

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clifden** Ref: **793**
County: **Galway** Mark: **297**
Category: **C** Date(s): **13/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	45	46
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	40	41
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	36	36
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	36	37
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	26	25
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	57
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	25	25
TOTAL MARK	450	293	297

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. Well done for submitting a really comprehensive entry this year. This was very well presented and included your 3-Year Plan, an excellent map - perfect for use, thank you! , neatly laid out entry form and supporting information that included various category plans. All very good. You have specifically sought to include youth and children in your work and this is to be applauded. Over only a decade in the competition, you are holding your own with the changing challenges of the competition and are 'knocking on the door' of the highest tiers. You have invested considerably in the town and you have carved out a niche for your group here in this very attractive and popular place.

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

You have harnessed the fairy door craze and put it to good use. Why not? The Living Graveyard project is an excellent one. The promotion of Irish is also laudable and the phonetic spelling a clever and welcoming touch.

The Town Hall looked very well and the planting at the front was admired. The flower bed at the front was in need of painting. St Joseph's Church has a very impressive spire. Your business premises are one of the best assets of Clifden. Aisling B&B is in very bright colours. 'Love Connemara', the Connemara Bike Shop, Up-Town and Walsh's all caught the eye. Well done to all the business owners for playing their part.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Keep up your contribution to the new amenity park at the ball alley. This area is indeed crying out for new use. You are also making your voice heard on approach road and pedestrian/cycleway plans. Very good. The landscaped area opposite the Town Hall was admired. The wooden box planters with the Tidy Towns logo look very well. The adjudicator loved the 'wild' planting at the spike and in the containers at the square. The planting at the bus-station was excellent and the landscape planting at the car-park opposite is the product of really good work. However, the opposite side of the car-park is awaiting some TLC.

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

This is a strong category for you and you have delivered again this year. Your work has included raising awareness of invasive species, co-operation with the school via the Gaisce Award participants and supporting Scoil Mhuire. You have Local Biodiversity Action Plan in place and report being one year ahead of your scheduled actions. Keep forging ahead.

Invasive species are an issue in places - as your supporting documents describe. Himalayan knotweed was noted behind the Town Hall and Gunnera thrives across the road. Himalayan balsam was found near the national school. The bird information sign could not be found and the older wildlife signage is rather faded. Evidence of the Living Graveyard project was also elusive.

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

Having increased your points substantially here in recent years, it is felt that you could have submitted more in this category. While the initiatives reported are most worthwhile, they focus mostly on school activities. The adjudicator would like to read more on work that you have led in the wider community. A rainwater harvester was noted at the Fire Station.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

A very strong entry in this category was read with interest. You describe numerous initiatives that work in tandem with businesses, schools and local volunteers. You focus on holiday home owners and have included sponsors such as Supervalu here. You included the boat club in the Spring Clean this year - a really good idea. You will climb higher still in this category, it is felt.

A little bit roadside litter was noted on the Roundstone road approach. Some graffiti - including some Banksy-style effort was noted. The information board at the Station House Hotel is in need of attention - it is dripping wet inside. The Court House would be a better venue for this board it is felt. The curtilage of the AIB looks really poor with weeds and moss.

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

You joined forces with residents of the Spires in the Million Trees day, very good. You have also made yourselves available to help elsewhere. The adjudicator looked for the tree-planting at The Spires but without success. The Cluid housing Scheme is in really good order.

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

There is a very nice approach from the Roundstone side. A wide section of verge is cared-for but not overly manicured. A wildflower area on the way into town on the right hand side was noted. Wooden planters, some better than others were seen. The adjudicator was travelling by bicycle and the really good road surfaces were enjoyed! The playground was very much in use and in good condition. The little path linking The Spires and the national school was so nice.

Concluding Remarks:

A really enjoyable visit was had this year. It is clear that you are well-organised and that you have put in place several plans with good information and aims. The adjudicator predicts great things from Clifden in this competition. Beirigí Bua!