

# Tidy Towns Competition 2014

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Timolin** Ref: **387**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **262**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **09/06/2013**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2014</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	40
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	31
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	34
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	28
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	25
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>262</b>

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

Welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2014 and we note that you have been a participant since the beginning of the competition so well done on your support to date. We are pleased to note that you regard participation as benefitting Timolin through improved maintenance and greater pride for residents and visitors alike. We have noted that your committee of seven people is an increase on last year's numbers and that your meetings vary from monthly to fortnightly and then weekly during the summer period. The strong links with residents, voluntary groups, schools, local businesses and public bodies is a key to your success. Your means of communication include newsletters, newspapers, local radio and public meetings. The involvement with local schools in assisting them to achieve a second Green Flag is commendable. Many thanks for attaching a map of the area with project locations marked for our attention and a book of photographs with some before and after images. We note your Development Plan and suggest that you 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.

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

Of the actions listed under this heading, some such as litter picks are more relevant to other criteria. O'Briens pub was fine. Opposite O'Briens, we admired the stone wall boundary. St. Mullin's Col church building and grounds are in good repair. We admired the yew trees here. The Sportsman's Inn and Byrne Car sales were both clean and tidy and we note that you are liaising with the owner at present. However, the gates and piers opposite Byrnes need attention. At Bagenal's Corner we noted the ongoing developments and the painted gate. The repair work on the old cottage facade is noted.

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

Your listed actions noted are continuous mowing of and mulching of grass from N9 as well as trimming grass around signs and poles, especially the "Welcome" signs. The Hazel pruning and planting and weeding at the "Welcome" walk was also noted. We admired the perennial planting done at Bagenal's Corner; it is very successful as is the ivy growing on the wall. The main structural elements in the landscape are trees and we admired the mature and newer trees on our approach. There is scope for further tree planting on both sides of the road in the vicinity of O'Brien's. In planting new trees it is best to use a single species on a road or street for uniformity as you have already done. 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 needed in the fair Green estate. Guideline for plant containers is to use them only where planting directly into the ground is not possible. If considering more seasonal flowers the use of permanent planting including herbaceous perennials as you have done for floral displays is

encouraged rather than relying on annuals which are more time consuming. Well done on your work to date which has made Timolin a very nice place to visit

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

You have a rich natural area surrounding your community before making any interventions. However, it is good that you have sought advice from the Irish Wildlife Trust to confirm that your actions are correct. We have noted the biodiversity emphasis at the Mound and the sowing of wildflowers behind the oak trees. Your promotion of awareness of wildlife, especially with school children is very important. 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. 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 reduction of flowering barrels in the village to reduce watering tasks and the segregation of litter collected. Have you estimated the savings in terms of water usage and the volume of material recycled? The other activities such as car boot sales, bric a brac tables at events and promotion of recycling are all appropriate 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. 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:**

In general we found Timolin a very pleasant and tidy community and this is due in no small way to the actions of your committee so well done. We know from the before and after pictures just how untidy some locations were before you cleaned them. Your daily litter picks are effective as we saw very little litter anywhere, even grass mowings. It is good that you have established liaison with the Scouts as litter picks are important civic duties of everyone. You have done a good job of removing fly posting and similar advertisements. The yard beside O'Brien's pub was untidy and the "No Parking" sign was dirty.

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

We note that you undertake sweeping and weeding of all footpaths through the village and remind householders to take care of their property. The unfinished Fair Green estate has excellent lime trees and the houses are well maintained; it would benefit from more tree planting on the two greens and in private gardens. Some supporting stakes should be removed before they cause damage to the stems. The Crescent looked well; the sycamore trees make good impact here. To the right of the Crescent is an untidy back yard. Millbrook estate has nice houses and gardens. Why the temporary fencing at the front?

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

The approach road from Moone was looking well. The Tourist route sign was very good. Grass was well trimmed and there was a pleasant lush green entrance to the village. Footpaths were in good condition and we enjoyed the heather beds. Well done on planting daffodil bulbs to add spring colour; we admired the pictures.