

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Connolly** Ref: **1181**
County: **Clare** Mark: **257**
Category: **A** Date(s): **15/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	30	32
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	31	33
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	32	32
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	25	26
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	56	58
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	29	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31	32
TOTAL MARK	450	247	257

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Connolly is most welcome to the 2016 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your entry form and map. An additional sheet contains background information and discussed some projects but to avoid confusion please ensure that all relevant information is in the application form. Feel free to use the electronic version if there is not enough space in this. You have added new members to your committee this year and they are most welcome. With extra bodies on board there is an opportunity to develop a three-year plan. This will help you progress in the contest and would simply identify a number of actions under each of the headings. Consult the Tidy Towns Handbook on how to go about this task. The use of photos is most welcome and these should be used in support of particular projects. Where work is being done before and after photos are especially useful. Your map was rudimentary and should identify the locations of projects as this is important for the adjudicator. It did not seem to have all the projects however as the terracotta house did not appear.

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

Well done for your work on the terracotta house. Your difficulties with unused properties are duly noted. You can only work within the powers that are available to you. Carney's Bar is beautifully painted in green and white. The church is a fine old building and is brightened up with the old-fashioned bikes. Small containers of pansies at the door work well in decorating this area. The nearby grotto is similarly simple but effective. The school is a beautiful colourful building, immaculately presented and waving clean flags. The Xpress shop has a very tidy surrounds with a clean picnic area.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Your new 1916 commemoration area is a nice feature and was colourfully planted with flowers on adjudication day. Boxes of flowers on stone walls don't really work as they have little impact. The walls are attractive enough and stand on their own against the rural background. Wonderful displays of flowers were admired along the main road. The main landscaping feature in Connolly is the countryside so don't try to compete with this, i.e. less is more in many instances.

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

It's great that your senior school students are involved in wildlife surveys – do provide us with more detail. What information are they gathering? Your bog walk development is an exciting project which has huge potential in engaging local people with an aspect of your cultural and natural heritage. Your plans here are most welcome and we look forward to an update on our return next year. The heritage panels at Carney's Bar were read with interest.

Your 'wildlife area' at the bridge was admired, and is certainly rich in species, is there any attempt to catalogue these? There is really no need for the boxes of geraniums on the bridge and they should be removed.

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

You listed a number of projects upon which you are working. Do make sure that the emphasis is firmly on waste avoidance as recycling is seen as standard practice and is in any case quite low down on the waste pyramid. Using organic waste to feed pigs is an excellent way of ensuring that of resources not allowed become waste to start with. That is the mentality that needs to become ingrained across the community (and indeed the country!) 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 participating in the national spring clean as well as having a regular routine of litter collection. Awareness raising measures in schools are also an important part of this task. In addressing graffiti so decisively you have hopefully prevented any recurrence. The village is very tidy indeed and litter control was to a very high standard on adjudication day, well done.

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

There is a relatively small collection of houses in Connolly but all which were viewed on adjudication day were presented to a very high standard. Fiach Rua was admired for its simple name sign in Irish lettering along with the old pump.

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

The approach from Miltown Malbay has an attractive display of flags and well presented green areas with flowers. Unfortunately the heaps of stone stored by Clare county council are what catch the eye. This comes up regularly in adjudication reports but do please try to address it. At Carney's Bar a display of marigolds is too small to have an effect while the surrounds have in any case been sprayed with herbicide. This is very damaging to wildlife and its use should cease. A standard of Japanese knotweed across the road needs to be addressed. Contact your County heritage officer for advice on how this can be eradicated as it will need specialist treatment. New footpaths were admired in the town and you are right to continue to pursue the expansion of this essential infrastructure. The picnic area on the Ennis side is an attractive feature.

Concluding Remarks:

Connolly is a charming rural village with natural amenities and a strong community spirit. You are working on a number of worthwhile projects and we look forward to returning in 2017 to check on progress. Best of luck.