

# Tidy Towns Competition 2016

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Corofin**

Ref: **64**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **283**

Category: **B**

Date(s): **15/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	37	38
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	36	37
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	39	39
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	28	28
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	14	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	55
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	35
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>283</b>

### Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Corrofin is most welcome to the 2016 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your application form with photos, additional information and map. Your photos are most welcome and were well labelled, which is important as the adjudicator needs to know how they relate to your various projects. Your map was a little cluttered with numbers and letters but successfully identified the locations of projects. There is no need to stapler it into the application form as this is used by the adjudicator when walking around the town. Your new three-year plan was admired and contains a number of worthwhile projects. Try to be specific in identifying actions – i.e. what exactly are you hoping to do, who is going to do it and when? You have good support on your committee and are collaborating with all the relevant local agencies.

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

Well done on the reopening of the St Patrick's Hall, this is a significant development for the town. We were not sure of the meaning of '1958 grotto photographs unveiled'. Perhaps provide some detail of what was done here for next year. Well done to the fifth and six class of Scoil Mhuire Náisiúnta on their exploration of the workhouse and St Catherine's church. This is a great way of engaging students with their local heritage. The Main Street was looking well on adjudication day and a number of clean flags added colour and movement. The post office particularly caught the eye. O'Sullivan's health shop maintains a traditional facade that is very successful. Hogans Angers Rest is simple but effective. The large building on the corner of Church Street and Bridge Street is very prominent and it would be a worthwhile project to paint its gable wall. P. Crowley's is a superb heritage building, well done on the conservation of this important feature. The national park information centre seems to have been dramatically enhanced since our last visit and is impressive. The national school was looking very well on adjudication day and was proudly flying its green flags. The heritage centre is a sensitive reuse of a significant historical building.

### Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

You have completed a number of tasks under this heading and for this you are commended. The old bridge looks better without the hanging baskets. Planting along a wall on the Kilfenora road is a mishmash of species, colours, sizes and shapes. It could be argued that the old stone wall would work well here with no additional planting but if you are going to retain this for shrubs and flowers choose a consistent theme and stick to it. The grotto is very well maintained and the recently cleaned plaque was admired. The significance of the photo referred to in the application form now becomes apparent! All the men and boys, one wonders why there were no women. Trees planted near the picnic seating are not doing well and need to be reconsidered.

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

Corrofin is situated in an area with a remarkable array of natural features. The adjudicator wants to see how you are availing of these to engage local people. In raising awareness of the wonderful nature all around you people will cherish and protect it. It is good that you attended an evening on bird and bat boxes with Clare county council. How will you use this information to meet the aims of the category? Note that litter does not fall under this heading. The heritage in schools visit is worthwhile in engaging the schoolchildren. What other ways is this important message communicated?

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

The school's participation in the green flag program is essential in this category and well done to them on their third green flag. Installing water butts is an excellent way of conserving this precious resource. You will need to be always on the lookout for ways in which waste can be eliminated and as such it requires a mentality shift. Every time you go to throw something out (even in the recycle bin) you should be thinking: could this be avoided? 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 getting the 'monstrous' sign removed. Do explain what 'geocaching' is but your photo of litter pickers at the lake told its own story, good work here! Generally the town is tidy but in places weeds and abandoned traffic cones can create a neglected air. Do try to address these features. This can be seen for example at the library. Old, dirty or battered signage should be audited and addressed as required. Bilingual street nameplates look very well. Litter control on adjudication day was mostly good but a sprinkling of bottles and cans was of concern.

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

It's great that you are working on establishing new residential associations. Well done to Creag Bhrian and Laghtagoona on their 'Clare in Bloom' awards. Many fine homes were admired throughout Corrofin on adjudication day and all were presented to a very high standard. Radharc an tSeideain has an evocative name stone. Some attention to boundary walls and weeding of kerbs would enhance this enclave. Laghtagoona is an impressive estate and the vast green areas were well mown. This must take a lot of time and resources, would it be possible to identify areas where grass is allowed to grow – cutting once or twice in the year? Works at the entrance look very well and lime trees are maturing nicely.

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

There is a very eye-catching display with boat on the Ennis approach (although it would be better without the boat). There is another, plainer welcome sign at the Texaco garage but perhaps there is no need for this one as well. New semicircular displays on the Inagh road junction look well. A large section of the Main Street (from the hostel) has no footpath whatsoever. This seems like a tremendous hazard for pedestrians, why do cars take such total precedence here? New picnic seating near the 1945 Halla Pádraig Naofa was admired but watch out for litter, some of which had gathered on the grass.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

As the gateway to the Burren Corrofin is well placed to attract visitors from near and far. Well done on your ongoing efforts to enhance this area which is so rich in cultural and natural attractions.