

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tramore** Ref: **228**
County: **Waterford** Mark: **291**
Category: **E** Date(s): **29/06/2024**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	41
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	43
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	27
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	11
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	37
TOTAL MARK	450	291

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

The content of your submission is first class; it seems unduly trivial to mention that its bulk is somewhat awkward to deal with out of doors when walking the town; this is nothing to do with marking, merely a passing comment that you might bear in mind for next year. The map is also first class. Committees are asked not to be taken aback by the marking totals which do not appear to relate to last year's – this is mainly to do with the discontinuation of the General Impression category. You will find that you have in fact had a very substantial rise in marking this year. The Three Year Plan is comprehensive and you have done what many other groups fail to do, set objectives under years as well as by category. Do not be disappointed if not every project is completed in its allotted timescale – the important thing is to identify what needs to be done and set out to work in an orderly way. Not having been in Tramore for several years on any pretext it was really delightful to visit the town in fine weather and observe the enjoyment of so many visitors: they would be mostly unaware of your work and that of associated agencies and of your background contribution to their happy holidays. Quish's SuperValu clearly is most supportive. The many illustrated information boards throughout the town impressed tremendously. It probably goes without saying, but must be said, that the Get Involved Community Initiative in conjunction with the Munster Express is a splendid concept; its aims are heartily endorsed here.

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

The easy visual connection between the business and residential sectors of the town and the strand with its holiday amenities appears to be seamless; one does not sense a 'them' and 'us' feeling. Walking from the promenade up through the town in the direction of the Catholic church, with detours here and there, gives a wonderful impression of urban cohesiveness. As time goes on the aesthetic value of the older street buildings, whether they be shops or private homes, is clearly becoming more and more appreciated; forty years ago this was certainly not the case. Both churches are very well maintained, the Catholic in the midst of a very well presented landscaped area, the Church of Ireland in a residential neighbourhood with a very handsomely kept Hall in its churchyard. The two supermarkets at Summerhill are attractively designed. The thatched Ritz is very charming and the small shopping outlet Daybreak nearby very neatly presented. At the other extreme it was exciting to find small well-designed permanent 'pavilions' on the promenade catering for visitors. Maintenance of the palatial toilets here should be mentioned and an intriguing new building emerging from scaffolding evidently for surf life-saving training. The handsome former Railway Station has a forlorn look which is a pity in such a prime location. The façade of the Sands Hotel with its lovely verandah and floral displays, and the equally smart frontage of O'Shea's Hotel with its purple petunias, are both proud survivors of the architectural legacy; the Majestic Hotel is equally well presented though it must have replaced a terrace of old houses in a way that nowadays would not be allowed. If there were still an award for a shopfront it would surely go to Barry Herterich, Auctioneers, for the complete make-over of the former Bank of Ireland, in traditional style.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Superb wall-mounted floral containers and flower beds in the neighbourhood of the R.C. church set the tone for decorative planting throughout the town; the planted cauldrons from the former bakery here show a creative imagination at work. The overall arrangement of the 'crooked path', the terraced steps down to the boating lake, the water feature, the approach to Splashworld, have become 'all of a piece' and give a real lift to this neighbourhood. Another major and successful landscaping project is to be seen at the old railway bridge. Tramore House gates were closed on the date of the visit but it did look like a suitable place for a Lafcadio Hearn Japanese garden – are you in touch with his biographer? If not, he could be most helpful. A really lovely triangle of roses and marguerites was seen on Church Road. Planting near and on the roundabouts is first class – it is these that give a very good impression to the arriving visitor.

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

The woodland and clifftop way towards Newtown Cove at once establishes without doubt Tramore as a prime location under this heading. The change in policy about the Doneraile Walk wild flower meadow will probably suit all tastes; how interesting that you should have planted potatoes to prepare the ground – something this adjudicator's grandparents systematically used to do! Every good wish for the comprehensive Doneraile Improvement Scheme. It is good to read that you organise Biodiversity walks for school children. The Report and sensitive recommendations by Albert Nolan on the Tramore Biodiversity Walk is an insightful and valuable document; the same may be said for the same author's Glór na Mara National School Report with actions proposed. The walk on the former landfill site is somewhat similar to that developed in Waterford city and is admirable; it will be interesting in the course of time to see how nature 'takes over'. It is also good to learn that you took part in National Tree Week.

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

You mention that Glór na Mara primary school has received its sixth green flag and that all the Tramore schools participate in this inspirational international initiative. Congratulations all round. You probably find that appreciation under the above heading issues from the schools into the homes and that the younger generation have a real grasp of its scope and practices; you mention waste management, energy conservation and water conservation. It is interesting that you use discarded paint from the recycling centre to assist your repainting projects – a simple example of the many broader benefits. The WEEE scheme appears to be widely supported. The bike stands are an important step (or spin) forward. Electrical car points were noted in prominent positions.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Clearing up after the storms has been really splendidly accomplished. An unattended area between the former Railway Station and Splashworld is probably awaiting development. There are still far too many mass-produced commercial signs and all too eye-catching advertising on gables. An ugly stained transport container appears to have been deposited in the promenade car park, catching the eye unfavourably. Some poles and lamp standards are in need of painting. The extensive Amusement Park is really very well presented; there was a time when this had a 'honky-tonk' appearance, but that has vanished and the area is attractive in its popularly inviting way. It was good to read of the cooperative effort with the Amusement Park and Tramore Tourism for keeping the busy seafront litter-free. Congratulations on your IBAL report. You mention "76 bins along the promenade", an astonishing figure – the level of organisation in dealing with these daily must be enormous: well done to your five students employed and also to your voluntary helpers and to Fás and Tús. You also appear to be on top of (so to speak) the dog poo problem. On a busy Sunday the visitor was not conscious of litter (except to dispose of his own sandwich wrapper in a convenient bin).

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

As mentioned in connection with streetscape (above) it is the older street houses rising up to the R.C. church that give the town its real character – however well the many smart suburbs are presented. The terraces along Turkey Road, St Otteran's Terrace and Upper and Lower Branch Road are most attractive and seem to be better appreciated now that they were a few decades ago. It is good to read that you run a Residential Area competition and this adjudicator would have no quarrel with the places chosen for awards. Neighbourhoods of mixed old and new housing were seen to be maintained mostly in a very positive way though there is a mixed area of well-kept and not so well-kept developments in the Newtown area: the latter need a little thought. Carrigeenlea has a prosperous look and wonderful views. You mention tree-planting at Glen View and Cairn Dubh but on the date of the visit the young trees were neglected: there is no point in planting (anything!) if weeds and grass are allowed to take over. The homes in the neighbourhood of The Strand, The Estuary and Somerville are very well looked after indeed. Among individual houses the Atlantic Breeze guest house stands out for its lovely creeper-covered frontage.

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

The new road linking the Waterford road to the beach, not shown on the map, is of great value so that the town can be bypassed and the beach carparks, promenade, skateboarding, bike stands, café's and other facilities reached without delay; this is an immense improvement. Improved well-thought-out footpaths and paving were also seen. Very well maintained car parks were seen at the R.C. church, the Summerhill shopping centre and some, though not all, at the seafront. New and restored public seating was admired. Attractive and legible heraldic street name signs were noted though not all streets and bye-roads seemed to have them. A great deal of storm damage, as

shown in your photographs, has very speedily been attended to so that the visitor is unaware of its magnitude: well done to all the authorities and individuals concerned for their tremendous work.