

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newtownforbes** Ref: **910**
County: **Longford** Mark: **258**
Category: **B** Date(s): **29/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	41
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	40
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	35
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	18
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	51
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31
TOTAL MARK	450	258

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Newtownforbes is welcomed to the 2014 Tidy Towns competition. Thank you for your entry, map, action plan and supporting documentation. Your participation is important to the Tidy Towns unit. Well done on your work over the last year and projects completed. You have an active committee of 18 members with support from local agencies and businesses. Funding support is more difficult to come by in these times and as a result Tidy Towns work is even harder. You are fortunate to have five workers in place to help in maintaining the village and to help in future projects. A comprehensive communication system is in place within the community. Well done to the school on their green flag status. The Tidy Towns groups are at the core in any development in Newtownforbes. The competition has given the community a sense of pride in their village and to a degree a sense of ownership. Partaking in the weekly work around the village creates a social outlet for members. It's not all about getting your hands dirty.

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

Promoting heritage awareness is one of your major projects. Your relationship with the owner of Castleforbes Demense is important even for only one heritage walk a year. The entrance to Demense is spectacular with walled gardens and an abundance of history echoed in its walls. St Pauls Church is another important heritage building and is also a part of your organised tours. The residents of Newtownforbes must be proud of this piece of heritage. Well done on your walks and tours and your endeavour to create awareness of the heritage of the village. The Clonguish parish hall was well painted with nice hanging baskets. The adjudicator admired the nice nameplate at the door. The Convent and the old school were noted with restoration work in place. The new cemetery was visited and the area looked well cared for but the boundary walls needs freshening. The shop and Post Office were also noted and admired. The streetscape of the town is enhanced with the superb trees throughout.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Many proposed new landscaping projects were noted in your application. There are many areas of superb landscaping in the village. The entrance on the Sligo road has excellent landscaping at the village sign. The stone wall was noted but some repair is needed at the end. Mature trees, shrubs and flower beds were admired. The metal frame which needs painting distracts somewhat from the superb copper tree. The wall in the background at this area could be enhanced by the planting of berried shrubs. This would provide berries for wildlife and create seasonal interest. Your use of year round planting is noted and encouraged by the Tidy Towns unit. The mature trees on the corner of the main entrance road were admired. The perennial planting was admired and railing at the front added in this area. Following on from last years adjudicator the planting at the base of trees is not recommended as the trees have their own beauty and the plants compete with tree roots for food and water as well

as sunlight. There were many superb planters which all added colour to the buildings and streetscape in particular the colourful containers at the Church doors.

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

In your village wildlife is in abundance in the many habitats such as the trees, walls and hedges. There are three key areas that groups should work towards in this category. Education is the first of these three. The group should have a knowledge of local species and habitats and knowledge of local designated areas. Awareness of invasive species is also recommended. The local schools should be involved in any studies or surveys in this area. The second is conservation and this is the maintenance of important wildlife areas and implementation of survey results. The third area is celebration and this is about obtaining good wildlife advice and celebrating your local wildlife. Groups are encouraged to carry out an overview of the wildlife and habitats of their area. This is a study or survey to gather baseline information on the species and habitats found in the community. There may be someone in your group that could assist with this or the local authority may be able assist. Information gathered should be documented and recorded and used as a basis and any further information gathered should be added to it. In time you will have accumulated a comprehensive overview of the wildlife and habitats of your area. Groups are also encouraged to host events that celebrate and raise an awareness of local species and habitats. Your heritage walks could be one of these events where wildlife can be looked at as well as enjoying your heritage.

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

This category is about reducing the amount of waste produced in the community in the first place. Groups are encouraged to consider wider resource efficiencies across the community in not just waste management but on measures to save water, transport and energy. You have noted in your application that one of your workers demonstrated the installation of a water butt at the parish hall. Rainwater harvesting is an area that the wider community should be looking at to conserve water and save funds. Groups are also encouraged to move away from bedding plants that require large volumes of watering during the summer months. You also mentioned in your application a composting demonstration had taken place. This is another area where savings and waste can be extended to the wider community. Do also look at holding workshops in the area of food waste where big savings can be made. 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. Do look at concentrating on one area in this category for next years competition where savings can be made and submit a copy of any projects or reports with next years application. Do engage with the schools as the knowledge they have obtained in the green school programme can be shared with the community.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your plan on controlling litter appears to be working well. Taking part in national spring clean which should involve the wider community and in particular the school children gets the ball rolling. Regular litter patrols also create awareness. Do also engage with the local authority to curb illegal dumping. Controlling litter and having zero litter in the village will happen if the community are working together to achieve their goal. Some litter was noted at the bring bank on day of adjudication. Perhaps a container of flowers would enhance this area. The village was generally tidy with some weed growth noted at the bus shelter. The repainting of the boundary walls and gates was noted and admired.

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

The estates having their own resident associations which assists in the maintenance of their estate is of great support to the Tidy Towns group. The houses throughout the village were well presented. The gardens were neat and colourful. The unoccupied house on Main Street was nicely painted and brightened this area. All estates presented nice homes and landscaping. Well done to all residents on their work in this category.

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

The approach road from Longford with nice Failte signs had well presented landscaping. On the Sligo road the entrance sign and landscaping was also admired. The mature trees really added to this area. A gate just before the entrance sign on the left side needs replacing. The bridge over the railway was admired. Do ensure that a beeline is left on the inside of grass verges on approach roads as this creates a corridor for wildlife.