

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clarinbridge** Ref: **186**
County: **Galway** Mark: **304**
Category: **B** Date(s): **21/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	39	40
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	41	41
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	40	40
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	34	34
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	17	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	36	36
TOTAL MARK	450	302	304

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. This was the adjudicator's first time in Clarinbridge in a few years and it was a real pleasure to be back. The opportunity is taken here to salute the work of Mary over the years and express appreciation for all that was achieved with her help. When we look at towns and villages in this competition, we are seeing not just streetscape and flowers but the result of selfless work and dedication.

Thank you for the very well laid-out entry form. The adjudicator particularly loved the footer of the village structure - really nice! Thank you for the good introduction to your organisation and what you do. You have good aims and the rationale for your tasks is sound. Perhaps a few more illustrations of your work could be included (e.g. before and after' photographs) to enhance the document. A 3-Year Plan is really a requirement at your level and we do look to see how you are planning your work.

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

Thank you for the information supplied here. Not all of this was relevant to the category. please do look at the entry form again to see what is required in each of the categories. It was great to see so many indigenous businesses in operation and several of these are creative. Ail Rún looked really well. Just be careful not to detract from the essence of your village with a multitude of commercial signage and old or unnecessary signs. The massive sign in front of the Centra is completely out of place. Several examples of not very welcoming signs were noted (e.g. clamping, no picnicking etc.). Could these be re-thought? The antiques sign (a grandfather clock) attached to a lime tree on the green is another poor example. There are some really lovely examples of vernacular shopfronts such as Sherry's. Pat Jordan's Bar is another and it was getting renovated on day of visit. Tasty Macs is not so good and little effort seems to have been made in its appearance. The information board at the green is really nice, well done. The church - such an important building in your streetscape looked well as ever.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Your work at the 1916 commemoration memorial was admired. The planters maintained in conjunction with the Lifestyle Garden Centre are an important addition to the streetscape. The village green is a lovely space and this was being maintained on day of visit. Watch out for trees growing near stone walls (e.g. at Paddy Burke's car-park). The green is really well kept with some beautiful lime and horse chestnut trees that are in good condition. The adjudicator enjoyed a brief cycle in the lovely parklands at Kilcornan, a great resource for the community.

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

Good luck with the wildflower project. The adjudicator doesn't recall seeing wildflowers on this road but may have overlooked them. Work with the beekeepers is indeed really important as we have a national crisis with bee populations. Get some good advice on the bat-box project. Well done on securing the funds for the Cowpark although your entry didn't say what these funds will be for. The bay area here is, as you rightly say, a Special Area of Conservation and as such all development is subject to restrictions.

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

You list a number of useful initiatives here. These include battery recycling and composting of organic waste. You have composting information events planned. You mention that you are coordinating an energy and waste-saving project with local businesses and Galway Co. Co. - what is this? Perhaps you could provide some further details in next year's entry. Have you a solution for cut grass? This was seen dumped at the green. Have you space for a community composter?

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You had a big clean-up in May and you have weekly anti-litter patrols - all very good! You also work with the schools and with the local warden. You also report working closely with the local County Councillor on the issue of illegal dumping. You also cooperate with the management of the Bridge Centre. There was a little litter at the river on the day. Dirty litterbins didn't look good. Watch out for old signs that are past their useful stage.

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

You encourage each estate to have its own group - this is important. It is hoped that the issues at Caisel Riada are resolved. It's good to hear that you are being supported by residents and that you are working together on derelict properties. You are supporting the community playground committee in their efforts, well done.

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

Thank you for your description of your ongoing work in this category. Indeed traffic calming would be an important issue for you as a community. It is hoped that the new road will take some pressure from the village.

Commercial signage - some of this being of poor quality - detracts from your approaches. You should make every effort to have these removed from fields, gardens and roadside areas as they do you no favours. The tyre centre sign is one of the worst offenders (and this is for a business in a different town!). There are broken walls and gates that really should be addressed as they look very poor.

Concluding Remarks:

It was lovely to be back in Clarinbridge after a few years' absence. There are many improvements - this is clear immediately - but some issues related to businesses, and signage in particular must be addressed. You are wished every success.