

# Tidy Towns Competition 2016

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tulla**

Ref: **521**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **266**

Category: **B**

Date(s): **13/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	34	34
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	37	38
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	38	37
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	28	28
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	11	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30	31
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>266</b>

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

Tulla is most welcome to the 2016 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks your concise entry form and map. With 10 on your committee you are well placed to progress in the contest. You have made good connections with all relevant support agencies and are involving other civic groups. It is excellent that you have a liaison with your local schools but do provide us with more detail as to the nature of these links. When filling out the form please be clear as to whether actions have been undertaken since the last adjudication period or are planned for the future. The way the bullet points are written it can be hard to tell and points can only be awarded for work completed. We are keen to know your plans as well but they should be compiled into a three-year plan. This should be arranged in accordance with the contest headings and do refer to the Tidy Towns Handbook for further guidance. Your map was very clear and identified all the main landmarks. However it was unclear what the numbers referred to as they did not seem to correspond to anything in the form. A numbering system should be used to identify the locations where projects have been undertaken.

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

Do be specific regarding projects upon which you have been working. One bullet point – ‘signage for historic well’ does not provide enough information for the adjudicator to know what, if anything, has taken place. The new secondary school is a marvellous addition to the town and is wished every success. The neighbouring estate (is this Áras Mhuire) was equally lavish in its presentation. It appeared to be lacking in nameplates however. Dereliction at Murray's bar is quite an eyesore, is there anything that can be done to address the appearance? Conlan & Son stands out for retaining its traditional facade. The neighbouring old market house looks very well but weeds should be removed from the gutters. The library is another smart heritage building with clean surrounds. M McArthur is another nice remnant of the past.

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

Last year's adjudicator made a number of comments regarding the scale and design of planters around the town. We would welcome your feedback on these views. The picnic area beside the school is wonderfully maintained. Some litter and black plastic sheeting is encroaching on the banks of the little stream here and this should be removed to allow the natural vegetation to re-emerge. New kerbing at 'the pound' was admired. Hanging baskets on electricity poles, e.g. across from An Teach Ól, should be removed as they are a health hazard (e.g. for workers who may need to access the lines). Tiered planters at the market house have little impact as the flowers are too small. The graveyard is in an incredible location overlooking the countryside. Try to avoid using herbicide sprays in this sensitive location is not only is it bad for wildlife but it leaves unsightly yellow strips. It is otherwise very well maintained. The old Tober is in a nice secluded spot but has attracted some litter. The church was neatly presented

while the neighbouring cultural centre has a keen facade. The holy water font is a small but important heritage feature. It had gathered some litter which should be removed.

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

Some of the actions you listed under this heading do not seem to be relevant to wildlife. This category encourages groups to engage with the nature around them. Perhaps you have a protected area nearby or it may even be encouraging wildlife in gardens or graveyards. It's a very rewarding area in which to get school goers involved. Try to incorporate actions in your own activities, such as choosing flowers or shrubs specifically to attract pollinating insects. The little wildlife garden near the library is a nice attraction. Is it used in any way for nature studies?

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

Do provide more detail about what projects have been undertaken. The use of rainwater harvesting is an excellent initiative and effort should be made to roll it out across the community. How widespread is composting? The green schools project is indeed key to this category and well done to St. Mochulla's national school on their efforts. Try to find some projects they have developed and which could be applied across the community. 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:**

Well done to the Scouts group for carrying out weekly cleanups. Does the Tidy Towns group do something similar? Do you take part in the national spring clean? Empty flagpoles at An Teach Ól need flags but the torn tricolour needs to be removed immediately. The town is generally neat and tidy while litter control on adjudication day was good. Strangely, the area near the bin by the graveyard was strewn with takeaway litter. This is an exception however and generally little litter was to be found. It is suggested that additional resources are needed in these more out of the way locations.

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

Beautiful green areas were admired at 'The Green' residential estate and enormous numbers of bumblebees were noted on the purple flowers. It's 'best kept estate' award from 2013 seems duly deserving. Many other private homes were noted throughout Tulla during adjudication and all were presented to a very high standard.

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

On one of the approaches from the R352 road the Tulla sign is badly battered and obscured partly with a shrub. The adjacent playground is a wonderful amenity for the town. The landscaping is very weedy however why some of the walls are badly damaged where plaster has fallen away. These issues give a neglected feel to this important area. The approach on the R462 has an eye-catching 'Fáilte' and floral display. New road surfacing in the town centre has greatly enhanced the appearance. Road markings are badly needed to put order on the parking.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

It was a pleasure to spend time in Tulla and admire your many attractions. You are doing good work so in order to do yourselves justice do provide a clearer picture in 2017 of the projects undertaken. Best of luck!