

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Scariff** Ref: **87**
County: **Clare** Mark: **268**
Category: **B** Date(s): **12/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	38	39
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	35	36
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	35	37
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	25	27
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	17	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	49	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29	29
TOTAL MARK	450	259	268

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Scariff is most welcome to the 2016 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your clearly completed application form with maps and additional information. Your use of photos throughout is particularly welcome as a way of conveying the effectiveness of projects. You have a sophisticated network of collaboration and a healthy number on your committee. The involvement of the junior tidy towns and other youth groups is particularly welcome. Your emphasis on planning is noted however your 3/5 year plan needs a little more flesh on the bones. The adjudicator would like to see this organised under each of the contest headings. Actions should be specific and with responsibilities clearly assigned. Having said that the actions themselves which you have identified are most worthwhile. Overall it was clear that you have a comprehensive approach to the contest and this strategy will stand you in good stead.

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

It is great to read that the market house is being used as you tourist information centre. You are wished every success with this new endeavour. The smart new flagpole and colourful sundial are other fine additions to your streetscape. For describing projects in this category, e.g. regarding the credit union, do be specific so that the adjudicator knows what has taken place. Businesses and other premises around Market Square were all looking well on adjudication day. The home cafe in particular is a welcoming enclave. McNamara's pub was inviting with its display of clean flags. Joe Maleny's Bar also caught the eye with its strong colour scheme and flower boxes. The library is an attractive, modern insertion and a valuable public building. During adjudication it was clean and inviting - one hopes it is well used.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Well done on your new river walkway and the work that was done to save it after the floods. Scariff benefits greatly from a large number of street trees in the town centre and which add enormously to the atmosphere of the town. Your group should always be looking for opportunities to add to these where possible. Baskets of flowers add summer colour and perhaps local businesses could do more to brighten up their facades – there seem to be a lot of empty brackets. Colourful displays on central features in the town are a welcome relief. A neglected bed by the fire station needs some attention. Do encourage landowners to avoid the use of herbicides as it is a threat to our wildlife as well as human health. The river park is a fantastic amenity for the town and was being well used on adjudication day.

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

Congratulations on commissioning the biodiversity survey and the list of birds was read with interest. This should always be a work in progress as new species will no doubt appear from time to time. It is how you use these results that will matter. Try to engage locals by telling more of the stories behind each of the species. The information boards in riverside park are a great start (although at the risk of being pedantic a number of the species such as mink and grey squirrel are not native). Well done to Scariff primary school on the award of their green flag for biodiversity. The list of their projects is most impressive and the link to science was especially admired. Now that you have your walkway and survey data how about organising a regular series of talks and walks to keep the interest alive?

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

You are doing a number of projects under this heading and your comprehensive approach is admirable. What did you take from the information evening back in January? What are the specific changes you can make at the community level? Your work on garden composting and rainwater harvesting are certainly moving in the right direction. The new solar panels on the roof of the East Clare co-op may be of interest to other property owners. Perhaps they would talk to people about what was involved and the savings they hope to achieve. As you point out the green schools programme is a superb way in which to promote these new ideas. 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 are commended for acting upon the remarks made in last year's adjudication report. In particular your litter management plan will help you achieve the high standard which we all want. It is good that you manage to get rid of the old phone box and generally the Market Square area is very tidy and mostly free of clutter. Litter control on adjudication day was moderate but certainly there were no major blackspots or issues of note. Many areas were clear but in others a light sprinkling of crisp packets and plastic bottles was noted. You have clearly made a lot of progress in this area and you are urged to maintain this momentum.

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

Your new bird nesting boxes are duly noted! Let's hope they are occupied. The Foroige project on Connaght Road is a wonderful initiative and it is hoped that all that edible produce found a good home. This estate was looking very well on adjudication day with attractive seating and colourful displays. The general level of presentation at this estate is very high and it was a pleasure to visit.

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

New surfacing on the entrance from Flagmount looks very well. While flower beds are normally welcome they should not supplant native vegetation on old hedges – much better to let the wild flowers and grasses here have the space. New footpaths along the Feakle road are an excellent addition and will hopefully encourage safer and healthier transport. It would be great to see a new native hedge planted along this new fence.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to visit Scariff again and see first-hand the progress you have made. Your sense of community spirit and drive makes the town what it is. Well done and keep up the good work.