

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballinasloe** Ref: **190**
County: **Galway** Mark: **299**
Category: **E** Date(s): **06/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	42	43
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39	40
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	44	44
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	35	35
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	19	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	35	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	32
TOTAL MARK	450	296	299

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 the neat and very well-illustrated entry this year. It is noted that you did provide a map this year - very useful, thank you. However, if you could make this a little bit bigger, that would be great. Last year's adjudicator suggested that you have a 3-Year Plan. Now, it is noted that yours is a newly reformed committee and we can't expect you to have all the ducks in a row when you were just starting out in March. Nonetheless, a plan will really help you to set out your tasks, decide on priorities and keep on track! Do please consult with the local authority on how you might get supports to get Ballinasloe a Tidy Towns Plan. That said - we welcome this new committee to Tidy Towns and we wish you many years of rewarding work and co-operation. Speaking of same, you already have an impressive list of supporting bodies and agencies. Very good, this is vital. You include two Youth Clubs in your area and it is so important to have this involvement.

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

This was the adjudicator's first visit to Ballinasloe in a few years and your new library was a real surprise. You may have the most beautiful library doorway in Ireland. Several new developments are also underway in the town. Your entry suggests that you are focussing on the maintenance of existing amenity areas rather than taking on new projects and this is probably wise. The excellent pictures of Slí na hAbhainn shows the kind of work you are doing. Very good, make sure to get before and after photographs for maximum effect.

What is the future for the former hotel? Are there any plans? Works were underway at the Church of Ireland where a steeplejack was employed at his skilled tasks. The Town Hall Theatre is such a lovely building and it's great to see it in use. The signs at the doorway are probably not suitable. Similarly, are the private property signs at the Presbyterian Church necessary? They don't look right here. Scoil Croí Naofa has lovely bright colours while opposite the old Scoil Naisunta is in very good condition.

The Pillar House had some lovely floral displays. Could the Credit Union do better with its window display?

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Thank you for your succinct entry in this category. Here you are working alongside the local authority in implementing a landscaping and planting project funded by an amenity grant. Again, keep your ambitions modest and concentrate on maintaining some of the areas and slowly expand these. Thanks for the lovely famine memorial photograph. A planter with three birch trees was noted. One would be enough, it is believed. The green adjacent to St John's Church is so pleasant. The lime trees here don't need tree guards, however. There is a gorgeous old

birch tree at the corner of Harris Road and Galway Road. Is this registered? It was noted that your green areas are so well kept so well done to those involved. The Waterways Ireland-managed area at the harbour looks very well. The little park at Slí na hAbhainn was quite and litter-free. The watercourse here was similarly free of litter.

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

There has been great work done at the Creagh Training Centre. Well done to all those who devised the very accurate habitat map. You should consider asking GMIT students if they would take on a similar task but on a town-wide scale.

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

You are getting to grips with some of the basics - recycling of litter etc. You don't say where the rainwater harvesting is done though. You bring a reuse policy to your planted areas which is very good. Well done to the Junk Couture stylists. The Tidy Towns Unit sent out a guidance document on this category last year. It is available from www.tidytowns.ie if you didn't yet see it. This has literally dozens of project ideas which won't leave you short of things to do to manage waste and save resources.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done to all the team for the work at Poolboy Bog. This kind of co-operation is so important. The scouts and others have helped out too. All the while you are carrying out your weekly litter-picks. Good stuff. Unfortunately quite a bit of litter was seen on the day. This was over several areas. There was some fly-tipping in the park. At the bottle banks, there was a sign missing and broken glass was underfoot. On Woodshop Lane a black commercial bin was overflowing. Better weed control is needed at St Michael's Square. The telephone box at the corner of the square is a nightmare of posters. Please do what you can to get rid of this. Chewing-gum rather spoils the limestone of the steps at Pappa John's.

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

A lovely photograph of Garbally Drive shows one of the areas where your influence is spreading. Having residential areas in the care of the residents themselves is indeed the way to go. A few estates were visited. Kilgarve Park looked well and it was good to see the 30 Km/h sign here. St Joseph's Place has a really unusual entrance. It was noted that old cottages have been painted up and this is of great benefit for the streetscape. Within the town there are some gorgeous old dwellings. The adjudicator took time to admire some of the vernacular features on doorways and upper storeys.

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

You have carried out work on approach roads along with staff of the Enterprise Park this year - another good example of co-operation. See if you can extend this to other areas. What about getting sports clubs to 'adopt' a road or approach and they can help to keep these areas looking their best.

Signs on the R446 (Dublin Road) could have been cleaner. Watch out for informal signage on your approach roads. Verges are kept quite neatly, well done. Your town name signs have to be kept cleaner than as they were found. The sign encouraging cycling also needs to be cleaner. There were wheelie-bins parked on the bridge which didn't look good. The Galbally Road roundabout is just gorgeous; one of the best that this adjudicator has seen in Galway.

Concluding Remarks:

A very interesting visit and most rewarding. Your work is paying off. You have some litter and tidiness issues to address but the progress is clear. Thank you.