

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carrigallen** Ref: **424**
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **257**
Category: **B** Date(s): **15/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	35	36
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	33	35
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	35	36
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	24	25
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	15	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	51	51
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29	29
TOTAL MARK	450	250	257

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Carrigallen Development Company Ltd is indeed welcome to the 2016 competition. The town looked well on the day. You would appear to have a good working relationship with the various local statutory bodies including a Leitrim county council, Leitrim Development Company, local schools and the local Foróige. You would appear to have embraced technology in terms of your use social media and Twitter. We are pleased to hear that you have found the 20 years in Tidy Towns Competition to be beneficial in terms of improving your town from year to year. Keep up the good work!

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

The public and commercial premises of the town generally looked well cared for on the day. The fine Church of Ireland looked most attractive and peaceful, with attractive maturing trees to its boundary on a well cut grass bank. The prominent Catholic Church was extremely fresh and its car parking area opposite was admired for its mature trees and planting which break up the potential harshness of the car parking surface. The Vocational School also looked extremely fresh, as did the National School on the other side of town. The Corn Mill Theatre looked extremely well and fresh and its associated millwheel made for a very interesting landscape feature. The Primary Care Centre was admired. The Garda Station was well presented on its grassy bank and looked very fresh. The buildings of the Main Street were generally well cared for. Do ensure that any remaining plastic signage is removed and replaced with ones of the more traditional timber variety. There is a large industrial building to the Mohill side of the town which would benefit from a revamp – it is most unusual and attractive but is unfortunately neglected at the moment. In terms of commercial premises, Sharon's Beauty Box was very fresh, as was Just Jules, the Corner Bar, Masterson's and Mitchell's Bar. Centra, the Post Office and the Kilbracken Arms Hotel were also admired. Charlie Farrelly's also looked well. A charming stepped gabled garage was admired on the Killashandra Road. Its roof would benefit from a repaint before next year's competition. Don't forget gable walls when considering presentation. As they step up and down the street they can be quite prominent and visible.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The very large carpark area to the front of the GAA grounds could be considered for a landscaping project, as at the moment it looks rather bear and harsh. Some weeds were evident to this forecourt area. A magnificent landscaped area on either side of the road incorporating grassy banks to one side and opening out to the lakeside on the other was greatly admired on the Mohill approach. However, the information board at this location looked a little neglected and would have benefited from a washdown. The flower pot outside the Primary Care Centre would also benefit from a wash down and there appeared to be some empty flowerpots beside the estate leading into the child care facility on the Mohill road. The 1916 Memorial Garden is a wonderful concept for the town, honouring, as it does, the

signatory Tom Clarke.

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

Carrigallen is most fortunate in its proximity to the wonderful lakeside area where there was much evidence of birdlife on the day. Some bird boxes were noted to trees in the vicinity of the Church of Ireland. The wonderful facility of the boardwalk and fishing stands on the Town Lake are a marvellous facility and we were pleased to hear that you had used recycled plastic in their construction. We were also pleased to hear of the variety of birdlife in the locality including water hens and swans, as well as the marvellous otters. It was also impressive to hear about the nesting birds at the allotments.

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

We were pleased to hear that you recycle your collections from clean up days. The composting of clippings and grass cutting is also commendable. Your work with schools in relation to promoting segregation and litter control is laudable. Your work with other communities in Cavan and Longford in relation to a collection date for electrical household goods is an excellent idea. You have a unique location at the junction of these three counties. Congratulations to the Vocational School in relation to their water conservation efforts. Congratulations on the amount of tonnage removed from the bring banks at Bredagh. You certainly seem committed to recycling. The replacement of the boardwalk and fishing stands with recycled plastic has been mentioned elsewhere in this report. The erections of signage indicating the source of these materials is a very good idea as it will make people more aware of this work.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The town generally looked tidy and well cared for on the day. However, litter control was a problem in a number of locations, such as along the Longford Road and the vicinity of the National School and the Catholic Church. Some weeds were evident at the kerbside in the vicinity of the Primary Care Centre. Discourage flyposting as this can give roadsides a rather cluttered appearance. Organisation of the signage might also be considered at some junctions -there currently seems to be an abundance of conflicting and complicated signage. We were pleased to hear you are taking part in the Keeping Leitrim Lovely One Sip at a Time Keep Cups Campaign. We sympathise with your problems in relation to take aways and deli counters, as this can be a problem throughout the country. Vigilance and continued daily litter patrols may prove a solution. Signage was a little grubby on the day. The old phone boxes would benefit from a wash down. The recycling area was quite neat but the bins could also do with a wash down before next year's competition.

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

The housing stock on the approaches to the town and in the town centre were generally well cared for on the day. The houses on the Mohill Road were particularly admired with well maintained attractive gardens. The housing estate that incorporates Little Acorns Childcare was admired. Cois Locha was also admired on this approach. Don't forget weed control to gutters when considering overall presentation. Greenville house B & B was very fresh and contributed well in this category the competition. A magnificent house and garden for admired on the Killeshandra Road. Church Manor estate was admired on the Longford Road. Barley field/Bredagh estate was most attractive with a charming landscaped space to the front.

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

Approach roads generally looked quite well on adjudication date, as did the streets of Carrigallen. The Mohill approach is a long lead into the town and appeared somewhat overgrown. Along the Killeshandra road, the town nameplate sign was a little grubby on this side of the town and there was evidence of some dumping at the clothes bank.

Concluding Remarks:

It was this adjudicator's first time to visit Carrigallen and it certainly made a positive impression. It is an attractive working town which maintains its unique character.