

# Tidy Towns Competition 2014

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tubberclair** Ref: **883**  
County: **Westmeath** Mark: **258**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **16/06/2014**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2014</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	35
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	35
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	37
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	25
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	9
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	35
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>258</b>

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

Tubberclair is welcome to the 2014 National Tidy Towns Competition, thank you for your submission including a summary of your planned projects for the next two years; while the map provided was very clear projects achieved for the current year must be numbered in the application form and then linked to the map by number also. A list of groups with whom you are associated and who play an important role in the development of the village is impressive. Your communication methods are effective, particularly the information leaflet and information evening following the 2013 adjudication. Well done on the good working relationship with Tubberclair National School. Thank you for your participation over the past twenty years and we look forward to many more adjudications. The two signposts at the church for the Garden of Remembrance and for the Wildlife Area should have some further information at this point as it is unclear for people who are not locals as to where the access point to either of them is or indeed if it is in private ownership.

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

The grounds of the National School are being maintained in a very tidy manner and are beautifully landscaped, the boundary wall could be cleaned or painted; the car parking area at the side is neatly organised. The church grounds look well also. A beautifully whitewashed cottage facing onto the church car park was admired. The Community Hall premises would benefit from either power hosing, cleaning or painting and some flower displays would be a nice touch here too; the car park of the Community Hall is large, bleak and bereft of landscaping of any sort, your adjudicator feels there is an opportunity here for landscaping.

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

Well done on landscaping at the junction of the N55 and L5464. Your planting of Birch trees adjacent to the latter road is acknowledged also. The two new flowerbeds at the limits of the village are noted favourably too. We acknowledge your intention to create a third bed in 2015. Well done on the planting of 120 metres of native hedgerow along the N55 which includes hornbeam, whitethorn and pyracantha. Perhaps the most significant of your projects in this last year under this heading is tree and hedgerow planting as these will enhance biodiversity within the village. The construction of the riverside rest place is a thoughtful project that will enhance community recreational amenity in Tubberclair.

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

It is good to note the wildlife survey (fauna) to be completed by 2015 and we look forward to seeing the results of this. The new wildlife area around Lough Ullord located at the back of the Community Hall is a worthwhile addition

also which will enhance the biodiversity status of Tubberclair further. Well done on the installation of the wildlife sign also. The native hedgerow which has been planted will provide for wildlife habitats. The Lough Ullord sign in the car park of the Community Centre which identifies the birds, fauna and wildlife of the Lough and in which the landowner was involved is a fine achievement. The sculpture in the green verge beside the Community Hall looks well. Some thought now might be given to the development of a wildlife trail, a tree trail or other wildlife undertaking. Perhaps some fingerpost signage can be installed for the newly developed riverside rest area.

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

It is good to note Green Flag status of the school; do submit details of this and whether or not they are working for further Green Flags. Your sharing of the recycling point with Glasson is noted. No doubt litter collected is segregated for recycling. The focus of attention under this heading should be on the prevention of waste at source. With this in mind log on to the following website - <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/> - and consult the Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas on the choice of projects that are aimed at preventing the generation of waste. The vegetable garden at the school is an excellent initiative for young minds and hands.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Congratulations on having stopped fly-tipping through your intolerance of litter, however it is good to note that a fortnightly litter patrol along the L5464 is still in hand; the twice-yearly major clean-ups on this road after hedge cutting is noted also. Perhaps the vacant-looking property to the side of the church car park could be tidied up to its surrounds and feature window boxes as an interim measure pending redevelopment.

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

As noted above the beautifully whitewashed cottage facing onto the church park was admired, a second residential property of stone and a third cottage with yellow doors facing the church were admired also. The roadside areas to boundary walls are presented to a mixed standard; ideally these should be grassed and neatly maintained or hard-surfaced all with a uniform finish. Roadside boundary walls are important also in terms of their presentation in fact they are as important as the private open space of the dwelling. It is good to note that the kerbs are maintained weed-free and that the dates of road sweeping are communicated to Tidy Towns to ensure that local work is dovetailed with council work. It is also good to note that residents and landowners cut their hedges bi-annually with the interests of wildlife in mind, particularly between the church and the school.

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

Well done on the sandblasting of the two milestones and the 'crows foot' benchmark, these are attractive features. Your adjudicator agrees that the N55 is particularly dangerous in terms of traffic speed and this made adjudication quite difficult, hopefully your representations to the NRA in relation to speed limits and street lighting will fall upon favourable ears. Signage and other street furniture is generally well presented and road surfaces are reasonably good also. We look forward to future developments over the next two years as outlined in your plan.