

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lisryan**
County: **Longford**
Category: **A**

Ref: **2171**
Mark: **208**
Date(s): **19/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	22
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	29
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	28
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	15
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	9
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	23
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30
TOTAL MARK	450	208

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Your adjudicator welcomes Lisryan to the Tidy Towns competition for 2014. As this is your first year in the Tidy Towns we hope that your group enjoys being part of the competition. Your participation in the competition is important to the Tidy Towns unit. Thank you for your entry and helpful map. Your committee of 9 are supported by the local authority, the community and local businesses. Your communication with the community is house to house and by parish newsletter. Do engage with local schools as they are involved in the green schools programmes and have a good knowledge that can be shared with the community. Taking part in the competition has created a buzz in the village and has set goals for the community. Do put together a three year plan for the village. This plan can be done by the community. Do ensure that any goals and objectives are achievable. This is an important stage, don't put the community under too much pressure but have a realistic plan for the village.

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

The village of Lisryan is a rural village set in green fields and mature trees with a crossroads location. All roads lead to the Cross Roads Inn. This is a pub and shop with petrol pumps and is neat and tidy and well presented. The pub is the focal point of the village. Is this your meeting point for your Tidy Towns group? This village has no unoccupied houses. The houses on the approach roads are all well maintained and create a superb streetscape for the village. The green area is for the local soccer club and other sporting activities that the community may need. The planting of hedging along the wire fencing at the sports field would enhance this area. The entrance signs into the village give a welcoming feel with the superb landscaping looking bright and colourful.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The landscaping that borders the village consists of mature trees, hedging and well presented road verges. Some of which have been newly reseeded. The entrance signs to the village are landscaped with colourful plants. The tubs of flowers at the local shop add a splash of colour. The role of landscaping should provide year round seasonal interest and colour through the planting of hedges, shrubs and trees. Areas should provide a visual brand or theme. The use of hedging can assist this role for instance the planting of beech or hawthorn along approach roads where needed. Planting of trees on approach roads are more affective if the one tree species is used. This creates an avenue effect. Containers are used to bring colour where ground planting is not suitable. Containers should be placed on a hard surface and not on grass. Try and present the same container type preferably stone or wood or similar to complement your setting.

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

The village provides natural habitats for wildlife in the hedgerows and stone walls. There are three areas that should be addressed in this category. Educating the community is by obtaining knowledge of local species and habitats and designated areas. Conservation by maintaining the important wildlife areas and implementation of any surveys carried out. Celebration by taking good wildlife advice and celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of local wildlife. Groups should carry out an overview of the wildlife and habitats of their area. This can be a study in conjunction with the local schools to gather baseline information on the species and wildlife found in the community. This should be recorded and documented and used as a baseline for further studies to be added to. In time groups will accumulate a comprehensive overview of wildlife and habitats of their area. 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 from an expert. Assistance with these can be obtained from the local authority. This can take place as part of heritage week. Copies of such reports or events should then be forwarded with next year's entry.

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

This category is about reducing the amount of waste produced in the community and in resource efficiencies of the community in the areas of water, energy and transport. Your group have only just established so look at one area for next years competition in any of the above ones listed. Recycling is on going in all communities. Rainwater harvesting is popular with most groups and is encouraged to save water and funds particularly with water meters being introduced. Composting is another way that would help you in this category. Do work with the local schools green programmes and share knowledge that the schools have gained from this programme with the wider 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:

Groups are encouraged to put a plan in place on how they control litter. In other words how often litter is picked and are there any litter black spots where litter collects. Does the group take part in national spring clean or weekly litter patrols? It is recommended to involve the community and schools. You are also encouraged to wear high viz jackets when working to create an awareness in the community. In tidiness all signage must be clean as you have done for this year's competition. Weed growth along kerbs looks untidy. Herbicides for controlling weeds is not recommended but if done at the early stages of growth it will go unnoticed. Spraying of grass which leaves a burned look is not recommended. The bring bank was tidy on day of adjudication. This area could be enhanced with a tub of flowers.

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

The residences in Lisryan are superbly presented. You are fortunate to have no unoccupied houses are part of the village. Gardens are colourful and neat and green areas are also well presented. Hanging baskets and containers add a splash of colour.

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

The approach roads to Lisryan have well maintained verges, hedges and mature trees. Try leaving a beeline at hedging on grass verges, this creates a corridor for wildlife. On Abbeyshrute road a small bridge was noted over a small stream. The stones of the bridge could be cleaned down and maybe a feature for wildlife created here. All field gates on approach roads should be painted a uniform colour where possible. You are wished well in the competition.