

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Legan** Ref: **479**
County: **Longford** Mark: **271**
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	34	36
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	36	36
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	39	41
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	24	25
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	12	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	53	53
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	35
TOTAL MARK	450	265	271

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Cureann an moltóir na mílte fáilte roimh An Lena Mór chuig Comórtas Náisiúnta na mBailte Slachtmhara 2016. Thank you for your completed entry form, sketch map and three-year plan. It was a first visit for this adjudicator but your documentation enabled us to get a good appreciation of work in hand. We notice you have increased your committee number by three, so we hope the figure of eight is suitable for your plans. You also have a variety of organisations assisting you in your efforts and this is good policy. We are glad to learn of your close association with the school and the presence of two green flags augurs well for their interest in the competition.

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

Public buildings looked well and the church and school are quite prominent in the village and both are well presented. We liked the grotto and its setting is attractive in the church grounds. The parish hall would benefit from painting and is in need of some landscaping despite it being listed on your entry form. The two thatched cottages are valuable buildings and we commend their high standard of maintenance and presentation. We note the planning application for restoration of Kiernan's and trust we will see an improvement next year. The two green flags at the school need replacement. As mentioned last year you have some very attractive red gates and we urge an extension to this policy. Whytes store is well presented and freshly painted. The Ball Alley looks well and was freshly painted. This is a welcome traditional facility and blends in well with the village playing facilities. We loved the stone style entrance beside the red gate. Naoí Rath Ré crèche looked well with well presented lettering.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

This is your strong point and the large amount of landscaping throughout the village, on the approach roads and in the housing estates is most praiseworthy. We fully acknowledge the amount of work involved in high maintenance and we are also impressed with the variety of flowers, shrubs and trees. We wonder if you are getting professional advice on the range of flowers, well done. The two new beds at Smithfield are excellent and present a favourable image for the village in general. The two playgrounds looked well and are free of damage or abuse. These are an important facility for the village and well located. The many picnic areas and public seating are well presented, but we question the design and material of some of the new seating. We have seen this seating in many villages throughout the county and wonder if they are a local authority supplied. You mention the erection of a new war memorial cut stone and wonder if we missed it. Have you done anything special for Éirí Amach na Cásca? We notice you plan the development of a Communal Garden for 2017. Have you selected a site for this development. We loved the vegetable patch in the school: small is beautiful, árd mholadh do chách. A couple of small fagus trees need replacement near the stream in Foxhall Crescent. When replacing trees ensure you select appropriate species and don't plant them small in public places. As mentioned last year the water pump at the unfinished estate is well

presented but no longer in use.

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

Your list of projects under this heading is impressive but we would like to know your actions regarding the promotion of wildlife. We enjoyed the signage at the bridge, the Natural Habitat and in particular the bird display with lovely listing of the various birdlife opposite the ball alley area. We noticed the signs in the village announcing your wildflower garden but this has only been seeded, so we will not enjoy the colour spectacle. You will still need to replenish for next year and seed should be sown in April to gain full credit for next year's adjudication. Does the little stream flanking the Foxhall Estate offer potential for wildlife? The Bird Sanctuary sign beside the private house is surrounded with some lovely planting. This area will no doubt provide good terrain for wildlife, so well done.

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

You list your activities in this category and we commend you for your work here. However, we would like to see more action in terms of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Do you have any rain butts and we would like to learn about your composting if any. We would also like to know what you do with your grass cutting and can it be recycled for composting. This is an ideal winter programme category and perhaps you could organise a seminar in association with LCC. You will be aware of the widespread publicity surrounding waste control in general and how costly the control and how costly the service can be. Householders should be aware of how they can best control their waste, and this is an ideal project for Tidy Towns.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The amount of litter was minimal apart from some litter gathered in the little stream beside Foxhall Crescent. Some boundary walls in Smithfield Crescent need painting. Perhaps a residents association could be organised here. While litter is well controlled there are some areas of untidiness due to unattended side entrances. We note your intention to relocate the Bring Bank from the current location. We assume you have a more suitable location in mind. The current site seems good but we would recommend some landscaping of the surrounds. The combining of social walks and weekly clean ups seems a novel idea. Tell us more about how this works, if those attending are engaged in clean ups and are using implements for their work of are they two separate events?

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

You have scored well in this category and we were impressed with how well the housing estates are presented. While we were surprised at how far out the housing estate was built from the village centre the planning of this estate is very good and houses are well supported with good open space, a well equipped playground and adequate picnic tables. The individual effort here is very good and much work is evident from the residents. The new pathway alluded to in your submission is neat and well finished. The houses at Coll Choill are neat and tidy but would benefit from some landscaping that would give colour. We notice some of these are unoccupied which surprised us at this location. We hope the large unfinished housing estate will soon be improved otherwise this complex will become a serious impediment to your own efforts. We appreciate that seeking a remedy is outside the scope of a Tidy Towns committee, but if you do have any influence you should use it.

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

Without exception approach roads are well presented and some have very attractive trees and some permanent planting. We liked the Football Emblem at the GAA complex and note the foundation of club since 1890. We commend the individual effort of novel landscape projects carried out by residents on the approach roads: The use of bog oak fossil is very appropriate in this area. Verges are well presented and hedges are cared for. The car park opposite the shop is well cared for.

You might consider two illustrated Fáilte signs on the principal approach roads. These would highlight the village and strengthen the welcome. Finally, as we left the village a local made finger sign was being erected for The Stone Man. Fortuitously we learned from the person erecting the sign its significance, what a story! The sign itself as it stands is of no use to a stranger: firstly it should be bilingual; secondly it has no distance direction on it and no details of its significance. However, thanks to the chat with the person erecting the sign we traversed the one mile trip to Foxhall (a name given to us by a local at the site). We did find the Stone Man, albeit without the head. We suggest a clean up of this church inside and the memorial plaques to the Fox family are really interesting and richly ornate with coats of arms. This could be a very interesting project for your committee and a meitheal for a few days in the church would work wonders. Continue this with an information plaque and you have a tourism project of significance.

Conclusion:

It was a delight to visit Legan for the first time and witness some excellent community endeavour. You have embraced the concept and ethos of Tidy Towns and we admire your commitment to your own place. Accordingly you have raised your marks. Go n-éirí libh amach anseo.

Concluding Remarks:

