

# Tidy Towns Competition 2015

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardclough** Ref: **353**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **300**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **24/06/2015**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2014</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2015</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	46	48
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	37	38
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	37	37
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	37	39
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	51
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	35	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	36	37
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>300</b>

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

Many thanks for your entry in this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for all the work that you must have put into your entry this year. This adjudicator is very hesitant to use the word perfect in any description but your entry came really close! It was complete though concise, clear and well-illustrated, was interesting and looked the part too. The plan is succinct and meaningful. You give a good account of your group, its ethos and capacity. You didn't neglect to give credit where it was due. The map is the only area that calls for improvement. It was perfectly adequate but it wasn't detachable (without ruining your lovely entry) and had no key. The projects you submit in this area are all relevant (from database to 5k and all points in between!). The adjudicator is happy to award two extra points for the quality of your entry and projects in Community Involvement and Planning.

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

Again, all very relevant projects were submitted in this category. It's great to see the old national school getting its new lease of life and it has fallen into good hands. Your celebration of the schools with the Three Schools project really caught the eye though. This speaks well of your respect for your educational establishments past and present. Your new Village Centre looks great. Well done. The adjudicator assumes that you won't miss the Portakabins too much (nor likely will the teachers). You now have masses of space for all sorts of projects. Scoil Áine Naofa looks great - it is ever so sharp in appearance and the planters here were admired. The church looked great - a choir practice was underway at time of visit. The GAA grounds have marvellous facilities. The post and rail fencing at the pitch is in need of painting. Old sign uprights here should be removed. The gate should be painted.

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

A concise and well-illustrated entry into this category, thank you. The hornbeam planting is well considered. A nice 2-tier sleeper planter with mature birch and weeping larch was admired at the estate. There was a very nice shrub bed on the other side of the road. There are beautifully filled planters here. These looked freshly-painted and shone. The adjudicator admired the black benches and white planters. What is inside the fenced compound at the old national school? More planting is needed to screen this, it is felt.

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

It may be fair to say that this adjudicator hasn't seen anything the like of the Tree of Life on display - certainly not outside of a biology book. What a lovely idea! Thanks for the bird list and well done on the year to year monitoring - really important. The Curlew is sadly in decline and it's still amazing (this adjudicator remembers when the call of

a curlew wouldn't even cause one to look up). Great though that you've still barn owls on your list. The pine marten has had a phenomenal come-back and it's very possible that will be making your list regularly soon.

A yellow-hammer kept the adjudicator company for much of his visit to your quiet little village. A grey - not red, alas - squirrel was seen during the visit. Hedgerows were noted to be uncut and verges sensitively managed - well done.

Events such as walks and talks, biodiversity actions, surveys and Heritage Council grants all add up to an excellent entry in this category. Points here are richly deserved.

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

Another beautifully- illustrated entry in this category. The adjudicator wasn't 100% sure what the 'articles' meant but it is presumed that these (e.g. the brown bin one) were articles that were distributed among your community. If so, very good - this is entirely valid. The other initiatives are excellent from promotion of rainwater collectors to a dedicated adult education class. This is thought to be one of the trickier categories but you have it sussed, it seems. More points happily given here and you will gain more next year, gan doubt.

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

Again, very relevant projects described here. Were these posters designed by Ardclough? They are excellent! The adjudicator loved the turtle poster. Another point for the posters. A single sweet wrapper was found - not a bad result, Ardclough.

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

The projects described are great examples of the local community working in co-operation with the local authority but driven 'on the ground' by yourselves. The traffic 'survey' a good example of this. The adjudicator would concur that the new footpath is necessary and would make a big difference.

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

Your projects in this category focused on signage and safety. This is another excellent example of the role of Tidy Towns groups such as yours. A point is awarded here for your diligent work. The oak planting on way into village from Straffan on an unmown verge was admired. The planter at the name sign here was noted. Two junction signs were slightly damaged. Your 'Greenway' to your new school is a fantastic asset. You could consider having signage on each end in order to celebrate it.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

What a great entry this year! You are moving steadily toward the very highest levels of the competition. Very impressive stuff indeed.