

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tuamgraney**

Ref: **90**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **314**

Category: **B**

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

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	44	45
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	44	45
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	44	46
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	33	33
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	17	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	66	67
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28	27
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33	34
TOTAL MARK	450	309	314

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Tuamgraney is most welcome to the 2016 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your succinct but comprehensive application form with photographs and map. There was a strong sense of organisation and commitment from your entry and this is reflected in your high level within the contest. Your long list of regular meetings and ongoing collaboration with so many regional organisations is indeed impressive. It's great to read how there is a green flag officer in every school and that you have an active junior tidy towns group. It's so important to engage with younger people so that they will grow up with a sense of ownership for their environment. It is important to throughout your application that you be specific about projects which are being undertaken since our last visit. While no doubt many of your activities are ongoing maintenance the adjudicator especially wants to know of new initiatives over and above the regular. Your development plan 2016 – 2018 was admired and contains many worthy projects. It is unclear as to why projects which were completed in 2015 were included however. The project to harvest firewood from Raheen Wood particularly caught the eye as it is a potential source of sustainable energy. Do keep us updated on this. Do use your map to pinpoint locations of projects which have been undertaken since last year. The adjudicator is especially keen to inspect these areas.

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

It is good to read how you are making progress on issues surrounding derelict sites. Do persevere as these things are notoriously slow to resolve. Where works to a building are to be carried out it would be worth taking a 'before and after' photograph so that the adjudicator can appreciate the impact of the job. Best of luck with your plans for the Coffin House, it is hoped you can make progress with the HSE. The built heritage of the town is very well displayed. The heritage trail panel is colourful and informative while the tower house is looking well (although the text on the Raheen Wood has been erased for some reason). Nuala's Bar and restaurant look inviting and were admired for their clean facades and waving flags. The nearby national school was proudly flying its green flag on adjudication day. Hassett's Bar is also looking well and has attractive landscaping displays (although torn or tatty flags should be removed). St Joseph's church is another fine heritage feature superbly maintained. The work on the Coffin House was admired on adjudication day but was a bit hidden behind the wall. It would be nice to have it opened up and also to have something to explain its name.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Well done for addressing the slug pellet issue and we are happy that this is now resolved. You have been meticulous in addressing the comments in last year's report and for this you are commended. You don't have to agree with all of our suggestions but we like to think they are given due consideration. Do use your map to highlight the locations where projects have been undertaken. The Memorial Park is the jewel the crown of Tuamgraney and

is being maintained to its usual high standard. The new plaque to commemorate 1916 is a welcome addition. The presentation here is immaculate. Across from the Woollen Mills the raised bed really needs something larger to create an impact, ideally flowering perennials shrubs which would also be low maintenance. Similarly this can be seen at the Brian Bhóru centre. Landscaping beds to the rear were also in need of weeding and maintenance. The community college was admired for its range of mature trees. Note that hanging baskets should never be hung on electricity poles as it is a health and safety concern (one was noted near the community centre).

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

You are most fortunate to have areas of such important natural amenity close by. Your community woodland is an amazing asset for you and CELT is an excellent organisation to be collaborating with. Your new route maps will enhance its value especially for visitors who may be unfamiliar with the area. Do be specific in relation to any activities, e.g. you say 'nature trails and guided walks' – the adjudicator would like to know how many, who turned up and what was discovered? Well done to the community college for planting so many daffodils, not only are they beautiful to look at but are invaluable to bumblebees emerging in spring.

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

To progress in this category will be a question of continuous improvement. You will need to be always looking at new ways to reduce waste volumes in addition to what you have already been doing. The high level of participation in the green schools will stand you in good stead. You need to be constantly liaising with their committee in finding new solutions to problems. Especially try to incorporate the waste minimisation mentality into other aspects of the contest (your plans to harvest firewood for example). You never know what new ideas you come up with. 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 town is generally very neat and tidy and there are no major issues of note. Litter control on adjudication day was to a very high standard. Well done on this achievement. The point raised in last year's report regarding the positioning of 'mutt mitts' is reiterated here, one on a pole at Niland's service station is totally out of reach. You are commended for painting the sewerage events as recommended.

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

Tuamgraney is endowed with an attractive stock of houses and all were presented to a very high standard on adjudication day. You are fortunate to have so many unique styles, many with colourfully tended gardens and boundary walls. Radharc na hAbhainn is a fine estate of well-kept homes. It benefits from a range of mature trees and even an old hedge. It was unfortunate therefore that the hedge had been sprayed with weedkiller – turning the bank here yellow. This should be avoided due to the damage it does to wildlife and human health.

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

Your new footpath on the Killaloe Road is an excellent addition to your town and an aspect of infrastructure that for some reason is sorely neglected in rural Ireland. Though doubt it will encourage safer and more sustainable forms of transport. New 'lakeland' signage was noted on arrival. Approaches in all directions were admired for the abundance of mature trees and neatly trimmed hedges. The Avenue style effect of lime trees on the Killaloe approach creates a great sense of entrance to the town from this direction.

Concluding Remarks:

Tuamgraney is a wonderful place to visit with a wealth of attractions. It's fantastic to see these being so well looked after. Do keep up the good work.