

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Derrinturn** Ref: **1209**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **252**
Category: **B** Date(s): **23/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	42
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	34
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	33
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	26
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	49
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30
TOTAL MARK	450	252

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2014 and welcome back from your participation in 2012. We have noted that your committee of six people hold monthly meetings in winter and weekly meetings in summer. You have strong links with residents, voluntary groups and schools. You receive support from local businesses including farmers and public bodies. You avail of weekly parish newsletters, local press, local schools, GAA and public meetings to communicate with your community. Your contact with local schools is very important and their involvement in your efforts is essential. Many thanks for attaching the maps of the area; they are very helpful. We note from previous adjudicators reports that you did have a Tidy Towns Plan for the period 2007-2012 and encourage you to revisit that exercise and set about the preparation of a new plan for the next period. In your application you can then highlight the projects that are relevant to that particular year. This will help to guide you in prioritising what can be done and what projects may be suitable for funding/sponsorship.

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

Bergins Shop was fine. The Garda station and surrounds was clean. The several old town pumps in the community caught our attention. Campus and Daybreak premises were clean as were the rear of the Credit Union site. The well painted school had a Green Flag on display. Congratulations to teachers and pupils. We noted the Community Garden. The bungalows were all well painted and festooned with flowers. The GAA looked well and there was no litter in evidence. A well painted pump and lots of wildflowers nearby caught our attention. Holy Trinity Church and cemetery grounds were in good condition. The railings were painted. At the Turn Inn, we admired the hanging baskets. Funeral Home railing and gates need painting.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The main structural elements in the landscape are trees and while you have some fine trees in Derrinturn there is much scope for further planting. In planting new trees it is best to use a single species on a road or street for uniformity as was done in Ballyshannon Park. Also, it is important to ensure that the base of new trees is maintained free of weeds and grass and also flower beds to ensure early establishment. When trees are established it is important to remove the stakes as the stems can get damaged from the ties or stake. Guideline for plant containers is to use them only where planting directly into the ground is not possible. The use of permanent planting is encouraged rather than relying on annuals which are more time consuming. We admired the hanging baskets on Yvonne's. There is scope for more such baskets on other premises

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

You also have a rich natural area surrounding your community and it is important to promote an awareness of its many traits and to map these habitats. Appreciating your local wildlife resources is vital in order to achieve under this category. In this regard researching and raising awareness is more important than 'doing' at the early stages. Biodiversity is under threat globally and sadly Ireland is a part of this trend. Habitats of value include specimen trees, hedgerows, treelines, streams, woodlands and wetlands. List the plants and animals to be found in your natural environment and recognise their significance (native, protected, or alien invasive?). This would be a very useful project for schools. We note the project of sowing vegetables, herbs and flowers in the Community Garden

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

This category is becoming more and more important and the available marks are now increased to 50 to highlight the need for communities to address the issues involved in tackling the growing waste mountain that is creating problems of pollution, unwanted land use, and the use of dwindling resources. We note that you segregate waste collected during your clean-up operations. Do you have any information on the volume of material collected? Please tell us more about the composters for garden and kitchen waste and do you know what quantity of glass is recycled from the bottle banks. We note that rainwater is used for the community garden and that children use lunch boxes rather than tin foil. These are all very relevant activities under this heading. There are a number of other measures that your town can take in regard to sustainability. Contact your waste contractors and try to find out what is being thrown away and armed with this information you can start to think about how waste can be reduced. One third of our waste is organic in nature, such as grass clippings which we noted in the Ashgrove estate are being dumped. You can avoid collecting mown grass by more frequent cutting and using mulching mowers which shred the clippings and facilitate faster decomposition. In regard to water usage, self-watering hanging baskets are a help in reducing the amount of water used and also the task of watering. Other waste minimisation projects might include working with retailers to cut down on packaging, reminding people to re-use shopping bags, discouraging junk mail, encouraging the re-use of water bottles and coffee mugs at school and at work. In response to an over use of chemicals for weed control, many useful products of the past are no longer available and therefore communities are encouraged to use other means such as hoeing to maintain weeds. In some cases, allowing wildflowers to develop is an acceptable alternative. These activities will highlight the fact that you are focussing on this category and when you develop more projects in the future your marks will increase.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Under this heading we note the spring clean-up, weed control and poster removal actions. A small amount of litter noted in Ballyshannon estate. There was no untidiness around the Clothes Bank

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

Dreenane Park looks very well but it is time to remove the supporting stakes from trees before they damage the stems. Ballyshannon Park has a lovely avenue of hornbeam trees and the stakes should be removed from trees here also. The houses look well and the grass was cut but more trees are needed on the open space. We suggest the planting of a hedge at the fence line.

Newbury Court has nice houses and the trees look well; there were weeds at the roadside kerb. Removal of trees stakes also needed here. Newbury Park houses were fine. It had a lovely stone sign; some trees were dead and others need their stakes removed and weeds where they occur. There is scope for additional tree planting on the large open space. Better care of the grass would assist the landscape impact here. Trinity Crescent looked well; more trees can be planted here. In Radharc Na hEaglaise we noted the hedge and the houses were in good condition. Stakes need removal here also. Beech View estate was fine. We admired the ash trees in the appropriately named Ashmount estate – a dead ash should be removed. Ashgrove estate has a bad road surface and there is scope for more tree planting on the open space. Cluain Dara estate has a nice entrance sign and the trees here are fine specimens. We suggest extending the planting at the wall.

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

Approach roads looked well and the signs were clean.