

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Legan** Ref: **479**
County: **Longford** Mark: **259**
Category: **A** Date(s): **19/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	34
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	34
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	39
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	23
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	11
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34
TOTAL MARK	450	259

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Your adjudicator welcomes Legan to the 2014 Tidy Towns competition. Thank you for your entry and map. Your participation is important to the Tidy Towns unit. After a lapse from the competition you are back with a new committee of five. You have a good communication system in place within the community through parish newsletter and local paper. Visits by your members to the school are important to engage the local school in your activities. Well done to the school on their green flag status. Having achieved their green flags they will have a good knowledge that can be shared with the community which will assist you in your work for the competition. Do consider putting together a plan for the village setting realistic and achievable goals. This can be done by the committee identifying areas you would like developed or enhanced. It keeps the group focussed.

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

The village has many superb buildings that are part of the streetscape of Legan. The school was visited and admired on its presentation which included its green flags. The Church and grounds were admired with colourful landscaped beds. There is a superb copper tree here which has shrubs at base that need weeding. The tree on its own here would look better without the planting at the base. The priest's house was also admired. Michaels bar was also well presented. The recycling area with its stone walls and hanging baskets was admired. The graveyard was well maintained and Whites Checkout and house looked very well. The thatched house with the rose around the door and assortment of farm machinery brightened up the entire streetscape. The ball alley on Abbeyshrule road is a lovely amenity with superb surrounds. The crèche looks splendid with the boy/girl sculpture giving a welcome feel to any child or parent entering. The adjudicator followed the sign for Legan Rock and was overjoyed to find such a well presented area with nice hedging and seating in the trees. The only sign on finding the area was the cross on the gate. This is part of the villages history and should have more signs and information boards erected. This goes for all areas of interest in the village. Small information boards should be in place.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Legan has no shortage of landscaping. Foxhall crescent has superb trees and tubs of flowers. The play area is well maintained and the superb bog oak sculptures and hanging baskets on poles all brought colour to the area. The green area with flower containers looks well. Smithfield crescent had a nice picnic area at entrance and some superb landscaping. Landscaped containers were also noted and admired. The Failte sign in box was also admired. The new blue containers brought great life and colour to the streetscape. The superb red geraniums at the house up from the bridge really stood out. There were many more areas of landscaping which added greatly to the colour of the streetscape.

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

There are many areas for wildlife in the trees, hedging and stone walls that border the village. The area at the ball alley is a superb area for wildlife. The wildlife sign was noted here. Key to this category is an understanding and appreciation of existing habitats and species within the area. Groups are encouraged to carry out an overview of wildlife and habitats in the area. You may have a local member that has local wildlife knowledge that could help. A study or survey with the help of the school would gather baseline information on the species and habitats found in their community. This should be recorded and documented and built on in future reports. Communities are also encouraged to host events that celebrate and raise awareness of local species and habitats. This could be a tree planting day or wildflower walk or talk with an expert. Assistance for this can be obtained from the local authority and can be held as part of heritage week.

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

Working with the schools in this category is important. This is about waste prevention and by reducing the amount of waste produced in the community in the first place and by looking at wider resource efficiencies to save water, energy and transport. It is about changing the mind-set of people to move beyond recycling. Groups should concentrate on one or two areas where big savings can be made. Food waste is one of these areas where big savings can be made. Taking part in food waste workshops would create awareness among the community on areas where savings can be made. Another area to look at is water savings. Rainwater harvesting is popular with water meters being introduced. Communities can save water and money. 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 plan in place on controlling litter. Working with the school and the local authority and involving the wider community on clean up days and regular litter patrols creates an awareness on the importance of zero litter in your village. Your plan appears to be working as very little litter was noticed on adjudication day. The bring bank was neat and tidy and accessible to the community. The village was generally tidy on day of adjudication.

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

The residences throughout the village and on approach roads were well presented. Stand alone houses had well presented gardens that brought colour to the village. The two thatched cottages brought an extra charm to the area. All housing areas have superb landscaping and lovely pieces of sculpture that brought character to the village. The unfinished estate had nice paling and gates which made the area look complete. Well done to all residents of Legan on the presentation of their homes.

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

The village entrance signs gave a good first impression of the village. On the Abbeyshrule road there were nice grass verges and lovely stone walls. The bridge and stream is a nice feature and the well landscaped bed was admired. The red field gate brings a splash of colour. The grass verges on the Edgeworthstown road were well maintained. The stone wall area on this road could be better utilised. Maybe look at putting a walking area inside the wall on this busy road. The mature trees and hedging on approach roads was admired. The grass verges on approach roads should have a beeline at base of hedge which creates a corridor for wildlife.