

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lanesborough** Ref: **898**
County: **Longford** Mark: **244**
Category: **B** Date(s): **25/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	35
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	31
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	30
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	26
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	11
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	49
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	27
TOTAL MARK	450	244

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Lanesborough is welcomed to the Tidy Towns Competition for 2014. Thank you for your entry, map and supporting documentation which includes a Tidy Towns Plan for the village 2014/2018. Involving the community and natives of Lanesborough living abroad for suggestions to help enhance the village as part of your new plan, was a splendid thought. You have a large working committee with support from local agencies providing sponsorship and other assistance where needed in achieving your goals. Your strands of communication will certainly reach to the wider community. Engaging with the schools and assisting each other through the relevant projects is a good awareness tool for the wider community. The competition has created a sense of pride in the community and created a more wholesome approach. Your participation is important to the Tidy Towns movement.

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

The streetscape of Lanesborough has a fresh look of cared for buildings as a result of this year's competition. Much cleaning, painting and decorating with nice hanging baskets has been completed. The Church and Parochial House looked very impressive. The green area across from the Church, home of the village pump which was adorned with nice planters was admired. The mature trees in this area added character to the streetscape. Do avoid the overuse of weed killer as was noted around the edges of the green. Yacht Bar in its striking colour with hanging baskets was admired. J O'Brien's well painted building was noted but looked a little cluttered with too many flags. The Parish Hall and sculptor outside, a focal point of the village was admired. The playground was well maintained with bilingual signage noted.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Ballymahon road displays an avenue of trees in a nicely trimmed green area. The additional hedge planting completed a well landscaped entrance to Lanesborough. The village sign also complements this road. The landscaped boat suits this location. This area also provides a walking amenity for the community. The landscaping at the Bring Bank was noted and highlights this facility in a pleasant way. The use of stone planters as containers or wooden containers complements the buildings and flowers. Do continue planting year round seasonal planting using native hedges and shrubs where possible. This is more cost effective for groups. Hanging baskets and window boxes once not overdone in quantity provides colour to the streetscape.

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

Your list of surveys in this category are long and wide ranging. The tree trail project between the national school and Ballyboro scouts on trees located in the town centre when complete, will be informative to the wider community.

When do you hope to have this project complete? The butterfly garden is another interesting project, will this project contain a list of butterflies that can be seen in the area. The remainder of your list of projects are all very interesting and we will await the final reports and outcomes.

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

You are progressing well in this category. Rainwater harvesting is an efficient resource that can be extended to the wider community. In all projects under sustainable and resource management the wider community which also includes the school play a large part in their successful implementation. Community composting should also be encouraged. Waste prevention is an important area and is about reducing the amount of waste produced in the first place. Transport is another area and this is about encouraging people to pool cars, or use public transport which saves on transport. Finally energy savings need to be addressed but can be done in the most basic way by using energy saving bulbs in the community.

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:

No overhead wires it gives a great tidy look to the town. Where weed growth is a problem the overuse of weed killer is not encouraged particularly around edges of green areas. It takes from the appearance. Spraying at kerbs if done at the early stages of growth will be unnoticed but using long grass is not encouraged. Your plan on litter control is working well. Regular litter picks creates a greater awareness among the community and the school on eradicating litter from the village. When there is no litter to be seen people are less likely to litter.

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

Firstly the residents of Church View and Carriag Rua are to be commended on their awards in the Co. Longford better estates competition. This is encouraging for residents and a reward for their work. The establishment of residents associations in the housing estates is important as it gives great support to the Tidy Towns committee. The commitment of residents to the maintenance and presentation was noted on adjudication day. With the exception of some boundary walls housing areas had nice landscaping at entrances, well maintained green areas with colourful gardens that brought a ray of sunshine to the area. The streetscape had many traditional houses in particular at the green area in the village centre. The more modern houses blended in well all adding their character to the streetscape. The work to enhance unoccupied houses was noted and commended. Well done on signage and the use of the Irish language.

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

The approach road from Ballymahon gives the visitor a good first impression of the village with some well trimmed verges that still cater for wildlife. The entrance signs, landscaping, newly planted trees that seem to go on and on and the native hedging planting at palings was admired. This approach with some variations was carried through to other entrances in the village. The bridge makes another superb impact to the villages approach. Traffic flowed freely and the signage was good.