

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Boston** Ref: **2199**
County: **Clare** Mark: **223**
Category: **A** Date(s): **06/07/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	24	28
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	25	30
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	20	22
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	15	16
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	15	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	20	25
TOTAL MARK	450	201	223

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Boston is most welcome back to the Tidy Towns competition in this your second year of the contest. We are delighted to read that already you are noticing a difference in your surroundings and hopefully this is only the beginning. Congratulations on preparing your first-ever three-year plan. This is very clearly presented and contains many worthy projects. It is great that you have arranged these under each of the contest headings and this will ensure progress in an even manner. In a short space of time you have built up an impressive network of support and have even been successful in winning a grant application. This is excellent work and will stand you in good stead going forward. You indeed live in a unique area and are most fortunate to have such a dramatic local environment.

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

Well done for all the cleaning and painting work that you have undertaken over the past year. Boston has a simple rural charm that has escaped some of the more unwanted modern developments. The church surrounds are most attractive. Landscaping beds here needs some attention as there is encroachment with weeds. We very much look forward to learning more about the history and heritage of your castle – an action identified in your three-year plan. The little school is looking fresh despite its age. It's green flag was flying so congratulations to them on this achievement. The old pump is a nice heritage feature and is looking really well thanks to your recent work.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The Burren landscape is the highlight of Boston and your work should maintain this as the prime focus. As such less is more in retaining the stone walls and resisting any urge to overdo things with flowers etc. Containers of flowers at the church and displays at the pump work well because they highlight a particular feature.

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

Boston is located within a unique landscape as you are aware. The Burren however is widely recognised as the best managed area in Ireland for its wildlife and heritage. Do you promote appreciation of this within your community? Are there particular events in the school to highlight why the area is so special? Do your local farmers have open days to highlight the important work the Burren LIFE project is doing? These are the main areas where you can increase understanding and awareness of your environment. It's good that you are planting insect friendly plants and spindle is a particularly interesting choice, a beautiful but often overlooked native tree.

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

Please note this area is not concerned with litter but rather the efforts your community is making to eliminate waste. Your school's participation in the green flag initiative is most important in this regard so they are wished every success in working towards their goals. Your task will be to learn from them and ensure their achievements do not end at the school gates. 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:

Participation in the national spring clean is excellent. You may want to include some photographs in future applications so that the adjudicator can gain a sense of what was achieved. The village was very tidy on adjudication day while litter control was to a very high standard. The surrounds benefit from the general lack of clutter, revealing the beauty of the countryside and the pastoral setting.

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

There is a small number of homes in Boston and all were presented to a very high standard on adjudication day. Freshly painted homes were admired along with eye-catching displays of flowers.

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

Your new stone signs project is an important development under this heading. They look very well in marking the main entrance points to the village. A nice future project would be to paint metal farm gates a uniform colour. This can add charm and very low cost.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a delight to spend some time in Boston and see the great progress you are making. Well done and keep up the good work.