

# Tidy Towns Competition 2014

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Narraghmore** Ref: **304**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **238**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **26/06/2014**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2014</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	33
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	29
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	31
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	20
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	7
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>238</b>

### Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2014 and we note that your last participation was in 2010. Your committee of eleven people are all new to Tidy Towns and was formed after two initial meetings and you propose further community consultation to engender further support. You receive support from the local Credit Union, local businesses and resident groups. The use of Facebook, posters, leaflets, text and public meetings are your means of communication. Many thanks for attaching a map of the area but we would appreciate a larger print size and the estates as well as project locations marked. We do encourage communities to aim for a 3 year plan because it is not possible to achieve everything in one year and it is good to aim for targets over a period of years. In this regard we note that you plan to gather and analyse information on local needs and resources. That will be a very good first step in the preparation of a plan.

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

We noted the painted old courthouse. However, your submission had no information on the building so we 'googled' it to confirm the building. Well done on the painting. Considering the history of the 1798 rebellion, may we suggest to have a plaque erected on the building or outside identifying it for visitors? There were nice heritage lamp posts in the village and the old town pump in place of honour was well protected with a square surround of white piers and horizontal bars. Victoria take Away, Molly O'Looney's Bar and the Credit Union looked well as did some other private houses. The Post office had window boxes. Some vacant premises noted. At the Calvertstown T junction, the wall needs repair. There is an opportunity here for a feature planting.

### Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

We admired the line of lime trees on the left margin in front of houses (Hillview Terrace from Google Maps) as we approached from Calvertstown. One dead specimen should be removed. The empty plant/flower beds should be planted or removed. These trees are important structural elements in the landscape. You have scope for further tree planting which we recommend, especially in the centre of the village. Guideline for plant containers is to use them only where planting directly into the ground is not possible. However, we advise against placing flower beds or plant containers under trees where they are shaded. Flowers are at their best in sunny positions. The use of permanent planting as you have done in the village is encouraged rather than relying on annuals which are more time consuming. Empty or poorly planted containers are less effective than no plant container and this is mentioned under residential estates below.

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

Under this heading we note the mention of hedging and mature trees. You 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.

### **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 the bottle bank facilities in the GAA club site. For next year, can you determine the volume of material recycled from this facility? We also note your proposals to increase public awareness for energy and waste management and look forward to learning about their success. 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. Examine the waste pyramid and note the recycling is only the fourth most preferred option after avoidance, reducing and re-using. One third of our waste is organic in nature, such as grass clippings. 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:**

You are fortunate to have a CE scheme to assist your work in the village and we note the 2-4 annual clean-ups involving the whole community. We also note your intention of adding more litter bins in the village and we wonder if this is a good idea. Certainly outside a shop is a good idea where people often discard packaging from their purchases. However, some communities have decided not to have litter bins and encourage people to take their litter home. The speed limit sign was dirty on the Calvertstown Road. The curtain sider trailer parked on the roadside looks unsightly. A derelict house and an old shed near the village centre were noted. Clothing bank area clean and tidy. The telephone substation/junction building looks unmaintained.

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

Lipstown Manor has a stately entrance with no name stone. We admired the entrance planting. The houses looked grand. The screen walls could be screened with climbing plants and more trees in the estate would be of benefit. A dead tree opposite the estate should be removed. We advise against placing plant containers on grass. The function of a container is to hold plants that cannot be placed directly into the ground. So we suggest you reduce your workload of maintaining containers by making beds in the ground. Oak Park 1 and 2 estates has empty planters opposite the entrance. These are not needed and one of them has very few plants. Some gardens are well planted. There are nice poles here but lamps are dirty.

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

Stone signs on approach are fine but would look better if raised a little higher off the ground. Going back into the village from Oakpark, we liked the maintenance of the grass margin and trees. We note your plans to continue maintenance of grass margins and hedges and to improve the name stone signs and to deal with the informal dump.