

# Tidy Towns Competition 2016

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Barefield**

Ref: **1766**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **255**

Category: **B**

Date(s): **17/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	31	31
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	33	35
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	34	35
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	21	21
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	12	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	53	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	34
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>255</b>

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

Barefield is most welcome to the 2016 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your clearly completed entry form with hand drawn map. You have completed a significant workload in recent years and this single-mindedness has yielded dividends in your new park. Well done, once you regroup after this a significant achievement now maybe the time to develop a simple three-year plan. This would identify projects under each of the contest headings and would give your group focus in the coming years. You have a good number on your committee and so you have all the resources at your disposal to get things done.

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

The church is a fine building on entering Barefield and its maintenance is simple but effective. Your new memorial was admired and was a host of colour. Many of these annual plants will need to be replaced using valuable resources. Try to think of suitable perennials in this location which would provide year-round impact with less maintenance. Both Consodine's and Hassett's Bars were colourfully decorated on adjudication day. The national school looks really well with its clean facade and colourful displays of flags (maybe to add a green one in the not too distant future!).

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

Despite being very close to Ennis this is very much a rural village and the surrounding countryside is the main landscaping feature. It is the hedges, stone walls and mature native trees the provide this definition so any work you do should seek to complement this. Last year's adjudication report made a number of comments regarding your trees and it would be good to plan for their conservation and, if necessary, replacement. The bed with roses on the Ruan road is really excellent and has a lot of impact in this location. On the road heading towards the motorway from here small flowers in very large containers do not work and have no impact unfortunately.

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

This category wants communities to become engage with their local natural heritage so do not be concerned with planting so-called wildflowers (which is a misnomer in any case). Nurture any native hedgerows and avoid the use of herbicide which was spotted in one or two areas. This is very bad for the environment while leaving an unsightly scorched appearance. Work with the school on a project which gets the children involved in nature studies.

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

This category is not too concerned with recycling which is considered standard practice. Instead the adjudicator is

looking for ways in which the generation of waste can be avoided in the first place. The use of rainwater harvesting is a very good project, as is composting if this is taking place. Does the school take part in the green flag program? This is a most important element of this category. For more helpful tips and case studies from other Tidy Towns entrants please take a look at <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>

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

As discussed, if maintaining weed control do not use herbicides. You are commended for carrying out regular litter patrols and this is essential in keeping a high standard of litter control. The village is very tidy and there are no major issues of note. A broken metal bracket on the wall of Consodine's pub should be removed. Watch out for stray traffic cones and remove any that serve no function. There was unfortunately some dumping by the clothes bin on adjudication day while posters on a pole and metal box here should be removed. Litter control was to a very high standard.

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

Many attractive homes were admired throughout Barefield on adjudication day and all were presented to a very high standard. Low stone boundary walls are especially welcome in keeping with the rural character of the landscape.

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

On approach from the motorway one cannot but help but notice the small but eye-catching displays of roses and other flowers. This creates a very good impression on entering the village. Coming from the north the impression is not so colourful so perhaps some attention is needed for this area in 2017.

#### **Concluding Remarks:**

Well done Barefield for what you have achieved to date. Keep up the good work and we look forward to returning in 2017.