

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carrigaholt** Ref: **732**
County: **Clare** Mark: **262**
Category: **A** Date(s): **09/07/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	37	37
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	36	37
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	36	37
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	21	21
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	11	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	32
TOTAL MARK	450	259	262

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Carrigaholt is most welcome to the 2016 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your application form with map. Your map should encompass all of your judging area, usually as far as the change in speed limits or welcome sign, and not just the central streets. It is otherwise clear and well labelled. Your three-year plan does not meet the requirements of the contest. Take a look at the Tidy Towns handbook for advice in this regard. The three-year plan should be arranged under each of the contest headings and identify specific actions, timelines for completion, and people responsible. This is a useful exercise as it provides an opportunity to formulate a longer term vision for the village and get things done in a more organised fashion. You are well-established now in the contest and it's great to read how your village has improved over this time. It's all thanks to your group and the volunteers in your community.

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

It was not clear what the red stars on your map signified. It's great that you have addressed the appearance of the derelict house. We were not sure where Long Dock was as this was not indicated on your map - although we later came across it. A before and after photo would also have been welcome to give the adjudicator an impression of what was achieved here. Well done for repairing stone walls, these are very important elements of our landscape. The unique streetscape of Carrigaholt was admired on adjudication day, so many of the homes here look fresh and attractive. Carmody's Bar and the Long Dock look really well with clean seating and flowers. On the far side of the road seating needs to be cleaned. Keane's was also lively. The post office is a real highlight with its display of flowers and local information. The village pump is nicely decorated while the church is beautifully enclosed with tall trees. The beautiful school is clearly well loved.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The committee should aim to increase the number of trees in the area. Not all species do well in the exposed conditions but sycamore, ash and hawthorn and some types of pine can be seen in the locality. More trees provide visual relief as well as shelter and wildlife habitats. In fact the village benefits more than most in this area with tall trees – sycamore seems to be the one which grows best. Containers with small flowers along the main road have little impact unfortunately. The picnic area overlooking the pier is very well presented. No need for horticultural shrubs here as the scenery cannot be beaten. In the church grounds please remove the rubber ties from the oak tree as they are no longer needed and will damage the bark.

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

Carrigaholt is looking out on the Shannon estuary, an internationally important area for wildlife and home to Europe's largest resident bottlenose dolphin community. The adjudicator wants to see how you celebrate this amazing national treasure. This could be done through walks, talks or a nature studies project with the local school. It's great that you participate in the Coast Care project and perhaps this could be linked with initiatives to raise awareness of the value of the marine environment.

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

This category is not concerned with litter or your spring clean and these projects should be described under the tidiness and litter control heading. In fact many of the projects in your tidiness section are relevant here, such as composting, the paint exchange and rainwater harvesting. These are excellent initiatives which are helping to reduce waste volumes. The adjudicator will be looking at how you build on these achievements so that there are improvements year on year. The goal after all is the complete elimination of waste. Do detail here your school's progress in the green flag program as this is a very important 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:

You are engaged in a number of tidiness initiatives including the national spring clean, Coast Care and regular litter collections. This is excellent and some photos would have shown the adjudicator what was achieved. The anti-litter awareness competition in the school is another important aspect of maintaining a clean area. The pier area was quite clean and tidy although piles of old metal and fishing nets should be removed. At the crossroads there is a lot of signage. Some is pointing in the wrong direction (for Cross). The bring bank was quite clean but broken glass needs to be swept. Along the street outside 'Blake' the path needs to be swept of moss and debris. The picnic area enclosed with the tall trees should be an attractive spot but was strewn with litter on adjudication day. Very large tyres also take away from the appearance.

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

Cluain Mhín is a lovely estate of established homes. The tidy margins at the entrance make a good impression but an empty pole should be removed. The small containers of plants have little impact and should also be removed. If to be replaced you should plant directly in the soil while choosing appropriate species for year-round impact.

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

On arrival from Cross there is no welcome sign to Carrigaholt and this should be remedied. Some weeding and trimming of margins is also required along this route. Old tyres look untidy even if they have flowers in them and should be removed. Has there been any communication with Clare county council on the quality of the road surfacing? This is been remarked upon for a number of years and it would be great to see some progress. There seems to have been recent improvements on the Kilrush side as far as the bridge and this has made a big difference. Signage at the Castle junction is variable and broken or faded signs should be removed.

Concluding Remarks:

Carrigaholt is a charming town with the unique backdrop. Well done to your committee for all their hard work and we look forward to returning in 2017 to check on progress.