

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bridgetown** Ref: **61**
County: **Clare** Mark: **273**
Category: **A** Date(s): **15/06/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	35	35
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	38	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	43	44
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	24	26
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	9	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	26	26
TOTAL MARK	450	268	273

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Thank you Bridgetown for your entry into the 2015 National Tidy Towns competition. A sign was noticed on adjudication day that you were to run a collection at the Church the following weekend after adjudication to raise funds for your work. It is hoped that this went well. You have a small number on your committee (4). People are always reluctant to join committees but may be keen to lead on particular actions. You should ask the whole community for ideas to include in your long-term plan. Then once it is drafted certain individuals may step forward, such as a representative from each of the housing estates. Keep meetings to a minimum and short – this also encourages new members especially if they know they will last no longer than an hour. We all have busy lives and it would be good for you to have more support.

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

Conney's Bar looked very nice as it was freshly painted and great attention to detail allowed you to see the relief work in the plaster here. There was a lovely stone wall bed at the end of the car parking area at Conneys Bar. At the other end of the village, Tony's bar had some lovely window displays and also looked very well. The Church grounds were very nicely presented. Your adjudicator wondered if some climbing plants could be allowed to grow up the interior of the boundary walls to soften the look of the concrete blocks here. It was lovely to see the green flag flying at the school.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Landscaping was very nice in Bridgetown. But your adjudicator was concerned to see the use of slug pellets in so many of your landscaped beds. Planters and hanging baskets all looked well at the riverside but the position of the clothing bank at the rear of this grassed amenity was unusual. How is it emptied? The honeysuckle and clematis plants growing over the archway and seat at the amenity area were lovely. Do you use your own compost? How do you water your planters – do you use rain-water from a butt? What do you do with your grass cuttings – are they composted? The soil looked as if it was all peat-based. If you used your own compost, this would help you gain marks in the 'sustainable waste and resource management' category of this competition. Thankfully there were no slug pellets observed in the planters.

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

You have worked with the area's wildlife warden. It is important to get professional advice where possible. The public area by the Black River was a lovely amenity area and on adjudication day swallows were feeding overhead. The Daubenton's bat box at the bridge was noted and it was great to read that you organised a bat walk in 2014.

You have also erected other bat boxes elsewhere – well done. It was lovely to see ox-eye daisies and other wild flowers growing up in the hedge across from the school. There was a large line of leylandi trees planted at the entrance to Riverdale. These fast-growing trees were very large and block out light and do not offer a diverse habitat that would support wildlife.

At the end of Riverdale the septic tank was fenced-off with chain mail. It is suggested that this would be an idea place to plant some honeysuckle and clematis also to enhance this area. Watch out for spraying weed killer under trees in Riverdale and at the school. Mulching under trees would suppress any weed growth and would provide nutrients to the trees.

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

It was good to read that Arabawn Co-operative has a recycling facility for pallets and packaging. You also run a 'walking train' to and from school and lift share as well. You have a cleverly designed goal post gently utilising the trees in the Green area! The school may have carried out some audits to measure their energy usage for example – some statistics or details of the numbers who attended seminars would help here.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done on having a litter patrol every morning. Bins were in use and were clean. Directly across from the Church was a lovely, old stone-walled shed but the roof is caving in and the slates are coming off. There was a lot of work going on in the immediate area on adjudication day so maybe this would be addressed. There were a few cigarette butts noticed at the entrance to the Church. The blue painted poles with the community alert signs looked well.

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

The entrance to Riverdale estate was very nicely presented. Homes in Riverdale and Fahey looked great. Homes in Ballynevin townland looked very well at the top of the village. The new footpaths were admired as were the townland name stones.

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

At the entrance to Bridgetown from the R468 there was a nice little walled, raised bed that worked very nicely. Next to the school there was a field gate that could be painted. Boundary walls felt quite bare by the school and graveyard. The road surfaces were good. There were lovely old red wrought iron gates that stood out against the freshly whites-washed walls on the road up towards Fahey.

There was a lovely VR post box up in Ballynevin from the times of Queen Victoria and an old monkey puzzle tree that was probably planted at the same time! Paintwork of the Bridgetown creamery was very nicely done.

Concluding Remarks:

The landscaped beds and the central amenity area by the Black River were just lovely. Most of the buildings throughout the village were very nicely presented. Thank you Bridgetown for your work this year and it is hoped that you get a few more volunteers on your committee to help you progress onwards and upwards in 2015/2016.