

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clashmore** Ref: **243**
County: **Waterford** Mark: **283**
Category: **B** Date(s): **13/07/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	38	39
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	37	38
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	33	34
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	27	28
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	32
TOTAL MARK	450	275	283

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Many thanks for your entry in this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for a most comprehensive entry. Congratulations on your Endeavour Award - surely well-deserved! As specifically requested by you, the adjudicator visited the Clashmore Tidy Towns Facebook page. Ye were on d'Telly - well done. You also have a very fine logo. Of great interest were the pictures which showed the kind of work you get done throughout the year. Clashmore certainly seems to be busy. There is no doubt that you are well-integrated into the wider Clashmore community with links to several groups and representation on the Community Council. You certainly engage with youth and the colouring competition seemed huge. A very good entry this year, Clashmore. Many thanks for the many pictures which help you to tell your story. However, a special word of praise for your map which was just about perfect for the job.

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

Lots of good projects are listed here by you. Several of these relate to maintenance of older buildings and this is so important. You are also engaged in stone wall reconstruction and you have new street benches. Clashmore national school looks lovely and bright. The signs are in need of an upgrade. The church gates too could do with a little care. The heritage centre looked really great. The pirate murder plaque here adds a frisson of horror that is hard to gel with the lovely peaceful surrounds.

You have a lovely Main Street. Great use is made of paint and window-boxes. It is respectfully suggested that the signage for An Siopa Nua is all wrong for this building. The Decies is a lovely building but some wire clutter detracts. Beresford's has numerous traditional pub features and is just gorgeous. The Old Still is bright and cheerful. Great use is made of colours here. O'Malley's garage has original signage that could be picked out with fresh paint but well done for retaining it. The post-box is in very good condition.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

A Landscaping Task Force sounds very dynamic. Crucially you have a planting plan to work from - excellent. Sponsored window-boxes are a terrific idea. Expand this where you can. The grotto is very impressive with planters and ferns. There is an opportunity for some flower bed creation at the recycling banks and this could be very nice. The planting at the pump was noted and this looks very well. The half wooden tub planters at the Heritage Centre look good. Several spots for planting suggested themselves and it is recommended that you do a little survey of these. Really, a landscaping plan would be great for Clashmore. You could approach your local authority or LEADER representative and seek funding for same. The potential is here.

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

Another good entry here, Clashmore. You include some maintenance, water quality monitoring and even some bird records. The adjudicator was slightly disquieted by the river bed given an annual cleaning. When is this done? Disturb a river bed at the wrong time and it could be disastrous for some species of fauna, including eggs and fry of fish. Do please check with Inland Fisheries Ireland for the optimal and sub-optimal times for this. The See it Say it campaign and the composting are both relevant here but should also be mentioned in the categories below.

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

Excellent information here Clashmore and some really good ideas. Unfortunately this is misplaced and projects related to litter, fly-tipping etc. should go in the next category. Not to worry, though, you will get additional points in each. Mulched grass, reused school books and upcycling are all relevant here. Good stuff. It is felt that you have imagination enough to propel you on in this category.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Brilliant stuff here! The colouring competition and your use of the consistency principle very much relevant here. Your work at the bottle bank, at the playground and the rolling out of the enforcement van all very relevant here. Just again to say: several of the initiatives here belong in the Built Environment & Streetscape and Landscaping and Open Spaces categories rather than here. Have a good read of the category definitions as these will keep you right. The recycling banks weren't great. There was rubbish here as well as old clothes and crockery. The sign here was filthy and looked poor. It is suggested that a few gates being painted would lift the area very readily.

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

More progress was noted here and another point well-deserved. Watch out for repetition please as here you have several entries that have appeared elsewhere. The adjudicator looked for new estate name signs without success. Some of the gardens and walls really impressed on the day and gave a good feeling of care throughout. Clashmore Close looks well and there is a nice name stone here. Could the others match this standard? Two houses at the junction with Chapel Lane are in need of help.

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

Thanks for all of the details crammed into your form here. Bit more overlap was noted again, though. However, it is acknowledged that overlap exists in this competition and we aren't fanatical about this. Also, you are relatively new to this so it'll all come clear in time. You are doing good work and that's the most important thing. There is a lovely windy and old feel to the village. It's very pleasant and owes much of this to the strong and bright colours.

The Úllord couldn't be found it is regretfully admitted. Your wooden name sign is very nice and there is good verge and hedgerow management on the R671. Make sure all of your roadside signage is visible though. The GAA facility looks very well cared-for. The new stone wall is under construction on Chapel Lane and works are well underway.

Concluding Remarks:

This was a most interesting and enjoyable visit. You have some really fine buildings and good care is being taken of them. You are progressing well and the adjudicator looks forward to seeing more good work here.