

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Edgeworthstown** Ref: **714**
County: **Longford** Mark: **244**
Category: **C** Date(s): **19/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	36
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	33
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	34
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	31
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	21
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	27
TOTAL MARK	450	244

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Edgeworthstown is welcomed to the Tidy Towns competition for 2014. Thank you for your entry, map, copy of your plan and supporting documentation. Your participation in the competition is welcomed by the Tidy Towns unit. You have an active committee of 16 members that hold regular meetings. You have good support from local agencies and businesses through sponsorship and other assistance as required from time to time. Your comprehensive communication system reaches out to the wider community. Your engagement with the schools is noted as this is an important area of networking. Sharing of knowledge and working together particularly in the areas of litter control and waste minimisation will ensure better community involvement. Taking part in the competition has given the community a sense of pride in their town as well as improving the overall appearance of the town.

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

Well done on your initiatives of addressing derelict sites with the erection of historical panels on the hoarding. This brings a whole new dimension to the streetscape. Frank Greens building was admired with its clock feature. St. Marys Church is a superb grey stone building and is brightened by the lovely tiered array of flowers at the entrance. Our Lady's Manor and Nursing home is having restoration done presently. St Mary's national school was visited. The boundary wall needs painting however. More renovation work at the school, a sign of progress which is good news for any village or town. St. Marys Childcare campus was very well presented with superb window boxes and nice play area. The community centre with its superb stone wall was also visited but part of the wall at entrance on the graveyard side needs attention. The graveyard looked neat and tidy and colourful. Other buildings that stood out were the Garda station, Quinn's supply store and Jacks corner house with information boards. The Park House Hotel and Post Office were also noted and admired. The Fair green is a superb amenity for the community with something to suit everyone's taste. The signage in the Fair green was admired. St. Johns Church looks good but the rusty iron bar at the corner takes from it somewhat. Edgeworthstown station house and area is well presented. The statue of Maria Edgeworth is a lovely feature on this road.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The town of Edgeworthstown is situated in a rural background with green fields, mature trees and hedges bordering the town. This background is complemented by the many areas of landscaping dotted around the town. The fair green is one example with many green areas, plenty of mature trees and the river Black flowing through. The Ballymahon road entrance had superb planting of shrubs at the wall. This superb landscaping continues at the walks and Bracklin road. This type of planting that is noted around the town is recommended by the Tidy Towns unit. Year round seasonal planting using native trees and shrubs provides more interest and is more cost effective for groups. The many planters, hanging baskets and window boxes all beautifully presented added great colour to

the streetscape of Edgeworthstown.

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

Your group have a lovely amenity in the Fair green and you are capitalising on it. The Biodiversity audit and management plan which was compiled provides you with a comprehensive overview of the species and habitats in the town many of which are located in the green. This is a superb study to have and one which can be added to with any further studies that may be carried out. It is also good to note that you are engaging with an expert on the maintenance of this lovely amenity. The bat survey study is also noted. Groups are encouraged to host events that celebrate and raise awareness of local species and habitats. This could be a dawn chorus or tree planting day with the help of an expert and can be held as part of heritage week. Assistance can be obtained from the local authority.

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

This category is about waste prevention by reducing the amount of waste produced by the community in the first place. You are addressing some of these in the areas of water and energy. Rainwater harvesting is an area the wider community should look at and not just Tidy Towns groups with water charges being introduced. Composting is another area that your group is using to reduce waste. The compost bags were noted at the green. Food waste is another area that your group should look at and how to reduce the amount of food waste produced. Work shops in food waste can be organised and are very beneficial. The local authorities prevention network website have added a specific Tidy Towns page to this website providing practical tips and advice on sustainable waste and resource management. The website address is <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>. This hopefully will be of benefit to groups.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You have a good positive plan in place on litter control with your spring clean followed by weekly litter patrols. The anti litter awareness competition through the school is commended. Do you work along with the local authority on trying to curb illegal dumping? They may also give you assistance in the different black spots identified. There were some areas of untidiness noted. There was some cardboard at the bring bank. The adjudicator felt that the bring banks location is not suitable. It needs to be in a more accessible location where cars can drive in safely. There was a lot of signage at the back of Costcutters. The directional sign heading for Goldsmith roundabout needs cleaning. The entrance gate to fair green needs painting. There was graffiti noted on walls and the roof of the notice board at entrance to park needs attention.

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

There were many different style houses admired throughout the town. Housing estates were admired such as Devine crescent estate with its nice mature trees and hanging baskets. Marian Avenue stood out with a nice row of trees alongside. Do consider planting of hedging at paling in this area. Goldsmith meadow was well presented. Kilbride Park was also noted and the many stand alone houses were admired. The yellow house at the gate of the park hotel caught the adjudicator's eye. The houses were all well presented and each added their own charm to the streetscape of the town. Gardens were colourful and tidy. Hanging baskets and window boxes all added that extra colour. Do ensure that bilingual signage is used if possible at all estates. Well done to all residents for their work they have completed for this years competition.

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

The approach roads to the town gave a good first impression. The Ballymahon entrance is very impressive. The roundabout from the Ballymahon road leading to the next roundabout is well landscaped with nice footpaths. The Longford road has a nice entrance sign with planting of roses. Granard road corner has nice landscaping but the wall on the corner needs painting.