

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mountshannon**

Ref: **81**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **320**

Category: **A**

Date(s): **12/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	51	52
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	42	43
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	45	46
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	34	34
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	16	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	38	39
TOTAL MARK	450	315	320

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Mountshannon is most welcome to the 2016 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your succinct entry form with map and additional information. Mountshannon has a long pedigree in the Tidy Towns competition and it is wonderful to see the town go from strength to strength. You have established firm connections with all the relevant support agencies and continue to have good numbers on your committee. The opening of Holy Island this year is a particular highlight which will add to the attractions of the area. In last year's report there was mention of the multiyear plan however it seems this was not included this year. Do provide an update in 2017 – whether it's a new plan or an existing plan – with details on the progress made. Compliments on your map which is perfectly clear and concise. You have perfectly identified the locations of new projects to be inspected. Your fun run, bingo, and Scouts events are excellent for attracting broad support and making Tidy Towns a fun endeavour. Well done on your success in the broadband competition although it is slightly shocking that these are the lengths you have to go to for essential infrastructure.

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

You have had a number of material upgrades to your built environment and well done to all concerned. Buildings along the main road through Mountshannon retain their charm and heritage. The old church of Ireland is a wonderful feature that is being well maintained. The entrance to the Galley was looking a little worse for wear and hopefully this can be addressed. The Snug was looking very well on adjudication day along with many of the premises along Main Street. New painting at the Old Forge was admired – a nice enhancement to this point of interest. Galvin's foodstore was very neat and tidy while the newly painted school is looking well. Some weeding of beds at the creche next door is required to maintain the appearance however. St. Caimin's church is another fine feature for the town.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

You have been making excellent progress in this category and it is encouraging to read how your emphasis is on the long-term. Mountshannon is endowed with a wonderful scenic backdrop of water and rolling hills. Your approach should always be to build on this natural asset. The oak trees project is an example of how you are successfully doing this. You refer to the volume of labour that goes into mowing extensive areas of grass. Could this be reduced? E.g. by allowing some areas to grow and cutting back only at the end of the summer. The new oak trees were admired at the lake shore and no doubt these will grow to complement the nearby trees and greenery. Maintenance of this general area is excellent. Trees along the main street are landscape features of great value. Where any has died (e.g. across from Keane's Bar) try to replace them. An impressive display of roses was admired at the Bridge Pub. The Aistear Park is a jewel in the crown for Mountshannon. Your new stone/harp plinth is a prominent feature

on arrival, and one which complements the many other attractions. Is it wise however to put a tourist office in the centre of the maze?

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

It's great to read how you have been doing some research into your local protected areas. Perhaps there are ways of communicating this importance with local people. E.g. by holding an event for heritage week or through a talk from a wildlife expert. It is important that these are not merely scientific designations. As a centre for eco-tourism Mountshannon has many assets and it is wonderful that the eagles are proving to be such a popular draw. The 'ecosystem services' report is certainly a novel approach – how do you intend to use this? The oak tree project is an excellent way to get children involved in a long-term project and which will get them close to nature.

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

The 'Rumble in the Jungle' seems to now be a firm fixture in the community diary and is an excellent initiative. The way you are thinking sustainably, in reusing materials from the St Patrick's Day parade, is commendable. Only in incorporating this mentality into your everyday actions can we hope to eliminate the mountains of waste that we produce annually. Well done to the national school on their introduction to the green schools project. This is a very important development and do keep us updated. To progress in this area will require constant innovation so the key is to be always on the lookout for opportunities to avoid waste creation. 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:

The harbour area was being well used on the sunny day of adjudication and happy to report that the area was very well presented. Signage at the 'Rent-an-Irish-cottage' detracts from the amazing trees and green space – is there a need for fencing here at all? Litter was a minor problem on adjudication day and in particular premises owners should be alerted to the problem of cigarette ends strewn on pathways. Overall however there was a tidy area to the town with no major issues of note.

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

Working with residents associations is indeed the best way of integrating your aims with local estates. Do list them and give us an idea of any particular projects they are working on. It's great that houses at harbour court are now cared for. They were looking very well on adjudication day. Mountshannon Court has attractive homes while common areas would be enhanced with some weeding and sweeping. At An Garran the removal of old traffic cones would enhance the entrance.

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

New welcome signage was admired on the approach from Whitegate. The picnic area on this approach is looking well and no doubt your new trees will enhance this location. On approach from Scarriff verges are very well trimmed and this creates a very good impression.

Concluding Remarks:

Mountshannon is firmly established as a destination of choice along the River Shannon and the reasons for this are clear. You have added a number of new attractions for this year and you are wished every success with these.