

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bridgetown** Ref: **61**
County: **Clare** Mark: **280**
Category: **A** Date(s): **18/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	35	35
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39	40
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	44	45
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	26	26
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	26	28
TOTAL MARK	450	273	280

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Bridgetown is most welcome to the 2016 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your application form, map and colourful photos showing Bridgetown at its finest. The small committee is doing great work in maintaining the quiet rural character and protecting its environment. Have you considered preparing a three-year plan? This need not be an onerous task but would simply identify some actions to be taken under each of the contest headings. Take a look at the Tidy Towns Handbook which contains much useful information in this regard.

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

The newly painted school was much admired on adjudication day and is a fine looking property. Once again it was flying its green flag and this is great to see. The simple church is clean while the surrounding graveyard is very well maintained. Colourful flowers at the statue create a nice effect. Cooney's Bar was looking lively with its flags in anticipation of the Euro football tournament. The notice board is clean and informative. Tony's bar was nicely decorated with hanging baskets. The creamery is an important built part of your heritage.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

In such a rural setting it is important that the essential character of the landscape is cherished and retained. This means the tall trees, hedges and stone walls. The picnic area is beautifully maintained and the old hedge is a wonderful feature. The odd location of the clothes bank was remarked on last year. In general containers are used in locations where soil is unavailable. Where soil is available, as it is here, plants are best planted straight in the ground. The milk churns are nice feature is but a little hidden in this location.

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

It is wonderful to read how you have such an awareness of your local nature. Are the children brought on bat walks or how do they get to see these amazing creatures? How lucky for them that they are brought on nature walks by their teachers. Do give us some more detail and how nature studies is approached in the school. Are there seasonal outings? How many? Are particular projects carried out? For example to learn about the bats and how they fit into the ecology of the countryside.

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

Recycling is considered standard practice these days and so the adjudicator is looking for ways in which you strive to eliminate the generation of waste to begin with. Measures you are taking to reuse compost are of value. Liaise with the school in the projects that they have undertaken and see how many can be applied in local homes or

businesses. There is no need for their achievements to 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:

Well done for carrying out a big clean up every April, is this part of the national spring clean run by An Taisce? You are carrying out daily litter patrols and this is excellent, sadly an essential measure to keep this scourge at bay. Some cigarette ends had gathered around the door to the bar so perhaps the owners could be encouraged to keep an eye on them. Litter control on adjudication day however was very good.

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

You are commended for acting on the recommendation in last year's report and hopefully the plans will successfully screen the intended area. Many attractive homes were admired throughout Bridgetown and all were presented to a very high standard. Across from Cooney's (is this Riverdale? There was no name) shrubbery needs to be cut back as it is encroaching onto the footpath. Clonboy was admired for its lovely common areas but see previous comments regarding containers.

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

The beautiful tree-lined roads are wonderful features in this locality and it was good to see them being well maintained. An attractive stone wall and old farm building was admired here, not far past the welcome sign that was planted with colourful flowers. It's remarkable that the speed limit on the tiny roads is 80 km/h!

Concluding Remarks:

Bridgetown is a charming rural village that retains the quiet air. Thanks to your efforts is also beautiful place. Do keep up the good work!