

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Shannon** Ref: **88**
County: **Clare** Mark: **296**
Category: **E** Date(s): **18/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	49	49
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39	40
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	45	46
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	32	32
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	17	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	45	46
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	29	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	35	36
TOTAL MARK	450	291	296

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Shannon is most welcome to the 2016 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your clearly completed application form with map and three-year plan. It would be better to highlight your projects using a numbering code on the map, with the key on this sheet, for ease of reference as the adjudicator moves around the town. Your new three-year plan was admired and this is clear and easy to follow. No actions were identified under the Community Involvement & Planning heading but building on this is essential for future sustainability of the Tidy Towns effort. Do also be specific with regard to projects as well as including general tasks that require ongoing maintenance. Perhaps if your plan had an overarching goal (or 'mission' in the jargon) it would help guide subsequent actions. You have an excellent support network and are well established in the community. You've done tremendous work over the years and have been instrumental in giving Shannon its own identity.

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

Well done on the works to the Drumgeely shopping centre and working with Clare county council on implementing these plans. The front of the library has been greatly enhanced. Planting straight in the ground is always preferable to planting in containers, while there's no doubt these containers now look better a suitable tree or shrub may provide more year-round effect with low maintenance. The civic square in front of the Skycourt is an attractive and well-kept public space. Knights was colourful and lively in anticipation of the Euro football tournament. McDonald's/Topaz are clean and tidy while the 'Tasty Pizza' cottage is very eye-catching. The Oakwood Arms hotel is an attractive building and was looking very well on adjudication day. Churches along Bothar na Luachra, especially the Catholic one, were bright and attractive. Painting metal railings at St. Conaire's national school would enhance this otherwise well presented building. The Town Hall is looking fresh and clean while the nearby playground is bright and well kept.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Your group has been busy planting native trees and there is no doubt that these will enhance the areas in which they have been planted. Do keep an eye on them as trees frequently need maintenance in their early years, advice from a horticulturalist can be invaluable. At the square do remove rubber ties from trees that no longer need them and try to remove litter from grills. Large planters with begonias along Bealach Brí are very successful in creating a splash of colour. All the same something with year-round impact (rose bushes?) Would be preferable. The town benefits greatly from lines of mature trees. Very large areas of grass clearly require a lot of maintenance. Could this be reduced? Allowing some areas to grow long during summer months can break up the appearance and provide some space for wildlife. It can be cut again in late September. Some dead trees at the green area near Aidan Park need to be removed but the overall effect here was very good. At the Town Park dead trees as well as stakes and

ties which are no longer needed should be removed. Painting seating here would also be worthwhile. Metal hoarding at the entrance to the HSE building should be taken down.

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

There is no question that you have a range of wonderful natural amenities on your doorstep. You are fortunate also that local people have access to these areas. The adjudicator is looking at how you utilise these assets to raise awareness among the community of this wonderful nature. You could arrange a wildlife walk or talk with the local expert. Are there activities in local schools with regards to nature studies? It is important to make sure school children are involved in this area. The woodland behind the fire station was full of birdlife on adjudication day, is this area being managed for wildlife? There is a large cleared area in the centre, what is planned here?

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

Well done on applying for water butts through the LA 21 scheme. These are an excellent way of cutting down on water usage from the tap. Do try to promote their use across the community as you have suggested. Recycling is considered standard practice and so you need to come up with initiatives that avoid materials becoming waste in the first place. Are any of your schools involved in the green flag program? This is a very important target if not, but if they are please provide full details here. 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:

It's great that the council is removing defunct poles etc. Now that you have minimised the use of herbicide sprays the next step is to eliminate them entirely! This would send a powerful signal to the community that this dangerous practice is no longer an appropriate way of controlling 'weeds' (aka wildflowers). Well done on taking part in the national spring clean this year, hopefully it will become an annual fixture. There are still quite a few empty poles in the car park behind Lidl although this area was mostly clean and tidy. The bus shelter at Aidan Park (Bus Éireann) has broken and dirty Perspex and this no doubt could be remedied. Make sure that flyposting is removed from poles. A pair of old phone boxes at the entrance to Slí na tSionnaigh have no phones and should be removed. A badly graffitied bus stop needs attention on the Tullyvarraga Road. Litter control on adjudication day was excellent throughout. Well done on achieving this high standard.

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

Many attractive housing areas throughout Shannon were admired on adjudication day. Signage for Aidan Park needs to be washed. New trees at Ard Caoin were admired. At Finian Park more new trees were noted but many more are dead! It was felt that signage generally across residential areas needs to be audited and cleaning or repair works carried out as necessary. Green areas everywhere were very well mown and tidy, an enormous effort must go into this.

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

Very large ads on trailers look haphazard on approach to Shannon coming off the motorway. Has the council given permission for these? Nearer the town there is an attractive welcome sign while the renovated roundabout at Lidl creates a very good impression. A pedestrian crossing is required to link the Oakwood Arms Hotel/Topaz/McDonald's with nearby residential areas. Indeed these are needed in a number of locations to cross broad and busy roads.

Concluding Remarks:

Shannon is a busy town with much to offer. Trees are among your greatest assets but need care and attention if they are to thrive. Do put in place a program to monitor and take action where required. Best of luck!