

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Milford Grange** Ref: **2157**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **195**
Category: **B** Date(s): **07/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	25
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	26
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	26
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	7
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	48
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	24
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29
TOTAL MARK	450	195

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Milford Grange is an area of Limerick which has a lovely feel to the locality. It was good to read that you received a lot of support from the local businesses including Kilmorry Hotel and Thurles Bar. You highlight a common issue with Tidy Towns in that people are reluctant to turn up for meetings, but happy to volunteer for jobs. The competition encourages communities to draft a long-term plan with actions on specific categories of the competition. Often then local groups are happy to assign themselves to one particular task. For example, perhaps an active age group in Milford Grange would be happy to pot some acorn seeds collected by local school children? Once established the saplings could be returned to the school for planting.

Well done in your part in the formation of an action orientated liaison committee between the University and residents and other local representatives and it is hoped that this will go a long way to help address the local issues in Milford Grange associated with student life.

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

Milford Church and primary school were very nicely presented. The 'Go in Peace' sign was particularly pleasant—what a nice touch. The shopping centre at Milford the premises appeared well. University Court had lots of cars here despite many of the students being on holiday.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

There are big open areas in Elinsorr and maybe some of these areas could have clusters of trees planted to provide some features to the area. The works listed such as the replacement of bushes at roundabouts with shrubs were noted. There is a nice feel to Milford with its open spaces and many mature trees.

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

There are lovely mature trees along the wall of what must have been an estate boundary, in Elsinor. Beware someone at the very end of the estate has planted a rhododendron plant under here. Your adjudicator was unable to see what type it is but Rhododendron ponticum is highly invasive and should be removed before this becomes a problem in the vicinity. Further details are available at www.invasivespeciesireland.com

The grass underneath the trees on the Limerick Dublin Road seemed to have been sprayed with weedkiller. This is not to be recommended as the overuse of weedkiller is not beneficial for the environment. It is suggested that the

base of the trees are mulched to reduce growth.

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

Your entry states that no work has been done this year linked to this category. Please see comment under 'Approach Road, Street & Lanes'. It is considered that perhaps a lot of activities relating to the school would help you gain marks here such as a book rental scheme, composting, walk on Wednesdays to school. The TidyTowns website gives many great examples of activities here. www.TidyTowns.ie. there are a lot of marks that can be gained in this category of the competition.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The area where you have had problems with dumping was inspected and this issue appears to have been rectified due to your measures here.

Both street bins at the shopping centre had some graffiti on them. Perhaps the local commercial premises could be persuaded to adopt and manage these? There was also a little graffiti on the back wall of University Court by the medical centre. The posts holding up the signs at the shopping centre are very rusty – can they be painted/treated?

Bottle banks were clean and well managed and nicely camouflaged. One piece of fencing here has come off and could be easily fixed. There was a post at the entrance to Hazelwood estate with no sign on it. This should be removed. There are more posts with no signs in the general locality and in some cases where there are signs, the posts are too tall and they protrude up above the signs which is unsightly.

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

The issue of student accommodation taking over the area was raised in the report and it is hoped that through working in consultation with the University that some appropriate action may be taken to address this.

Homes in Hazelwood could possibly be student accommodation left vacant for the summer. It is suggested that landlords or rental agents request that curtains are left open when premises are vacated as it does not look good to see many homes with curtains closed throughout the day. Similarly where homes have not had the front of the premises maintained nicely – the landlords should be persuaded to manage these appropriately in the Summer.

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

There was a little graffiti on the 'Welcome to Limerick' sign on the Dublin Road and further along on the ESB box. The height limit sign at the Church is in feet only and it is recommended that this displayed in metric.

You used the sods from the edging process to grass over the problem area at Alder Close. Well done and this action also gives you marks in the sustainable resource section of the competition!