

# Tidy Towns Competition 2016

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mullagh** Ref: **82**  
County: **Clare** Mark: **243**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **07/07/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	32	33
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	38	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	32	33
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	20	20
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	9	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	51	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	29	28
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	26	28
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>243</b>

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

Mullagh is most welcome to the 2016 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your entry form and maps and it is a pleasure to be in Mullagh once more. It is wonderful to read how your participation in the Tidy Towns contest in recent years has resulted in an increase in community pride. This is indeed the aim of the contest. Have you considered previous adjudicators' suggestions regarding the preparation of three-year plan? This need not be an onerous task but would simply set out actions under each of the contest headings. Do refer back to the Tidy Towns handbook which contains much useful advice in this regard. It is great that you have good connections with your local school, do provide details if particular projects are undertaken by the students in collaboration with your group. This typically involves litter collection but could also be for nature studies or other environmental themes. Your map was clear but limited in scale. Try to indicate on it which way is north while encompassing all of your judging area.

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

Do provide full details of works undertaken e.g. old buildings have been tidied but make sure to tell us which ones, or even provide a before and after photo to show the impact of what was achieved. Well done for painting the community hall – it is a great enhancement. Across from Sexton's a field entrance has been built up with old breeze blocks creating an untidy impression. Sexton's shop itself is clean and well presented. Moroney's Bar looks fresh and was admired for its colourful displays of flowers. The church is beautifully presented with a freshly painted boundary wall, clean flags and excellent landscaping. Older buildings with names over their doors (e.g. Scanlon, Darcy etc.) are important heritage features and a reminder of times past. The old pump is a little neglected and it would be a nice project to spruce this area up. The national school is looking fresh and lively despite its age. The old graveyard was viewed from afar and looks like a fascinating piece of heritage. Whelan's foodstore is in a sorry state but it would not take much to enhance its appearance.

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

The rural countryside surrounding Mullagh is the main landscaping feature. Always be looking for ways to protect the old stone walls, farm gates and hedge banks. Discourage the use of herbicides as this is very bad for the environment while leaving unsightly dead vegetation. The community sports field is an excellent facility and very clean in its presentation. A pile of old tyres in a corner of the car park should be removed however. The new stone bed near the health centre was admired. However the plants here are too 'garden' for the rural location while the tree appears to be dead. Arguably no plants here at all would work best.

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

This category is encouraging groups to raise awareness of nature among their local community. The actions you have listed here do not relate therefore to the heading. This is a most rewarding area with which to work with your local school. An example would be a simple project to identify the birds that live in your locality, followed by an art competition whereupon the works are displayed. Such initiatives frequently cost little or no money.

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

Composting grass cutting is a good example of a project that reduces resources. Try to encourage more of this. Recycling is not really a priority as it is considered standard practice. Instead the focus should shift to avoiding waste generation to begin with. Is the school involved in the green flag program? If so please provide full details here. If not should be encouraged to do so. 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:**

Mullagh is a very tidy village and you have no major issues of contention under this heading. You evidently have an active programme of inspection and litter collection. This is essential for maintaining the high standards expected in the contest. The bring bank beside Estuary Oils is very clean. Signage approaching the school from the west is variable in quality with some faded or facing the wrong way. Litter control on adjudication day was to a very high standard, well done. Try to remove old cable ties on lamp poles.

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

A number of one-off houses were admired throughout Mullagh and all were presented to a very high standard. Low stone walls are particularly nice feature. Finnuremore Park is a beautiful estate of homes and its green area was admired. It was good to note that you took heed of the comments from last year's adjudicator and replaced the string supporting the trees. The trees themselves however are not all doing so well. Take note as some species may not be suitable for the conditions.

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

Approaching from Spanish point (from the east) a colourful display and attractive stone name sign greets the eye. Verges here are well trimmed. Road and footpath surfacing throughout are of a very good order, creating a good impression of the village.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

It was a pleasure to spend some time in Mullagh and admire the green countryside and pastoral atmosphere. Do keep up the good work and we look forward to returning in 2017.