

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bodyke** Ref: **1791**
County: **Clare** Mark: **246**
Category: **A** Date(s): **13/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	26	28
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	31	35
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	39	40
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	11	11
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	11	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30	31
TOTAL MARK	450	232	246

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Bodyke is most welcome to the 2016 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your application form and map. For a small town you have an impressive number on your committee and this reflects a strong community spirit. You have a range of connections with all the relevant regional organisations and this is excellent. After six years in the competition it seems that Tidy Towns has become a permanent fixture, one no doubt you are seeing the benefit of. Your clear map was welcome and you successfully highlighted the locations of all your new projects for this year. This makes life easier for the adjudicator who particularly wants to visit these areas. Have you considered preparing a simple three-year plan? This would allow you to take a longer-term view of your village's development as well as helping you to advance in the contest. Try to consult the Tidy Towns Handbook which contains useful guidance on how to go about this task. How do you involve your local school in your activities? This would be another important element.

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

You have been active since last year and have completed a number of materially beneficial projects. The Church of our Lady is a prominent point of focus in the town and one which is presented to a high standard. Boundary walls are painted in clean, attractive colours while the grounds are well-kept. The gates indeed look newly painted. Malone's shop is clean and tidy although the Maxol pole is looking rusty. Clean flags at the corner here are a welcome sight. The whitewashed cottage is a beautiful feature in this key location. Flower boxes work well in drawing the eye towards it. The national school is looking very well. The centenary monument commemorating the Bodyke evictions is lovingly maintained. The Cobbler's Rest is looking well and was admired for its clean seating and profuse display of petunias and lupins.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Colourful hanging baskets were admired at the church car park and elsewhere. The village is beautifully framed with mature trees and green fields so it is this a rural character that you need to conserve. Generally speaking pots of flowers should be kept for doorways or point features where they can be best appreciated. They work less well on roadsides where they can appear somewhat lost. The picnic bench is nice but is large in this location, where it obscures the old village pump. Is the table used? If not perhaps it would be best placed elsewhere. Very effective use of trees and shrubs was on show in the small parking area across the road from Malone's shop. Your new cherry and whitebeam trees were admired to the rear of the housing estates. In the coming years ensure that rubber ties are removed when no longer needed.

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

This category encourages groups to learn more about the nature that surrounds us. Last year's adjudicator's report referred to a community woodland but there seems to be no mention of it this year. Do let us know in 2017 if this is still a relevant project. Such an amenity would be an invaluable asset for local people. Even without it however there are lots that could be done. Is there a nature studies program in your local school?

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

This can be a challenging category for smaller centres but you have successfully identified a number of very effective projects. Rainwater harvesting is very simple but worthwhile and you are commended for pursuing this. Using old flooring to make new flower boxes shows that you are thinking about waste reduction in your own activities which is excellent. Does your local school participate in the green schools initiative? This is a most important project that can have impacts beyond the school gate so do let us know for next year. The reuse of unwanted stone for flower beds is a project best placed under this category, another worthy endeavour. 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:

It is wonderful to read that you take part in the national spring clean as well as weekly cleanups. Do send us on a photograph to show what was achieved and how many people turned up. It's great that you have managed to remove old poles, again a 'before and after' photograph would show the adjudicator the impact of what was achieved. Did you consider the proposal from last year's report regarding the painting of farm gates? This would add character at low cost. The effect is seen where it has been done e.g. near the eviction monument. The village was very tidy on adjudication day while litter control was to a very high standard.

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

Bodyke has a small stock of houses but each with their individual style. All were presented to a very high standard on adjudication day. The attractive estate of bungalows was visited on adjudication day but appears to have no name. Your group should work to remedy this with the name stone or similar in both English and Irish.

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

Well done for maintaining signage clean and keeping footpaths swept. On approach from Ennis the attractive welcome sign was noted on the right-hand side. However on the left-hand side road widening works seem to have been left unfinished, with traffic cones embedded in beds of gravel. You should pursue this issue to complete works to an appropriate standard. Meanwhile a new native hedge would effectively screen the concrete post fence here. The speed limit of 50 km/h outside the school, where the footpath maybe blocked with parked cars, seems to be inappropriate. Councils now have powers to reduce this limit further. Hedges on approach roads are well trimmed but brimming with life.

Concluding Remarks:

Bodyke is a charming rural village overlooking idyllic countryside. Your participation in Tidy Towns is having a visible impact on its appearance so do keep up the good work.