

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mountbellew** Ref: **188**
County: **Galway** Mark: **298**
Category: **B** Date(s): **07/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	41	41
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	41	41
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	35	35
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	33	33
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	19	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57	58
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	39	39
TOTAL MARK	450	297	298

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. Thanks for the lovely map. Maybe next year you could add a key to make it even better. The aerial photograph added perspective. Thank you for all the info on your group and how you work. Last year's adjudicator suggested that you should have a 3-Year Plan. This is a good idea. It will help you to set out the tasks ahead of you, put them into a schedule in terms of priority and allow you to check off tasks as you go. It will also allow you to see if you are making progress and where more work is needed.

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

Thank you for the information supplied on your work in this category over the last year. A lot of this related to ongoing upkeep of areas and this is often how it is. St Mary's Church is gorgeous and the national school opposite uses flowers to good effect. The Agricultural College was very, very neat and Holy Rosary College was very well kept. The Fire Station and Post Office were both spotless. Ganley's Agri was generally neat but a couple of oil barrels and pallets detracted. It was noted that your commercial premises are consistent in height and scale and that signage is generally of good quality. In fact, the adjudicator was struck by the number of businesses in operation and the high standard of presentation of same, from beauty salons to public houses, coffee shops to hairdressers. The Supervalu looked really well too with clean, bright windows. The childcare facility looked so good and the grounds here were really neat.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Again, much of your work here is upkeep and maintenance. Verges were well kept and maintained indeed. There are nice planters in front of the national school. There was also good effort at the community centre. Fantastic work is to be seen at the church. The hanging baskets and circular planters at the square are effective.

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

You have carried out a clean-up of the river bed. The adjudicator wonders if you coordinated with the local officer of Inland Fisheries Ireland. It is presumed that you have as you are in discussion with them with regard to restocking of the river and lake. Always be careful to take advice when carrying out any work in a sensitive location. You really do have a wonderful amenity in the wetlands here. Masses of swallows in the square were a memorable feature of the visit to Mountbellew. However, it is the and the riverside walk that was most enjoyed. What a wonderful amenity. New seating was noted at the weir. The woodland walks behind the RC church are fabulous. There is a real mosaic of habitats here from lake and swamp to broadleaved woodland. This is great otter habitat

too. Do these paths join up with the riverside walk?

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

Thank you for the information supplied here. You state that you have introduced a rainwater harvesting programme. Also that you encourage domestic rainwater harvesting and use of low-energy lightbulbs. However, we'll need for you to give us more details for your points to increase in this category. How do you go about these actions, in what way are you encouraging others? You are advised to contact Galway City and County Council's Environmental Awareness Officer who is very expert in all matters Tidy Towns.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done on your Spring Clean event in April. Please do say whether your anti-litter patrols are voluntary or are CE etc. You have a weed control programme but you don't say what it is. Certainly a very good standard of tidiness was evident on day of visit. This adjudicator liked the petrol pump covers. One wonders if these could possibly be decorated in order to make them even better. Some groups have even added 'rooftop' planters to these! The Costcutter special offer signage is completely wrong in both scale and location. Keep up the pressure for the removal of overhead wiring and cables. It will someday happen. Your bottle banks are in excellent condition. You are on the right track in this category.

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

Once again, the adjudicator would like to have more information on how you go about the actions in this category. How do you communicate and work with the local residents? Are there any events, are the estates included as part of your Spring Clean? Grattan Park was one of the areas visited and this was seen to be neat with some lovely gardens.

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

You describe a solid level of activity in this category for the last year. Once more, a lot of this is maintenance. The adjudicator would like to read about your future plans in some detail. This is where the 3-Year Plan will come in very handy.

There is a very long approach from Caltra and here the verges were really well-cut. Watch out for old support stakes on trees that aren't needed anymore. An unnamed road to the south here is really well-trimmed too. The cemetery was very neat with nice planters here. The N63 verges are well kept too. The name sign on the N63 Newbridge Road is almost entirely obscured by vegetation.

Concluding Remarks:

A very interesting and enjoyable visit was had this year. It is felt that some better forward planning is needed. Please also supply a little bit more detail in next year's entry. You are working away very solidly and you could achieve many more points. Well done.