbish around the area, long term litter and fresh litter. There was some litter in the residential area beside the square. There was no sign of vandalism, graffiti dog fouling. The telephone box in the square had a poster with butterflies on it and on the other side the glass was unclean. There are some derelict buildings on Coagh Road and some attempts have been made to improve these.

- (3) **Business Premises (including public transport facilities) decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate) and efforts to improve dereliction.**
-

There was a beautiful flower display on Castlefarm Road and said 'Stewartstown in Bloom, Keystone Lintels' suggesting that this local company is involved with sponsoring the village flower displays. The area around McNeece memorial hall was clean and tidy and looks well cared for with lovely flower boxes. The area around the first Presbyterian church was clean and tidy. Café connect has made a great effort with their floral displays and one sign says 'sponsored by café connect Ulster in Bloom', they also have a bench outside the café on the street. Other businesses in the village have also made a great effort with their flowers. The area around the bus stop was clean and tidy but the bus stop sign needs cleaned. Efforts have been made to improve the area around the old police station with some flowers and flower paintings on the wall which is great, but some of the area around here needs tidied up and long term weeds etc cleared.

- (4) **Natural Environment and Open Spaces to include presentation and management of open spaces and evidence of activities to promote conservation of flora and fauna**

The village square had lovely flower displays, some with old painted bicycles with flowers on them. The community garden area looks neglected and there is another green area beside St Mary's school which is fenced off and overgrown and writing on a wall says 'wild flower cottage' and a sign giving information about rewilding to encourage bees and butterflies. Outside this area are two bins painted with faces and with flowers and umbrellas, which help to brighten the area. There was a small amount of fresh litter in front of the fence.

5) **Presentation of Private Residential Areas:** including house frontages, hanging baskets, planters and gardens:

The presentation of private residential area is good with some well kept gardens and some lovely flower baskets and pots, which help to brighten up the village.

(6) **Judge's discretionary mark and comments:** to include evidence of Business and Community Involvement

There is clearly great business and community involvement in looking after the village, especially with the lovely flower displays throughout and the efforts that lots of businesses have gone to with their flowers. The areas around the churches are well kept and having a rewilding area to encourage wildlife is a good addition to the village.

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

(i) Welcome sign and train with the flower display

(ii) Café connect and their flower display, bench and sponsorship

(iii) Bikes in the square with flowers

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

(i) Clean up the area of the community garden area, and would be great if this was started again

(ii) More recycling facilities

(iii) Improve the frontage of some of the derelict buildings

Signed: Emma Corry
(Judge(s))

Date: 7th August 2022

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2022 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Small Village Category)**

Place Name:- Tobermore

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- 6 August 2022

Weather conditions:- Cloudy

Category Entered: SMALL VILLAGE

Limits Used: 30 mph

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)
*For judging purposes, the limits of judging should normally be 40mph restriction signs or 30mph signs (in absence of the former).

In some cases the judges should use his/her discretion, e.g., where housing/industrial developments have taken place in recent years near but beyond the speed limits, or where there are no clearly defined limits to the city/town being judged.

Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

Date: JUDGES REMARKS
(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

- (1) **General appearance: to include approach roads, streets, road signs, car parks, litter bins, public seating, , welcome signs and re-cycling.**

This is a lovely well kept village and the approach roads all look well maintained, with grass recently cut and no overgrown foliage and good clean road signs. There are also some lovely flower displays in the approach roads. There is on street parking on the main road and also a good number of litter bins and public seating along the main street and throughout the village. Clothes and books recycling bins are at the Spar. The public toilets were clean and tidy. Some of the information signs could be cleaned.

- (2) **General cleanliness and tidiness: to include long and short term litter, vandalism, graffiti, fly posting, inappropriate advertising and dog fouling.**

There was a small amount of short term litter on the streets and in the park but no clear sign of long term litter, vandalism, graffiti, flyposting inappropriate advertising or dog fouling. Generally the streets and park were clean and tidy and seem well looked after.

- (3) **Business Premises (including public transport facilities) decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate) and efforts to improve dereliction.**
-

Business premises look well kept and the flower display with a fish sculpture at Tobermore Paving and Walling Centre is a great addition to the village and helps to brighten it up. The business premises on Desertmartin Road have lovely flower boxes, well cut grass and public seating which adds to the appearance of the village. The areas around other businesses including Spar and Yara was generally clean and tidy. There are good efforts to improve dereliction on some properties on Draperstown Road which pictures on houses and walls. The bus stop outside the Spar shop was clean and tidy with a lovely flower box beside. The bus stop beside the school had a small amount of fresh litter but otherwise clean and tidy. The primary school area was well kept and lovely flower boxes at the school.

- (4) **Natural Environment and Open Spaces to include presentation and management of open spaces and evidence of activities to promote conservation of flora and fauna**

The park is a lovely open space and the area around the stream has good conservation of flora and fauna and trees in the park. There was just a small amount of fresh litter in the park but otherwise it is well looked after and a great asset to the village with an outdoor gym and picnic tables. The playpark also seemed well looked after.

- 5) **Presentation of Private Residential Areas: including house frontages, hanging baskets, planters and gardens:**

Lots of the private residential properties had flower displays outside and look well kept. The

houses in a row slightly set back from Draperstown Road had made a great effort and the row of flowers along the railings really brighten up the area. The entrance to Edmund Court had lovely flower beds, well cut grass, trees and public seating and the house frontages look well kept.

(6) Judge's discretionary mark and comments: to include evidence of Business and Community Involvement

There are clearly great efforts to look after the village and involvement of businesses and the community.

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

(i) Efforts to improve appearance of dereliction, with pictures

(ii) Flower displays throughout village, including businesses and private housing

(iii) The park area is a great asset to the village and seems well looked after

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

(i) More recycling facilities

(ii) Install litter picker stations so the community can do litter picking easily

(iii) Clean the information signs

Signed: **Emma Corry**
 (Judge(s))

Date: **7th August 2022**

**NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL
BEST KEPT AWARDS 2022 sponsored by
GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT
JUDGING SHEET (Small Village Category)**

Place Name:- Caledon

Council:- Mid Ulster

Date:- 6 August 2022

Weather conditions:- Warm/ Showery

Category Entered: SMALL VILLAGE

Limits Used: 30 mph

Boundary definition: Nameplace/40mph limit/30mph limited (deleted as appropriate)

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Please state which limits you used:

Welcome sign/30 and 40 mph.

Date: JUDGES REMARKS
(To be completed immediately at the end of the visit)

- (1) **General appearance: to include approach roads, streets, road signs, car parks, litter bins, public seating, , welcome signs and re-cycling.**

Generally good approach roads with clear signage. Caledon sign could be cleaned and on road towards Eglish, mound of concrete and grass which needs fixed. Good on street parking and number of litter bins along the main street. Some recycling facilities available but the clothes recycling bin beside the school had a lot of bags dumped around it. There was also rubbish dumped around the other recycling bins on Castle Drive. The area around Mill Street and the Riverside walk area looks well looked after, with seating, bins and parking.

- (2) **General cleanliness and tidiness: to include long and short term litter, vandalism, graffiti, fly posting, inappropriate advertising and dog fouling.**

The village was clean and tidy with very little litter (just some fresh litter), especially good around the mill area and carpark and paths were clean and tidy. Unfortunately there were bags dumped around the clothes recycling bin beside the school and the bin full. The other clothes recycling bins in the village had small amounts of rubbish dumped in front of them. No sign of graffiti, flyposting, inappropriate advertising or dog fouling.

- (3) **Business Premises (including public transport facilities) decorative and repair order of commercial property, including landscaping (where appropriate) and efforts to improve dereliction.**
-

Businesses in the village have made a great effort with keeping their areas tidy and presentation of flowers. The nursery on Mill Street has an area of fauna and flowers that is well looked after. On the main street Allens, the hair and beauty salon and others had lovely window boxes. The flowers around the church on the main street and road towards Aughnacloy were impressive and well looked after. Some flower boxes had also been placed in front of the old Caledon Arms hotel, these look good but some of the area around needs cleaned up of weeds growing and swept up.

- (4) **Natural Environment and Open Spaces to include presentation and management of open spaces and evidence of activities to promote conservation of flora and fauna**

The area around Mill Street and the old mill was well presented and a clean and tidy open space, with good conservation of flora and fauna. This area and the riverside walk are a really lovely part of the village and clearly well looked after. The small playpark area in the village was clean and no sign of litter.

- 5) **Presentation of Private Residential Areas: including house frontages, hanging baskets, planters and gardens:**

Some residents have made a big effort with hanging baskets and flower boxes which help to brighten the village and are a lovely addition. Generally most houses were clean and tidy and well looked after.

(6) Judge's discretionary mark and comments: to include evidence of Business and Community Involvement

There is clear evidence in the village of business and community involvement, with local businesses keeping areas clean and tidy and having flowers outside too. The number of flowers in the village was impressive and they are clearly well looked after. The area around the public toilet has been made into a lovely imaginative garden display and must take a lot of time and effort to look after, this is a brilliant addition to the village. The area around the old mill is also commendable and this is a lovely village.

NOTE:

Please list below three aspects which deserve special commendation

(i) Flowers throughout village

(ii) Area around Mill Street

(iii) Flower and garden display beside the public toilet

Please list below three aspects where improvements could be made

(i) Areas around recycling bins, and trying to prevent dumping beside full bins

(ii) Small island in the road towards Eglish with a sign and concrete and grass all dug up around

(iii) Clean signage

Signed: **Emma Corry**
 (Judge(s))

Date: **7th August 2022**