

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Derrahaun** Ref: **2076**
County: **Longford** Mark: **237**
Category: **A** Date(s): **21/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	23
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	22
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	38
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	22
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	11
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	24
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	37
TOTAL MARK	450	237

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Derrahaun is welcomed to the 2014 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your entry and map. This attractive residential area has a committee of five. Regular meetings are held and support is obtained from local agencies in sponsorship or other assistance as needed. The committee communicate through social activities and work meetings. The BBQ is a fun day celebrating the achievements to date and planning the year ahead. Well done to the school on their green flag award and well done on your support to the school. This is what Tidy Towns is all about the community helping each other and supporting where possible to enhance the area and create a sense of pride.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

The residential areas make up the streetscape. The houses are colourful and bright located in a crossroads setting. The green areas surrounded by hedging and mature trees complements the location. The large stones on gravel with the place name in Irish were admired. The adjudicator felt the village with its peat land connection would be enhanced with a bog oak sculptor at village entrances. Perhaps even one in the village as a feature would help to reduce costs.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The area is set in natural surroundings with mature trees and hedging. Native trees and hedging such a hawthorn would complement the present landscaping. The landscaping in the green areas in stone surrounds beds are attractive but the adjudicator felt that any new planting projects be planted in the ground using plants best suited to your peat soil. The planting of birch trees in the triangle greens as an avenue effect would also compliment your existing landscaping.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

The area has many natural habitats for wildlife in its mature trees and hedges. In this category the main focus has to be on your location to the bog. In your application you acknowledged that it takes time to return peat land to its natural state. However, any plans that Bord Na Mona has in place to do this ensure your committee are part of it. You are making positive progress on walks in the bog land and this can be further enhanced. In time do try and conduct a wild life survey in the area if not already done, use the school children as you have outlined. This will provide detailed information that can be shared with the community and visitors.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

This category is about waste prevention reducing the amount of waste that is produced by the community in the first place. The local school Cloontagh with its Green Flag status could be of assistance to you in this area. Groups are encouraged to carry out some type of waste awareness survey to ascertain what the community is at in terms of waste prevention. Finding out the number of households that do home composting is another simple survey. You are correct when you state that water will have to be minimised with water charges been introduced. Rainwater harvesting would be something to look at.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your plan on litter control appears to be working well. Your regular litter patrols involving the wider community creates awareness that your goal is for the area to be a litter free zone. Perhaps some signage to this effect would confirm your objective for the area. The approach roads are neat, road surfaces are good and signage good. Just watch for encroaching foliage on signage.

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

The residential streets and housing areas are applauded. The houses are well presented with nice colourful gardens. Hanging baskets and window boxes brought colour to the streetscape. Well done on your ongoing development of the playground. There were some areas of boundary walls that need freshening.

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

The approach roads had nice well trimmed verges, perhaps a beeline could be left along mature hedges which would create a corridor for wildlife. The landscaped beds are attractive. The mature trees complemented the location. On the main Lanesborough Road at wall across from the 60Km speed limit could be enhanced. Perhaps berried hedging planted at this wall would give interest and colour to the area and also reduce painting.