

# Tidy Towns Competition 2016

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Fethard** Ref: **1722**  
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **269**  
Category: **D** Date(s): **24/06/2016**

|   | <b>Maximum<br/>Mark</b> | <b>Mark<br/>Awarded 2015</b> | <b>Mark<br/>Awarded 2016</b> |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Community Involvement & Planning          | 60                      | 40                           | 41                           |
| Built Environment and Streetscape         | 50                      | 39                           | 40                           |
| Landscaping and Open Spaces               | 50                      | 40                           | 41                           |
| Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities  | 50                      | 26                           | 26                           |
| Sustainable Waste and Resource Management | 50                      | 10                           | 11                           |
| Tidiness and Litter Control               | 90                      | 51                           | 52                           |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas       | 50                      | 26                           | 27                           |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes           | 50                      | 31                           | 31                           |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>                         | <b>450</b>              | <b>263</b>                   | <b>269</b>                   |

### Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Fethard is very welcome to the SuperValu TidyTowns competition and thank you for the completed Entry Form, good map and nice brochure on Fethard Medieval Town Trail. Thank you also for sharing those nice photographs with us. You have good support from the Community Council, Coolmore Stud, Tipperary County Council, Carrolls Farms and Brodeen Stitches. The 8 committee members show good spirit by attending the meetings and working on the different projects around the area. We commend the use of Facebook and the website, and we note you also use the local newspapers and shop window to announce your plans and achievements.

There are good contacts with the school which is highly recommended and you could assist them in the green flag initiatives. It is pleasing to read that you are now in the competition for 6 years and your work is contributing to the development of your community and enhances the natural beauty of your lovely place. Well done.

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

It was a special treat to visit this historic town and admire some imposing and elegant buildings that host some unique architectural qualities including the town hall and there was a very interesting exhibition of local produce and industry sponsored by Coolmore in it. The old weighing scales on the footpath is a great historical feature. The restoration gave a new lease of life to the great Fethard Caste which is a landmark building in this splendid part of County Tipperary. The Augustinian Abbey, the ruin in front of it plus the old mill are important cultural monuments. I admired Holy Trinity Church and its splendid surrounds, and down further the Catholic Church has its own particular charm with the clock reminding us of the time, I liked the statue to the right brightly painted, but I felt that another statue to the left going in needs some attention. The important structures are very well signposted with attractive bilingual plaques.

As we travel along we liked a number of attractive buildings the first of which was Fethard Ballroom, and we congratulate the children for the great work done on it and the photographs show this clearly – congratulations to all concerned with this project. A green and white modern shop closed down at the corner across the road is a reminder of the recessionary times, and we look forward to this premises returning to its former glory. We admired some good shops and examples of these are Lonergans, Some Pharmacies, the old style Post Office was crisp and fresh, Butlers, the Credit Union, Burkes Bar and McCarthys, and there are many others worthy of praise. Some really lovely shops are unfortunately closed down and a good example of this is the blue coloured one across from the Catholic Church. The nice GAA grounds plus the community sports grounds are excellent facilities for the youth of the area

### Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The landscaping is outstanding in many places notably on the roadsides entering the town and we were delighted

with the children's playground on the Cashel road and all the green open spaces that are so well kept there with flower and shrub beds and outstanding young and mature trees. This is a wonderful place for relaxation with splendid aesthetics all around. The long stretches of landscaping on the Drangan road where there are again great stretches of splendid young and mature trees and flower beds give a lovely welcoming effect to the town, and the Killenaule road has well kept green open spaces plus shrubberies. A feature of this town are many well preserved traditional stone walls, and the high one at the side of the GAA grounds really stands out. There is good landscaping at the housing estates such as St Patrick's place. The area of the square near Lonergans is really pretty. There are lovely wildflowers at different places with red and white valerian showing that they too have a role to play, and the oxeye daisies give flashes of beauty in places with a profusion of them out past the Co OP.

### **Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fíadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádurtha:**

Fethard is a haven for all types of wildlife with the lovely river flowing merrily along past the splendid landscaping at the front of the castle where one can admire many different types of birds enjoying this picturesque location. I admired good signage of wildlife of the Clashawley river near the footbridge, and wondered if this is the signage referred to in the entry form? Do you monitor the bird boxes to establish if they are being used? As I passed along I admired some buddleia and napata shrubs that are excellent for the bees and butterflies, although these creatures were not out on a very wet afternoon. The many stone walls provide millions of insects so important for the wildlife.

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

The water conservation in the cattle mart is useful for the watering of flowers and plants, and it is positive to regularly educate the schools and general public on bottle bank recycling awareness. Composting is one of the best ways of recycling and I note there are facilities for it at the mart. You have good contacts with the Tús workers and encourage them to reduce the use of plastic and encourage the use of biodegradable items such as wood. Finally you are doing great work in the schools notably on the reuse of materials, recycling clothing and getting the young people to make items out of natural materials. You could consider the setting up of a sub-committee to concentrate solely on this category since it now has 50 marks on offer and therefore opportunities to gain valuable extra marks.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

I was pleased at the level of tidiness over this large spread out town and the litter patrols are working very well. The two recycling places at the GAA and in the park on the Cashel road were clean and orderly. The many litter bins are well serviced and we recognise the attention paid to them. You mention graffiti and there was not any visible. In another location there were lots of problems with graffiti which prompted the committee to establish who was doing it and a deal was done whereby no prosecution would ensue if it stopped and the "artist" agreed to do various types of artistic work; the result was that the area benefitted greatly from splendid artwork, there was no graffiti and the artist got paid for the work. The Ballroom sets a high standard of tidiness now.

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

I visited some housing estates as a sample of presentation was pleased with the condition of them with great displays of landscaping and very well kept houses. An Seanline could be further enhanced with a creeper of the block walls at the entrance. Cluan Ard is a well-kept estate. The map was very helpful to locate the many estates thank you. There are some splendid town houses and a few of them had outstanding displays of flowers and shrubs that really brightened up the surroundings.

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

The finger signposts are attractive and give useful directions all around the town. There are great stretches of good footpaths making for comfort and safety to the many pedestrians. It was pleasing to see a lot of tourists walking about although the rain was disappointing. I loved the footbridges at intervals. Great sturdy stone walls give secure roadside fencing and the old stone bridges have their own particular charm. Long stretches of grass margins give good views to the motorists.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

This is a place of considerable interest for lovers of architecture and nice scenery. You love Fethard and well done for the great work that you are doing.