

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cappamore** Ref: **1079**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **234**
Category: **B** Date(s): **02/06/2014**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2014 |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Community Involvement & Planning | 60 | 35 |
| Built Environment and Streetscape | 50 | 33 |
| Landscaping and Open Spaces | 50 | 28 |
| Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities | 50 | 21 |
| Sustainable Waste and Resource Management | 50 | 10 |
| Tidiness and Litter Control | 90 | 52 |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas | 50 | 28 |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes | 50 | 27 |
| TOTAL MARK | 450 | 234 |

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Your adjudicator had never been to Cappamore and was most pleasantly surprised by the range and number of facilities available to your rural community.

You have listed the other bodies with whom you work including the GAA, Cappamore Celtic FC, Bilboa AC, Day Care Centre, Sports Hall and the East Limerick Campus of Limerick College. In your entry form under this new section on Community Involvement and Planning you have shown that whilst the TidyTowns committee is a small core, you work well with other community groups, educational establishments, Church bodies and the Local Authorities for the mutual benefit of Cappamore.

The donations received from many including the generous Church Gate Collection is to be commended and shows the support for the work from across your community.

You have included a sheet entitled a 'Multi-year Plan'. It consists of actions that have no dates and there is no indication on whether or not the actions have been achieved. It is suggested that a long-term plan be developed in consultation with some of the community groups that you have already detailed. This could link with the individual aims of some of these groups such as the Cappamore Community Development Association. The concept of the long-term plan is to work towards specific achievements over a sustained period such as the undergrounding of overhead wires. Such an action could take a long time of lobbying and sustained effort by a community and is a good example of what could be included as a long-term aim.

Overall, a lovely time was had discovering the various amenities throughout your community.

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

Driving into Cappamore from Limerick, the cottage on the min-roundabout is a very strategically-positioned building that looked well. As one progressed, it was great to see clean, new flagpoles at the end of the Main Street that draw the eye down to the wonderful new Arts Centre and library that was only opened in April 2014. The modern extension sits very well beside the traditional national school building.

The Garda station on Main Street looked well. The lovely cluster of public houses on Main Street by the junction to Moore Street also looked very well.

The striking façade of The Bridge Inn was noticeable when coming into Cappamore from the Community Centre. The artefacts on display of the windows of this public house were nice to see.

The colours of the key buildings such as the community centre looked very well, so well done on your inclusion in the Dulux paint scheme. St Michael's Church also toned in well and St Catriona's nearby. However, the vibrancy of the colour of the Convent does take one by surprise at first.

There is great potential for a large mural or paint scheme on the concrete block wall at the GAA Pitch that would add to the nice gates here.

It was nice to see the original name in plaster on the top of the premises for Lynch Undertakers. Further uphill a second undertakers was nicely presented in a muted colours – Meehan's. The co-operative building is very clean and neat. Madden's house opposite could easily be enhanced with the painting or replacing of boards in the window.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The under-planting of signs on the approach roads looked very attractive as you arrive in Cappamore. The seating and landscaping by the Fire Station and community Centre looked very well. The pedestrian entrance to Mullally Lawn from Main Street had a very cleverly positioned large planter with a medium sized tree. This lifted this area and worked very well.

Hanging baskets at the Church needed some watering at the time of visit but in your defence it was at the end of a bank holiday weekend! Mullally Grove and Lawns deservedly won the floral competition. Your adjudicator loved the planted, south facing beds at the back of the convent with cottage flowers including lupins and honeysuckle. Do watch tree straps holding trees in the white wheels as the straps could now be removed before they damage the bark of the trees.

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

As you have stated, you have an issue with the invasive species Japanese knotweed which has grown quite extensively at the back of the river, at the back of Centra Stores. It was also noted between houses off the main street at the edge of the stream. The weed can grow through concrete and removal is not a simple process. This is the one time someone with appropriate training and safety equipment will be advised to use a systemic weedkiller. For further information please see www.invasivespecies.com or contact Limerick County Council's Heritage Officer.

The metal fencing at the start of Kyle Road could be enhanced by the training of honeysuckle or ivy along this fence. Bilboa River is a lovely local amenity and on adjudication day there were swallows and pied wagtails using its natural habitat. As mentioned elsewhere the light strimming and cutting of verges will enhance wildlife through Cappamore.

Some of the newly planted trees behind the wall at the GAA pitch needed some attention and some have not survived. It is suggested that these are replaced and this would enhance this area also.

It is suggested that you complete some wildlife surveys or organise some evening bird or wildlife watches to raise awareness of local wildlife and habitats.

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

You have stated that some of the slates from the old creamery will be used to make name plates and this is a nice example of reusing resources, whilst fulfilling a local need. There are a lot of marks to be gained in this category of the competition and you may be doing actions that could gain you points here. Does the school run a book-rental scheme? Do you use your own compost in your landscaping schemes? The TidyTowns website provides a lot of useful information.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Bins were clean and in use on adjudication day. Be careful as some of the tin-roofed buildings will need painting.

You state that bottle banks were causing a problem. Your adjudicator arrived at the end of a Bank Holiday weekend, on the day before you say you do your regular meetings and litter picks. The bottle banks appeared very neat and tidy with just two small, freshly left cardboard boxes in situ. The boundary walls around this area had been freshly painted and looked very well.

The name of St Michael's community college was well positioned high on the wall so as not to obstruct pedestrian access along the quite narrow footpath here.

The disabled car parking place outside Centra was blocked by the shop's own advertising displays.

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

The detached house opposite the church has some lovely wrought iron gates. The homes along the main street with traditional wooden sash windows enhance this period streetscape. Is it part of an Architectural Conservation Area? Other detached homes looked very well on approach roads to Cappamore. The brightly coloured homes on St Michael's Terrace caught the eye and looked well. The nicely painted houses on Moore Street were very well presented.

The name sign to Turagh Crescent was an unusual brown and white indicative of a tourism facility. This was a lovely estate with cluster planting that will provide year-round texture and form. There was a community building at the end of Turagh Crescent but there is no sign to indicate what occurs here. It was nice to see just a little of the edges of the grassed areas strimmed at Drumsally.

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

Your adjudicator was pleased to note that the verges on approach roads were not tightly mown and buttercups, daisies and other flowers were providing nectar for insects and cover for wildlife. It is recommended that you re-paint the traditional Black and white sign for Dromkeen Road as you arrive at Cappamore. The traditional pump was well presented and along Main Street there were a number of wrought iron entrance gates that look very well.

It was felt that the junction from Main Street to Moore Street could be defined better. Cars were parked at the corners and the corner buildings have used full-window stickers which take away from the appearance of this corner. Some planters could enhance this space.

You have chosen an unusual choice of kerb stone colouring at the statue to Mary, but it actually blends in well in this area.

Your adjudicator also liked the placing of bollards by the Convent and Church that allowed for the safe passage of pedestrians away from the roadside. The car park at the community centre had no kerbing, planting or no obvious route for cars and pedestrians to safely exit from the area. For example, the training of honeysuckle around the green fence at the gas tank at the community centre would soften this corner of the community centre car park whilst also providing some shelter and food for wildlife.

There was a nice traditional farm stead just over the bridge on the Doon Road. Although obviously derelict it looked well except for the large amount of plastic rubbish by the front entrance.

A number of field gates in the immediate area of Cappamore could be repaired. In some cases they were painted black and this could be continued to enhance the area and provide a sense of place.