

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tydavnet** Ref: **614**
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **287**
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	40	41
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	37	37
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	37	38
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	32	32
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	62	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	29	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	33
TOTAL MARK	450	282	287

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Thank you for the detailed entry form, attached map which was invaluable to the adjudicator in identifying areas and projects in the village.

Your are welcome to the SUPERVALU Tidy Towns Competition for 2016

The 3 year plan made interesting reading and it is a plan that has achievable objectives over the agreed timescale.

It is noted that the committee numbers have reduced by 2 since last year and one wonders if you will be able to recruit one or two now that you have a new plan in place and will need additional people to implement it in full.

New faces also bring some new ideas.

The committee's continuing links with Monaghan Co Council, Dept of Social Protection and other bodies and agencies has been of great benefit over time.

Well done on recognising the part the local community worker plays in keeping the village in the condition that it is in
The active involvement from local businesses, school children and the greater community of the parish is the essence of what tidy towns is all about as a committee you have maximised this to the full.

Good to note also that you have identified and listed all the supporters of the committee that have provided you with some form of resources over time by way of sponsorship and actual volunteering.

You are wished well with 3 year plan this will allow the Committee to monitor work done and planned action items easier.

Tydavnet has the potential to improve even further in the competition and to compete with the best in the competition.

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

Tydavnet history and its association with St Dympna and this is depicted in the excellent stone memorial which holds the most prominent place in the village

The School was well presented and clean but one can see that the boundary wall will need to be dashed in the near future.

The murals depicting St. Dympna association with the village are an interesting feature but look to be fading somewhat and the adjudicator wonders if the can be restored somewhat before they fade more.

The Church holds a commanding position and was in very neat condition and the grounds were well maintained so well done to the personnel that are entrusted with its up keep

The XL shop was nice and bright and was complemented by the planting arrangements at the front of the premises
Jack's Place is a focal point of the village and the style is very suitable to the surrounding village streetscape as is that of the Rock Bar

Tydavnet Lodge is a fine example of a rural village dwelling with an excellent stone wall in front

It's a pity to see the Garage with the single Texaco pump, yes a different era, in such poor condition.

The adjudicator would encourage the committee to engage with the owner and make a point of offering to paint the front and get the mural re done.

The area immediately outside Sean Relig Ti Davanete is a little untidy because of on-going work let's hope it's not left in that condition and forgotten about.

The new stone wall mentioned in last year's report is still not fully completed.

This is a lavish construction and must have cost the parish a pretty penny, it will add to the overall built environment when finished.

The village pump was nicely placed within a stone surround.

Road surfaces were in excellent condition and additions to the footpaths meant that there is access to the extremities of the village.

The public seating, information signs on Sliabh Beagh, Tydavnet Wildlife, Map of the Village, directional signs and of course the sign to our Pride of Place Award 2014 were all in good condition.

The adjudicator wishes the community well with the unveiling of the statue to the Tydavnet Tug of War teams over the decades.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Certainly the committee has been very active in ensuring that the planting and floral arrangements in the village are kept at a premium.

Since last year the amount of mini projects that you have been involved in has been substantial.

The planting of additional trees putting more perennials in place and planting of wildflowers at the Wildlife Garden is all part of your prudent planning in this sector.

The supply of flower baskets and planters at village name signs, outside key building such as Jacks and the Church and at the main junction is to be commended.

Hanging baskets with the old faithful's begonias and petunias were well cared and added immense colour to the core area

The tidy beds of flowers running along the cobbled stretch of path are also very tasteful and yet another touch that makes a difference.

These aspects work well with the elegant street lamps and already mentioned well maintained signs to form an overall consistent and fresh appearance for the village.

Overall the standard was very good and of course there were a number of fine private gardens that were very well maintained and presented.

An increase in marks is justified.

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

The adjudicator noted that you have a number of on-going aspects to your work in this category that contributes very much to the preservation and promotion of wildlife and wildlife habitats.

Well done on this type of approach as many centres take on a multitude of mini projects that are not in the long term sustainable.

Practical actions such as the cleaning out of bird boxes to facilitate fresh breeding is an example of what many other centres fail to do.

The school garden is an invaluable asset for the school children as it introduces them to plants and the part they play in the whole area of bio diversity.

You are commended for your involvement in getting the school children involved in nature walks and giving them a grounding on the basic knowledge of birds, trees and plants,

It is now clear to me that what you stated in the first section of this report that you were the catalyst for most activities in the community rings true.

The Tydavnet Wildlife Garden is a wonderful resource for a small village and the lady bird house and insect hotel will appeal to the little Tydavnetians.

The Sliabh Beagh Survey information board is in need of a little revitalisation as the pictorial images and text are fading and the frame needs a sanding and a coat of fresh varnish.

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

The adjudicator notes that a number of your committee attended the recent national seminar on this subject hosted by Monaghan Tidy Towns Network (Monaghan CC) and no doubt benefitted from the proceedings of the day.

Your statement "that it led you to look at this category in a different light" has allowed you to put a new bank of ideas together to be worked on.

The key element of this category is the move to reduce the production of unnecessary waste and to reduce the volume going to landfill over time.

You now see the benefits of water harvesting and recycling of grass cuttings.

The planting of herbs for use by locals is a novel idea and the slogan "take a little" is catchy.

The Bring Bank facility, which is well managed and very accessible, is in an ideal location in the grounds of the Community Centre.

I'm amused at the wormery problem! Kids are always curious as has been the case down the ages sometimes too curious maybe.

Overall the standard was good and deserving of an additional mark for taking on board new ideas that can be further worked on next year.

Just as an aside the Men's Shed grouping that are local to you will be a great resource when looking for people to provide bird boxes and do other work as well.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The standard of litter control on adjudication day was good apart from a some wrappers at the base of the school wall and also at the yet to be unveiled plaque,

The Committee has succeeded in getting the local population to support them in their quest to apply best practice when it comes to litter control.

The annual spring and autumn spring clean ups are an excellent vehicle to encourage all community involvement to help you in your quest to maintain good standards.

The unfinished housing development part of an unwanted legacy was not too bad but maybe some additional screening could be arranged with the developer.

Well maybe that's a little naïve of me to think that might happen as the developer has probably long reneged on responsibilities as has happened in other centres.

That said the perimeter fencing which looks like it took some time to get in place is an improvement.

Tydavnet presents a very consistent tidy image and the basics have been adhered to.

It was free from loose items and the poles alluded to in last year's report seem to have been removed.

The low stone wall leading up to the Church needs to be completed and when done it will be a very attractive addition to the built environment of the village

The extra touches such as cobble stoned path, shrubbery, water pump, ubiquitous flower basins/baskets and seating benches all contribute to a pretty and tidy Tydavnet.

Also it was noteworthy that given that this time of year is high season for hay cutting and silage baling that very little residue was seen at kerbsides.

Overall performance was good.

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

The development at Cnoc Na Greine has been a victim of a past best forgotten and while the committee still harbour the notion that additional improvements will be made to the area

That has been left in limbo one has to say that based on experiences elsewhere it looks unlikely.

Yes the perimeter fence is an improvement but that site is still messy and untidy as my photographic evidence shows.

Some nice private properties with well-preserved and colourful front gardens were admires on the walkabout

Overall the standard in this category was very good with most if not all homeowners playing their part by keeping their in very good condition.

Side entrances with one exception and boundary walls were well looked after and this is down to the owners who obviously have a pride of place mentality.

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

The adjudicator thought the standard in this category was very good and that the basic upkeep was shown to good effect

The Monaghan approach on the R186 was very neat with verges trimmed and name sign clear

The GEEL twinning sign is housed in a very distinct stone bed of mixed annuals

The approach on the R186 from Clogher was also very good and again signs were clean and visible.

Likewise the condition of the entrance indirectly in from Emyvale on the N2 was very good.

The committee has acknowledged the work done by Monaghan County Council and indeed that is so as road surfaces and footpaths were in prime condition.

Concluding Remarks:

It has been quite a few years since this adjudicator visited Tydavenet and it was a very pleasurable experience.

You are wished well in the competition in the years ahead and progress will happen as the committee is very focused and practical in its approach to planning.

You are also wished well with the upcoming jamboree which was well advertised at every turn around the county!!