

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballynacally** Ref: **59**
County: **Clare** Mark: **316**
Category: **B** Date(s): **16/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	49	48
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	43	44
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	44	44
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	29	29
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	16	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	67	68
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	35
TOTAL MARK	450	312	316

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Ballynacally is most welcome to the 2016 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your application form and additional information. There is too much information in your entry form and it is recommended that you slim this down for 2017. Much of the supplementary information is not needed or is not relevant. The adjudicator wants to know what projects have been undertaken since our last visit. Each project should be described once under the heading that is most relevant. In this regard your application form could be slimmed down considerably as there was much repetition as well as discussion of future plans. The adjudicator is of course interested in your plans but the place with these is your three-year plan. You are congratulated on the culmination of your three-year plan and we wish you success in compiling its successor. It's great to have photos but these need to be directly relevant to the project you are promoting while usually one folder is sufficient, unless it is a before and after. Your map is good but should be removable so that the adjudicator can carry it around and the key to important areas should be on the sheet. The town is scoring very highly in the contest and deservedly so. These recommendations are made in the spirit of constructive criticism as a good application form is essential in directing the adjudicator swiftly to where the points are to be awarded.

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

Well done on the recent extension of your primary school and GAA grounds. The new graveyard entrance is a fantastic enhancement in this important area. It is heartening that vacant houses are being reoccupied. The figure 14 did not seem to correspond with the numbering in your photos. Do make sure projects are described under the correct heading as many of those listed here do not fall under the built environment category. Irwin's Bar is a fine building (although sadly disused) – do keep an eye on it. Griffins pub is very well presented. The national school is looking bright and lively and was flying clean flags on adjudication day. Well done for holding the heritage walk and it would be great to see this become a regular feature. The mural is bright and engaging. The native trees poster is quite worn and perhaps could be replaced. Daly's bar is bright and cheery.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Your migration towards more perennial planting is most welcome. Well done on the new sensory garden while planting more native trees is always a positive step. The grotto is an attractive feature with fresh looking roses and lilies. A lot of dead leaves need to be swept from this area. The fine GAA grounds are well maintained also the high concrete wall would be well screened with ivy or other native climbers. The playground and surrounds provide a beautiful point of focus for the village away from the main road. Presentation was up with usual high standard on adjudication day. Flower displays in this area are very eye-catching. As alluded to elsewhere in this report the use of herbicides or slug pellets should be avoided.

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

Your opening evening was held in May 2015 and so cannot attract additional points for the 2016 judging period unfortunately. It's great to read that you are gradually winning the battle with Japanese knotweed. The bat walk was an excellent example of how you can engage local people in the nature that exists all around you. The adjudicator wants to see much more of these awareness raising measures. It is also important that the school is involved in nature studies so do detail any initiatives that may be taking place here. The river is an important wildlife feature in your village and you are fortunate to have some access to it via the shrine. Work with nature here and avoid garden type planting (or planting at all for that matter) as nature knows best.

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

The green homes programme is excellent in bringing practical solutions to sustainability issues. It was not clear whether this was a new ongoing initiative. What are the benefits of this program to homeowners? You list a number of resource saving measures and these are all great (probably no need to list the recycling as this is quite standard these days). You will always need to be looking out for new ways to eliminate waste and it is these innovations that will win new points. The school's green flag work should be detailed here and well done to them for their progress in this regard. 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:

Your programme of frequent litter patrols is very impressive and is clearly effective judging from the high score you already enjoy under this heading. Well done to the national school for their spring clean day and what they achieved here. The repair of stone walls is commendable and it is important that you are looking after these vital heritage features. The village is very neat and tidy and you have no major issues of note. A nice project would be to paint metal field gates a uniform colour. Presentation of the bring bank is one of the finest we have seen. An abandoned yield sign and a traffic cone on the Cranny road junction should be removed.

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

New footpaths were under repair at the housing estate on the school road – a name for this area could not be found. On your map this is Roscliff. Many attractive one-off homes were admired while beautiful gardens were on show in the vicinity of Griffin's Pub.

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

On approach from Ennis the tall stone walls and mature trees are striking features that successfully create a sense of introduction. The picnic area here with new season railing is a beautiful space thanks to your efforts. The features here work very well together. The Kildysart approach impresses with its line of trees and stone beds with roses. On the Cranny approach there has been some use of herbicides and this has left a scorched appearance. Ensure this is avoided due to the tremendous damage it does to the environment and public health. Similarly slug pellets (noted in some containers) should not be used.

Concluding Remarks:

Ballynacally is a beautiful rural village that catches the eye due to its very high standard of presentation. Do keep up the good work!