

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Roscrea** Ref: **622**
County: **Tipperary(North)** Mark: **304**
Category: **E** Date(s): **16/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	45	45
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	46	46
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	45	46
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	28	29
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	15	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	49	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	35	36
TOTAL MARK	450	297	304

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Thank you very much for the very comprehensive Entry Submission, and my initial reaction is to congratulate you for the enormous effort put into the production of this Entry, and I feel that if this book is retained in Roscrea it will become a collector's item in years to come with all the information contained in it – well done. However could I please refer you to the entry form and the guidelines on how to complete your SuperValu TidyTowns Entry Form and item number 6 on back up information which starts off with Back Up information should be as concise as possible and should only relate to this year's entry etc. Don't worry, as this will not in any way restrict your marks, and just to point out that you could perhaps concentrate on the guidelines in future.

You are most welcome to the SuperValu TidyTowns competition and Roscrea is a credit to you all in this lovely town.

I note you have a committee of 25 with a steering management of 10, and regular meetings are held throughout the year. It is excellent to find that you are working closely with various other committees in the locality. It was no doubt pleasing to get this grant of €9,500 last year through Mr John Jones. You appear to be well supported by the local community through church gate and Street collections and the Pop-Up Shop sounds interesting with items donated by parishioners for sale in the shop. You enjoy good relations with the business community and are getting great assistance notably from The Credit Union and SuperValu.

Good use is made of Roscrea Scouts, RSU, RCDC, North Tipperary Leader, Roscrea Community Form and so on. Nice to see the Men's Shed is doing such great work and this initiative has taken off around the country.

You have excellent contacts built up with the schools and it is wonderful to read all about it.

This is an excellent approach to the competition, and the photographs supplied are beautiful- very well done and congratulations.

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

There is a most impressive built environment in Roscrea, where contemporary and modern buildings fit in together. We were particularly impressed with OPW managed Queen Anne style Damer House, this together with the castle which has been restored to a very high standard. The round tower, church ruin, old mill (now OPW managed Heritage Centre) and Church of Ireland church and graveyard are of high architectural merit. The Catholic Church is also of merit. We also admired the well-kept schools.

The fountain at the Mall is very attractive and well presented and the information signage is noted. The shops around the Mall appear to be vibrant and many have good traditional shopfronts. Up the road we were delighted with Dunnes Stores; it retains the original identity of the corn mill although a modern commercial venue. The signage at the entrance is sensitive to its location. As we drove through the towns we also noted other multi-national outlets. SuperValu on the Main Street in its central location is particularly worth of praise, and the active shop window displays were of merit.

There are many vibrant shops in Castle Street and Main Street with good on street parking facilities. The entrance door and surrounds to the AIB bank is of great architectural merit and the Garda station with its up and down timber windows and door canopy is impressive.

Amongst the shopfronts which were particularly impressive were The Locksmith and Oliver Douglas Hardware on the Mall, Culture Clothes Shop, Michael Breen and Co., and John Dillon on Main Street and the White House Restaurant and Pauline's on Castle Street.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Generally the landscaping of public areas and open spaces within the town are carried out to a high standard. We heartily congratulate you on the formal commemorative garden at the library and we were particularly impressed with screen printed proclamation stone, flag pole and oak tree planted in memory of those who were executed in 1916. The Ogham stone and carved timber bench were outstanding and the grounds around the library were very well maintained.

There are various other highly landscaped areas in the town and we particularly noted and loved the formal town park with its impressive colourful children's playground and perimeter stone walls. The sturdy railings and stone piers along the little river bounding the park were impressive.

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

This town is a haven for lots of wildlife with all the wonderful mature trees, and formal cover of shrubs and flowers. Some hedgerows were bursting with summer flowers and fruits and were full of bird song. The stone walls provided numerous insects so vital for the wildlife and the red valerian appears now and again and proves that it too has a role to play.

We took our time and meandered through the new poetry and fairy trail wildflower meadow and native tree planting and admired the bug hotel, fairy house in the willow tree, the poetry by the local school children, and in particular the story of 1916 by Alannah Dunford. The artwork and poetry by the local school children is to be congratulated. The Notice Nature sign gives great information on biodiversity throughout the year.

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

I read that this year you have concentrated on creating an awareness of waste minimisation and good to learn that you are posting items on it in social media and in the local papers. It is positive to concentrate on composting as you are doing notably in Colaiste Garden, and I like the concept of local people having access to this garden and able to take produce from it. We applaud the actions of your Junior Group in undertaking this survey and look forward to reading its results. It is a good strategy to cut down on the use of paper and meetings and other news are circulated in social media plus the use of text messaging. I am aware that the schools have made great strides in the green flag initiatives and this means that the children, teachers and parents now have a greater appreciation of the best ways to protect and enhance the local environment, and if we adults follow up on what is being done in the schools we will all make great progress in Sustainable Waste and Resource Management.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We admired the huge amount of work done by the Men's Shed with their Street Sweep on a regular basis, which leaves the footpaths that we travelled on in an immaculate condition. I read about the painting of the Central House and congratulations for the work done on it. In our extensive travels around your lovely town it is delightful to report that we didn't come across any litter. We heartily congratulate the children for the immense role they are playing. The approach roads were equally litter free.

In Main Street we were surprised at the shabby state of two lamp standards which were in need of attention. Could we suggest that the disused petrol pumps be removed? We do however appreciate the historical nature of these pumps which could be a feature if properly maintained.

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

The estates which we visited are presented to a very high standard with outstanding landscaping and the presence of active resident associations is evident. The private houses in different locations throughout the town have great shows of shrubs, flowers, trees and lawns that compliment your wonderful work. The various types of town houses which we saw, including those adjacent to Roscrea Motor Works, are very impressive and add to the architectural merits of the town. The people of Roscrea are to be congratulated for their great community spirit.

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

The roads that we travelled on all have good surfaces and footpaths. The road to Birr has good green open spaces with lines of trees and good shrubs, that to Kinnity has a wide road past the Railway with banks and level stretches of grass with mature trees. The old Dublin Road is wide and straight and has very impressive landscaping. The Templemore road is good up the hill to the small roundabout with small but pretty flower arrangement. Old Limerick road has good footpaths and nice landscaping out to the extensively landscaped large roundabout. The Shinrone road has splendid landscaping with outstanding mature trees. The traffic flows well around the town with effective traffic lights at The Lucky Dip Bar and the one way system at Rosemary Street works well. Parking is well catered for with plenty spaces at River Lane, underneath Tesco, at the back of Bank of Ireland, with other parks on Gantly Road. Parking is also accommodated on the busy Castle Street and Main Street.

Concluding Remarks:

We were very pleased to find that Roscrea has continued to retain a very high standard. We were also delighted to see that a Women's Shed was active in the town.