Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Carney**	Ref:	**747**
County:	**Sligo**	Mark:	**259**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**17/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	39
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	31
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	36
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	25
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	38
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	28
TOTAL MARK	**450**	**259**

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Carney is most welcome to the 2014 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your application form and additional information including map. Do make sure to highlight on your map clearly the locations of projects for this year as it would help the adjudicator in finding and appraising them. There is an enormous sense of enthusiasm and energy coming off the pages of your application form and this is wonderful. You have succeeded in expanding your support base since last year and this no doubt has given you a boost. Your three-year plan was reviewed with interest and well done on preparing this. It will keep you motivated and you will also be able to use it to look back on the significant improvements you have made to your town. The list of agencies and businesses with which you are engaging is impressive while you have a comprehensive communication strategy. Despite having no school you have commandeered those students resident in your town and “given them the opportunity” to help out. This is an excellent approach and one that will instil a sense of citizenship in them. Carney is a small village and yet this adjudicator was impressed with the great quantity (and quality!) of work you have completed. A hearty congratulations to all involved.

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

Do make sure that you try to list projects only under the appropriate heading. Review with the Tidy Towns Handbook notwithstanding that some projects could have elements of more than one category. You are commended for painting the Ox Field sports centre and trimming the ivy on the Ivy cottage. Your ‘Battle of the books’ research sounds intriguing and this adjudicator must confess that it is an unknown chapter. We look forward to reviewing the information sign in due course. Try to promote the use of Irish by making signage such as this bilingual. The good news that Lissadell house is to reopen will no doubt be a boost for the region and mean more traffic through Carney. The Main Street is looking very well and it is hoped that Bradys commercial buildings will be back in business soon. Your treatment of disused properties is appropriate and thankfully there are no major eyesores to contend with. Laura’s is looking nice as is the neighbouring Ivy house.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Carney is an attractive rural village and as such the main landscaping elements are the hedges, tall trees and walls, either whitewashed or bare stone. Try to ensure that these elements are preserved wherever possible and repair sections that are degraded with post and wire fencing. The discovery and renovation of the old wall by the Tus workers is a welcome development in this regard. Well done on your numerous planting projects and the big job you did near the village entrance. The numerous wooden planters were admired throughout Carney for their displays of colour. The Riverside Park is a delightful area and your efforts to repair parts of the wall on the far side are noted. The seating along the river affords numerous opportunities to admire the amazing greenery and riparian flora. The

work done along the barrier was admired. In this adjudicator's point of view there is little need to plant small flowers in front of hedges as nature is doing all the work here. The old sycamore tree at the road junction is a wonderful feature that lends a lot of character to the village.

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

Few towns can be fortunate enough to have a nature reserve on their doorstep and this gives you a wonderful opportunity to explore and learn of its value. Have there been any studies done on why it was made a nature reserve and whether these features are being well conserved? You may need to work with local wildlife enthusiasts to find the answers to these questions. In the meantime it is great that you took on board comments from last year's adjudicator in renovating both broken and dilapidated signs. It is hoped that with increasing awareness of your natural heritage they will not fall into such a state of disrepair again.

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

Your composting initiative is judged under this category and is an appropriate way of dealing with this waste in order to avoid pollution and untidiness. Congratulations to the local Scouts group on their tremendous efforts to reuse old items and their great performance in the local St Patrick's Day parade. Your idea to promote 'no junk mail' with custom-made stickers is an excellent way of cutting down on this unwanted waste. Your initiative to start harvesting rainwater is a really good idea and as you say may provide a catalyst to encourage other homeowners to do the same. For helpful tips and case studies from other Tidy Towns entrants please take a look at http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The volume of waste that you retrieved from the shore is astounding and mind-boggling. It beggars belief that some people see places like this as an appropriate place for dumping. Well done to your group and Sligo county council for getting on top of this. You need to be vigilant however and make sure that any future transgressors are dealt with efficiently through the offices of Sligo county council. Your Coastcare group is wonderful and there is an opportunity to use cleanups to highlight conservation issues surrounding the ecology of the bay and the dreadful tides of marine letter that wash up on our shores. It is good that you are also dealing with Coillte on issues relating to their property. Overall the level of tidiness in Carney was very high with few issues to report. Litter control on adjudication day was to a very high standard and well done on the excellent level of presentation.

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

Well done for taking the advice of last year's adjudicator and removing unnecessary tree ties. There are a number of small estates in and around Carney and all were admired for their high standard of presentation. Orchard Grove is one such example and the lovely cherry tree at its entrance is a fine feature. Those homes who made a particular effort in planting displays of summer colour are commended. Not all estates seem to have nameplates and perhaps this is something that could be addressed. One of the larger ones had a collection of most handsome homes and the superb green area, but nothing to identify is. Lissadell Park is of an equally high standard and planting here is most attractive (although one or two dead trees need to be replaced).

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

On approach from Sligo the first name sign is of an older vintage and a heritage feature in itself. It looks a little neglected unfortunately. The next stone welcome sign is most attractive in this location. It would be good to see the post and wire fence across from Laura's screened with a native hawthorn hedge. Grassy verges leading to the town are well trimmed without being excessively so. The footpath network does not seem to link all areas of the village and this is an impediment to those on two feet or children on two wheels. Perhaps this is something you could address with Sligo county council engineers.