

# Tidy Towns Competition 2017

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Annacotty**

Ref: **1955**

County: **Limerick**

Mark: **255**

Category: **C**

Date(s): **01/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	36	36
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	34	34
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	32	32
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	30	30
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	12	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30	30
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>255</b>

### Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Annacotty TidyTowns Committee are welcome to the 2017 SuperValu TidyTowns competition. The adjudicator thanks you for your entry form, for the map which was most helpful in travelling your village. But just like last year's adjudicator this year's adjudicator is unhappy that you still do not have a three-year plan which would guide you in creating a vision of how you would see your village develop in the various categories over the next number of years. Your entry form was clear and concise in the work that you are doing and made your present work most accessible to the adjudicator. When listing the agencies and businesses that support you, you might give a one sentence explanation or account of the way in which that body supports you. We would love to know, for instance, how the Daughters of Charity help your work. From your entry one gets the sense of a vibrant and meaningful engagement with the community. The adjudicator is impressed by your aims in providing shared focus, building community and tackling present and future environmental issues. Keep up the good work. The absence of a Three Year Plan limits the adjudicator in the increase in marks you might justifiably expect. Some photos would also enliven your presentation.

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

The adjudicator commends your committee on the preparation you put into your various projects in this section. The information panel on the ring fort was well worth the effort. So too is an earlier one on the creamery. And one looks forward to the information panel at the Mill. This little village must have a long history and if the many new residents are to become native to Annacotty that history must become part of their daily living. Hence another element to that fine sculpture of Jackie Power. Annacotty has evidently been altered radically in recent decades. I feel sure that what is now overgrown could have been the site for a village pump one time. Many of the renewed buildings have not yet settled into their surroundings but the fresh looking painting of the facades and the modern distinctive lettering of the new shops and services assist the new streetscape appearance. There is a great contrast between the lettering on the new premises, for example Sinead's or The Brow Fairy or the Family Doctor, to mention a few and the more traditional lettering on Eamonn Nicholas and the Black Swan but both compliment each other. This adjudicator feels that the proprietor of Studio One and Mr Price should be encouraged to create a more village feel in their approach to window dressing. The adjudicator loved the strong yellow colouring with red reveals and also liked the brighter yellow and black across the way. The bike parking creates beautiful street furniture and hopefully is used. Great to find the playing fields out at Rosskeen and also of course to find Bohs home from 1922.

### Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The adjudicator is pleased to read that you are proactive in the landscaping plans for Annacotty. Year round planting and colour is a basic requirement of any landscaping plan. The adjudicator would love more material on

your tree audit. Trees form an important part of landscaping throughout Annacotty and provide natural shelter along the river and also nesting places. Many of those trees precede the new residents but it is to someone's credit that tree planting has been continuous around the town. There are some divine gardens about such as at the bridge on both sides and with their gravel base and picnic tables or at a junction on the Mulcaire Drive. A fine raised bed in an estate excites. Credit to Mr Price there is a fine shrubbery to the front of his premises. One loved the lilac and the senecio and the potentilla and the various hebes that grows in various places.

#### **Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádurtha:**

Well done on your biodiversity area at the bridge. The colourful mural does in itself help to create an awareness of birdlife, fish life and the mammal life of the area as well as being a delightful piece of street art. Thankfully the hedging along the bank of the river has been maintained thus encouraging habitat and nesting. Came across lovely gates that stopped me from entering what looked like a river walk. More information for next year's adjudicator.

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

The adjudicator is certainly impressed by the range of projects you mention in this section but wishes for more detail on the follow-up or the outcome of what you mention. For instance while it is a forward step to attend local events, you mention recycling events, what have the topics been other than recycling? Has there been any outcome from attendance at these events? Many seminars relating to sustainable living aim at changing people's behaviour and habits with regard to their environment. Have you a follow up discussion after attending such an event on how the evening will impact on you as a committee? It is impressive that you have school liaison officers in place who participate in Green Flag activities. And well done to those schools who have achieved Green Flag status. The adjudicator is also impressed that you as a committee strive to source products locally. One would like some specifics on what you mean. Do you encourage the community to follow suit?

#### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Except for the car parking area at Mr Price there was very little litter throughout the town but that area is a definite blackspot. The weeds at that spot exacerbate the problem. But there is litter along the street also. Great to see the bin beside the picnic table at the biodiversity garden. Barrels left around the front areas of premises are unfortunate. A good feature of the tidiness is the condition of the yellow and black barrier and the accompanying timber fence, which will be stained later on. Then the black and white kerbing is another fine feature up the road. The walk way along Mulcaire Drive where there is not enough room for a path is a considerate feature for the pedestrians. Was disappointed to find some graffiti at the bridge.

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

What was once a small village has become a densely populated dormitory town. So one finds many cottages from as far back as the 1930's, then the bungalow ribbon development of the 50's and later. Then we arrive into the town houses of the post millennium era. Even the Main Street has been transformed into a highly residential area which changed the character of the streetscape. Through the arch way and one comes to a forest of houses at the Salmon Weir. We will experience this again at Riverbank. A saving feature of this experience is that the various estates within here are identified by the finger signposting. Hopefully, in time, each of these areas will have their own name stone create their own identity. Many of the residents give priority to planting but in other cases the fronts are quite bare and uninteresting. An example to aspire to is the planting along the boundary wall of the Willows. Well done to the people at Rosskeen who built and painted the frames for the planting along the wall.

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

Steep banks are an exciting entrance to a town. Those steep banks occur on two of the roads. Of course steep banks create problems of safe maintenance and presentation. One meets the Annacotty sign dressed in a raised stone bed of summer colour on a few occasions. Then a plough and a grassy area to welcome one off the busy N20. In most cases the ribbon developments of decades accompany one into the town centre, all with their various frontages and shrub planting.

#### **Concluding Remarks:**

Lovely visit. Make sure to encourage the next adjudicator to walk over the bridge and get a taste of what generations of Annacotty people have experienced for years.