

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tullahought** Ref: **404**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **312**
Category: **A** Date(s): **14/06/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	45	46
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	42	43
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	45	45
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	34	36
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	16	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	23	25
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	37	37
TOTAL MARK	450	305	312

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition and thank you for submission with plan and map showing projects achieved for the year together with photographs. Tullahought is a charming traditional Irish rural village with a fascinating heritage, one of a few of its kind left in the country.

The scope of agencies and groups with which the committee works for the advancement of the village is all encompassing and communication methods varied for effectiveness. It is satisfying to note the wide hinterland that comes under the Tidy Towns movement and we note the committee's vigilance in protecting the environs of the village. Your annual Heritage Festival is invaluable for community well being and sounds like fun too. Good luck for the future.

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

The Church and its grounds enjoy an excellent presentation and the same can be said for the school and its grounds the presentation of which is admirable. Flags at the church are a nice touch and give a celebratory feel. The roadside façade of the E Power premises looks well also. Work accomplished throughout the village during the past year has enhanced the visual and recreational amenity of Tullahought and no doubt contributes to quality of life within the village. Congratulations on the Quern Stones sculpture.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

What a visual treat it must have been to witness Tullahought's 1000 daffodils earlier in the year! The environs of the Watering Place / viewing area are nicely landscaped and the landscaped corners with nameplates marking the entrance to the village centre look beautiful also and are an excellent introduction to Tullahought. The removal of damaged trees and their replacement with beech hedgerow and trees is favourably noted together with the additional trees planted on the Carrick road. Green areas are being nicely maintained.

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

The field expedition involving children sounds like fun as well as being educational. Well done on the information panels on wildlife and the Looped Walk at the Watering Place and the bird feeding station must not be forgotten. Keep us updated on the outcome of the forum meeting hosted by the committee in June on Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities. The steps leading into the sports grounds were very weedy otherwise the sports grounds are neatly presented. Some thought might be given to identifying invasive species within Tullahought and their impact on native species. Stands of invasive Montbretia at the nameplate, near the Watering Place and indeed throughout the village are a notable feature. It will be interesting to chart the species that will grow in the area set aside for wild

flowers and grasses, it is important to keep the Montebretia and other invasive species in check lest these take over. Good sources of information include www.invasivespeciesireland.com and www.irishwildflowers.ie

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

The recycling point is neatly presented and plans to have it relocated are noted. The continuation of practices such as water harvesting and conservation, battery recycling, mulching and other waste management initiatives is excellent. It is interesting to know of the new practice by the farming community of cutting grass one or two days prior to grazing thereby decreasing diesel costs. It is important to continue to engage in waste prevention, consult the Tidy Towns Website and Handbook for ideas on how to compete more effectively under this heading. The distribution of the 'Greener Cleaning' booklet to households is acknowledged favourably, the Greener Gardening Guide should also be distributed and the following site might also be useful; www.greenyourfestival.ie

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Tullahought's participation in the National Spring Clean no doubt made a significant contribution to its tidy appearance and litter free status witnessed on adjudication day. A big 'thank you' is due to all responsible for this achievement. It is good to note also that litter is segregated for recycling. Other activities such as the mobile CCTV unit no doubt plays an important part also in elimination fly tipping. It was refreshing to note a lack of graffiti and posters.

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

Rose displays in gardens were much admired and indeed most private dwellings are nicely presented with colourful flower displays. Stone roadside boundary walls to dwellings are a handsome feature especially those capped with vertical stones (soldier copping, thank you for the extract from the Heritage Officer's report). Well done to the new resident for work accomplished to the garden of their new home, (council cottage).

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

The car park is well presented to its roadside boundary and is nicely landscaped also. Attractive name plates mark entrances from approach roads together with well managed grass verges. Brightly painted field gates are a nice touch and indeed signage looks well also. Approach roads and entrances to Tullahought are being managed both for visual amenity and the needs of insects and bees.

Concluding Remarks:

It has been many years since your adjudicator's last visit to Tullahought and it was a pleasure to note that the village is as charming as ever with the addition of fine new amenity features for the benefit of the community and visitors. Well done.