

# Tidy Towns Competition 2014

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Nurney** Ref: **1965**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **241**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **25/06/2014**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2014</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	37
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	34
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	35
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	23
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	22
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	25
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>241</b>

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

Welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2014. We have noted that your committee of seven people hold many meetings throughout the year and have strong links with residents, voluntary groups and schools. You receive support from local businesses and public bodies. Your means of communication include parish newsletter, local newspapers, leaflets and posters. The association with the Principal of Nurney National School, the local scouts and cubs is commendable. Many thanks for attaching a map of the area with project locations marked for our attention and photographs within the text. We have noted the Development Plan 2012 – 2015.

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

It was our delight to visit Nurney for the first time and to learn from the submission about the various improvements implemented there in recent years. O'Brien's Stone House and Pub has well painted doors and windows. The church looked well and we admired the roses and Lavendar planting opposite and noted the new beech hedge. The Gala had plant containers at the front; the shop would benefit from painting. The car park was clean with flower boxes on the railings, picnic tables provided and the pedestrian bridge is a great functional utility. The two graveyards are well maintained and are surrounded with fine stone walls. The school is in good condition and we admired the Green Flag proudly flying. Ballalley wall could be softened with climbing plants. We noted the Pigeon House in the field behind the car park at Gala. Perhaps an information board about this feature would be helpful for visitors. Campus and Daybreak complex was very clean and tidy.

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

The main structural elements in the landscape are trees and apart from the hedgerow trees, the poplar trees between the car park and the graveyard are a major landmark in your community. However, these short-lived species are in decline and you should plan for replacements. Consider a longer lasting tree such as oak or lime. You also have some good specimen trees in residential estates. In planting new trees it is best to use a single species on a road or street for uniformity. 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. This is an issue in the Cois na hAbhainn estate as mentioned below. The use of permanent planting as you have done is encouraged rather than relying on annuals which are more time consuming. We admired the Village Green surrounded with the white painted fence. The playground is of a good standard and other facilities in the small park are valuable amenities.

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

While you have a rich natural area surrounding your community, you can also develop the Village Green for native trees and wildflowers meadows as indicated in your submission. The involvement of the local school is appropriate and we wish you luck with the bird boxes. It is important to promote an awareness of wildlife and to map the habitats. We note the attendance of committee members at a one day biodiversity workshop. 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. Under this heading we note your actions aimed at improving recycling in the village with glass bins and WEEE as well as plan to engage with the school. We note the segregation of collected material and that you even recycle the bags. 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:**

We note your participation in the An Taisce Spring Clean for the fourth year. Your litter patrols are very effective as we found very little litter in Nurney on our visit. The "No Dumping" sign at the entrance from Monasterevin is dirty and should be replaced (if needed). A clutter of poles and wires and old posters on a pole was observed. Well done on your efforts.

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

Castlegate is a small new estate with a grassed area to the front. Tree planting has yet to be done here. Church View estate had very good birch trees. Some gardens were very well maintained and had good hanging baskets. A small amount of litter was noted here. Brookfield estate looked very well. Cois Caislean sign is covered with weeds and litter was observed here also.

Houses and open spaces were well maintained in Castle Raven and Cois na hAbhainn; no weeds, a small amount litter. We suggest that supporting stakes and ties on trees here be checked and if possible removed before they cause damage to the tree stems. Trees should not need support after two years of planting. Two estates had no name stones.

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

The approach to Nurney looks very well. There was a good road surface and a nice entrance name stone. We liked the old stone wall at the cemetery near the new Campus service station and the stone wall and railing boundary of some estates looked well. The white painted fence in front of the poplar trees was attractive and was enhanced with the landscape planting at the footpath edge. This makes for a pleasant stroll