

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Meelick** Ref: **2210**
County: **Clare** Mark: **221**
Category: **B** Date(s): **18/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	33
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	32
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	32
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	10
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	42
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	22
TOTAL MARK	450	221

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Meelick is most welcome to the 2016 Tidy Towns competition and we are delighted that you have taken this step. Hopefully you will find participation to be of benefit in building community spirit and enhancing your local environment. You are urged to refer to the Tidy Towns Handbook and review the requirements of each of the categories. You could then devise a simple three-year plan which would identify a number of initial tasks under each heading. Your map is a very important part of the entry form as the adjudicator may not have visited Meelick in the past and will need to know where all the main landmarks are. As Meelick seems to be spread out this is all the more important. There was further confusion as your town does not appear on Ordnance Survey maps! In any case with 12 on your committee you have made an excellent start in building a support base. Your contact with Clare county council will be essential but do widen the net as much as possible to include sports clubs or any other relevant agency or civic body. Involving the school in your activities will also be important.

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

The lovely old church was admired with its old stone wall and clean coat of paint. You are wished well in your efforts to enhance access to the graveyard at Ballycannon. The Community Hall is a nice building and one which would benefit from weeding and planting around boundaries (in fairness there was work underway on adjudication day which may have been doing just that). The lovely school was looking really well and was admired for its flags (including a green one!). The old Kilavoher Cemetery is an important heritage feature but needs attention. Do get advice from the Clare county council heritage officer before taking any action however. The pub seems to have no name.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Meelick is located in a quiet rural setting and as such the main landscaping features are the hedges, mature trees and old stone walls. Frequently less will be more so do not rush into planting garden-style beds of flowers. Appreciating what you have should be your number one priority. Avoid the use of herbicides as these dangerous chemicals are very bad for the environment while also being potentially cancer-causing. The GAA ground is an excellent facility for the area. Cherry laurel is not a great choice for hedging as it is not native and provides very little for wildlife, use hawthorn instead for the same effect.

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

You have many opportunities in your area for exploring nature. Again, do not rush into action but first spend some time identifying those areas which are good for wildlife, e.g. hedges. This is an area where working with the school

would be most rewarding. For example projects to identify the birds that live in the locality followed by an art contest, the results of which could be displayed. This is just one suggestion so a little research would yield many others.

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

This is another category where a little research is required. Perhaps it could be a dedicated task for one of your committee members. The goal is not recycling but to avoid the generation of waste to begin with. Find out if the school is involved in the green flag program. This is a most important initiative in the battle to build a more sustainable society - it was later noted that the school does indeed take part so much can be learned from them and the projects they have already completed. 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 have an 'annual spring clean' day and this is excellent. Is this a part of the national spring clean run by An Taisce? This project can help by sending you a pack to help in the task. At the Meelick stores an empty metal bracket on the roadside should be removed. An information panel here has no information and so it should be taken down or used in some way. Litter control was very good on adjudication day while in general the village is very tidy.

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

Attractive homes were admired throughout Meelick on adjudication day, e.g. at Killavoher with its neatly trimmed lawns. Do keep an eye on the young cherry tree and remove supports when no longer needed. At the green area large wooden planters draw the eye but would benefit more from a flowering shrub e.g. roses. Some weeding is required at the entrance to some estates (one, which had a handsome stone wall, had no name).

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

It would be useful for you to better define your area. Entering the village near the school there is no sign to tell people that they have arrived. A nice name sign, in English and Irish would be of great benefit. Beautiful green verges were admired and are such a distinctive part of the Irish countryside. At the crossroads an attractive monument was admired. There is no need to add flowers etc keeping a small area around mown will be effective in maintaining a high standard of appearance.

Concluding Remarks:

Meelick is a charming rural village and we are thrilled that you have entered the tidy towns contest. It is sincerely hoped that this is only the beginning for you and we look forward to returning in 2017 to check on progress. Best of luck!