

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Leenane** Ref: **200**
County: **Galway** Mark: **267**
Category: **A** Date(s): **14/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	38	39
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	38	38
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	34	38
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	25	25
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	19	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28	28
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29	29
TOTAL MARK	450	261	267

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 most concise and focused entry this year. This was well-illustrated and included photographs of some of your work areas, an extract from your 2017 work plan and some supplementary information. The short film looks fantastic. 12 on a committee for a community of your size is great and you have good numbers of people you can call on for help. Over your 17 years of involvement, you have developed good links, including excellent awareness of supports out there.

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

Your work this year has included seeking funds for restoration of the famine pier. The old forge has been painted and landscaped. You have made your submission on some forthcoming works, including an amenity area on the Clifden Road. Very good. The community centre looked neat and business-like. The Forge looks really great. You have some lovely business premises and these are a key asset. Gaynors' window-boxes, Hamilton's Bar and the Post Office were all admired. The wool and sheep centre looked very well with its floral decorations. In fact, very little could be found amiss apart from a stray fada from one sign.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Street furniture and flower boxes have been painted in bright colours. Native and herb planting has been carried out. A new composter is in place and a fairy is now believed to be in residence. The car-park is under-developed and is holding you back. The derelict site adjacent this isn't referred to in your entry.

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

Here you rightly point out the Natural Heritage Area and Special Area of Conservation designations of this special place. The fairy garden is where your biodiversity efforts for the village have been focused. You had a bat walk and mountain skills experiences. The new maps for hill walkers are an excellent resource. Lots of good quality walking information was on display. There were several long-distance cyclists pausing for water and selfies in the village. There is excellent wildlife and geographical information on the signs at the shore wall. One of the signs is missing from a plinth here.

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

A good entry here. You mention water quality - a key resource. The adjudicator particularly liked the Use it or Lose it campaign. This addresses a number of issues. You are also looking at sustainable public transport. While the

adjudicator was visiting, a mobile banking service arrived so that villagers could do their banking in the car-park. You describe a local business trying to practice self-sufficiency. We'd like to hear more about this in next year's entry please.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Thank you for the information supplied here. The big clean-up sounds like a by worthwhile event and it's good that you try to recycle what you can from it. You mention fly-tipping and dog-fouling as being significant problems. The adjudicator would like to read of how you are addressing these and what resources are being devoted to them. While in the village, the adjudicator noted your poster on the community noticeboard. Very good. Some cigarette butt litter - quite aged - was seen in the car-park.

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

Your work here includes encouraging local residents. Again, we'd ideally like a little bit more detail on how many are involved, how you communicate and what events you may have asked people to attend or participate in. Some gorgeous houses and gardens were seen on the way out the Maam Cross road.

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

A good entry here. You have discussed several issues that are quite particular to your area. These are as diverse as invasive species and fairy trees. The former is indeed a problem, for you and in Galway generally. Keep up the co-operation with experts and statutory bodies. The latter, well, if it makes them happy... An annual clean-up of same might be a pain but who knows, maybe some wishes came true in the meantime.

The adjudicator drove to Leenane before taking out the bicycle and heading off on this. However, he was behind a cyclist for several km on the way into Leenane. The cyclist was several metres out from the verge as she rightly concluded that it was dangerous to be any closer. This is a priority for the local authority to address. On a fast stretch like this, it could be really dangerous. On a lighter note, the adjudicator noted two different spellings of your village name (three if we are to include Irish). Which is it? A little bit of the R336 was cycled. This was really pleasant and very little roadside litter was seen, well done. The wooden post and wire fencing on the Westport side could be replaced with something better.

Concluding Remarks:

A most enjoyable visit to a gorgeous and quite unique little place. It is believed that you are taking your work very seriously here and that you will make even greater progress in the coming years. Thanks for all your efforts.