

# Tidy Towns Competition 2016

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ennistymon** Ref: **69**  
County: **Clare** Mark: **275**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **07/07/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	48	48
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	36	37
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	39	39
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	29	28
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	46	48
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30	30
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>275</b>

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

Ennistymon is most welcome to the 2016 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your application form with map and photos. Once again your map was beautifully hand drawn. Your legend however was overly verbose and really only needs to highlight those locations where projects for this year have been undertaken. Your new committee is wished every success and no doubt you can build on the tremendous work done to date. The use of photos is always welcome but do make sure these relate directly to a project recently completed and caption them clearly as such. Clarity is key when describing your work so do be specific in your application form as to what was done, when, where and by whom. With your new committee in place now would be a good time to start work on a three-year plan. This would encourage you to set some long-term goals and identify actions under each of the contest headings. Do refer to the Tidy Towns Handbook for more information on how to go about this task.

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

It's great to read that derelict sites are being redeveloped. As these progress do provide before and after photos to show the adjudicator the impact of what has been achieved. Best of luck with planned infrastructure enhancement works. The Main Street maintains its traditional streetscape and a number of freshly painted properties were admired. Heritage of finger pointer signs at Cullinan Funeral Directors is good quality but the pole needs to be straightened. Market Square is enlivened by actual trading. The surrounds would be enhanced with weeding of paving stones and trees in the very large planters rather than small annuals which have little impact. Similarly the library surrounds need weeding. Might the Blue Frog Cafe be persuaded to paint their gable wall? It would greatly enhance this prominent location. The old church of Ireland graveyard is an important heritage feature of the town. It is well preserved and the way paths are mown through it was admired. The court house is a nice old building and its heritage information accessible and interesting (as were similar panels throughout the town). Market house food hall is most inviting while the nearby church is looking very well with bunting and clean surrounds. Supervalu is an attractive design with a welcoming seating area to the fore.

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

Well done for planting more trees as part of national tree week. These are likely to require maintenance as they grow so do keep an eye on them. Well done to those businesses and premises owners who went to the effort to hang out displays of flowers. AIB, James Devitt Hardware, Silver Threads and Mirabelle especially caught the eye along this stretch. The falls area was a letdown. The entrance to the heritage walk is boarded up with metal railings (although in fairness this may be due to works underway), the surrounds were littered while what should be an attractive picnic/viewing area is a car park with ugly metal barriers. This should be a star attraction for Ennistymon! Pots of flowers over the wonderful old bridge look well. The picnic area would be so much better if the flower

containers were removed – there is no need to try to enhance the beautiful backdrop. Could the old whitewashed cottages be boarded up as an alternative to the scrappy wire fence? Do not cut the grass so close to the water's edge, allow the natural vegetation to express itself as much as possible here. The small park is lovely. Perhaps some seating would encourage people to linger while, again, there is no need to mow so close to the river banks. Grass cuttings should be composted and not dumped next to the river where it results in pollution.

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

It's great that you undertook a wildlife survey, the adjudicator would have liked to have seen a copy. How do you plan to use the results? The adjudicator really wants to see how you raise awareness of your local nature among the local community. Your loop river walk sounds exciting and will provide an opportunity for people to engage with the plants and animals that live there. Japanese knotweed is an issue at the falls, is this being addressed? Hedgerows on the Lahinch Road were being cut on adjudication day. This is prohibited under the Wildlife Act as it is the height of the bird nesting season. As a consequence a point has been deducted in this category.

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

You have identified rainwater harvesting, composting and the use of your polytunnel among resource saving projects. These are excellent. It's great that your schools take part in the green flag project but do list them and the stage they are at so we can give them full credit. Do continue to look for new opportunities for waste avoidance. 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 to the pupils of Scoil Mhuire on their new mural as part of the national spring clean this year. A photo of the final product would have been welcome. You have an active programme of litter collection and awareness raising measures and this is really good. The town was very tidy on adjudication day and litter control was generally to a high standard.

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

Many attractive homes were admired throughout Ennistymon on adjudication day and all were presented to a very high standard. At Cúirt Merriman some mowing of edges is needed on green areas and around the name stone. Road surfacing is poor and should be addressed with Clare county council. The lamp pole with no lamp should be removed. Many of the older groups of houses don't seem to have names so perhaps this is something that could be addressed. The statue of the dog is a lovely feature at Ard na Colla.

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

On approach from Lisdoonvarna there are two welcome signs where only one is needed. The second is the more attractive. The entrance to the falls hotel is very well presented. By far the greatest priority should be the repair of broken and disintegrating footpaths and we read in your form that this will be addressed by Clare county council.

#### **Concluding Remarks:**

Ennistymon is a bustling town full of history and heritage. It was a pleasure to spend some time admiring its charms. Best of luck and keep up the good work.