

# Tidy Towns Competition 2017

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Abbey** Ref: **104**  
County: **Galway** Mark: **318**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **07/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	43	44
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	38	38
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	44	44
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	38	39
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	19	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	40	40
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>318</b>

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

Many thanks for your entry in this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for participating in Ireland's biggest community project. Many thanks for submitting a most complete and yet concise entry this year. This was well-illustrated and interesting and is in fact the very model of how to present the year's work. An especial word of praise for the mapmaker though. Gorgeous! Well done all. It is felt that your development plan is a little lacking in detail and could be tighter on timescales. However, if it is working for you then it is fine. In this category you give a very good account of yourselves and what motivates you as a group. You put great importance on your Junior member and it is clear that she is a valued member of your group. You reference a number of areas within this category that gives the reader the impression that you indeed see the bigger picture.

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

Well done on the many initiatives described here. These are generally ongoing tasks but there is also research which sounds fascinating. Your group is working along with others in the conservation and restoration of heritage buildings, the ecclesiastical buildings being a most important component of your built heritage. The work related to the river should be listed in the Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities category of the entry form.

The multi-lingual information board at Ladywell was admired but this is now faded and in need of replacement. Holohans's Shop was being cleaned and swept at time of visit and looked very bright and neat. The lavender in the pots at the church show another contribution to the Pollinator Project. The Community Centre was spotless but perhaps a little bit bare.

The monastic watercolour illustrations are just beautiful and rather haunting.

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

The All Ireland Pollinator Plan has been a key guide for your work this year and there is crossover to the Wildlife category of the competition here too. You got great involvement - over 20 gardeners! - and you have taken expert advice, which is great. Your tree-planting will be of great long-term benefit.

The green has some gorgeous roses and some good quality tree-planting has been kept well. However, it is suggested that you don't use plastic containers on a lawn like this.

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

All of the information that you supplied for the above category is also applicable to Wildlife, Habitats and Natural

Amenities and indeed is all very valuable stuff. Your organisation of the exhibition is a really praiseworthy event, well done. Good luck with the development of your nature trail. The Apiary is a wonderful idea and the Pallet for Pollination garden was one of the highlights of the adjudicator's visit - so clever! The Invitation to Pollinators is a super idea. Well done. Best of luck with your entry to the Get Buzzing competition. The wildlife area at Scol Naomh Feicinn was admired.

The adjudicator must point out that this isn't the best treatment for a river. The canalisation and widening of the channel will not, it is believed, be of benefit to the river. It is suggested that you contact Inland Fisheries Ireland for advice on some remedial measures that may be applied.

Your bug area is so clever. Who'd have thought of a bug dresser..? Well done to the scouts and indeed any other artist involved.

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

Another excellent entry here, Abbey. This is one of the best entries in this category that this adjudicator has seen in a long time. Varied, interesting and imaginative, this is a model of how this category should be tackled. Congratulations. The composter was noted at Scoil Croí Naofa.

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

Thank you for all of the information provided by you for this category. Well done on maintaining a checklist to make sure that you are hitting all the hotspots! You don't mention a Spring Clean - surely you must have an annual event of this kind? The car-park and toilet were in great condition. The bottle bank and environs were spotless.

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

Well done on the initiatives listed. Was the shed reroofed and cleaned as a community project or by the owners. You didn't say. Well done for encouraging wildlife-friendly gardening among your residents. Again your reference to the All Ireland Pollinator Plan is clear. Cineal Fheicin was very neat indeed. Some of the beautiful work in private gardens was admired. The rainwater harvester on an 'up-painted' cottage looks really well.

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

The Leaving Certificate Art Student you reference in your entry form was hard at work at time of visit and what a talented young lady! The adjudicator was so impressed. That cow is fairly coming over that wall. It is hoped that she is off to pursue even greater things now that she is done making a big impact on Abbey. The high standard of maintenance was clear throughout the visit.

#### **Concluding Remarks:**

A really enjoyable and quite inspiring visit was enjoyed at Abbey this year. You are doing amazing work and it looks so well, too. Congratulations all.