

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Shrule** Ref: **1516**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **231**
Category: **B** Date(s): **06/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	30	31
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	30	32
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	28	30
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	27	30
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	8	11
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	35	37
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	27	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30	31
TOTAL MARK	450	215	231

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Shrule is welcomed to the SuperValu Tidy Towns competition for 2017. Thank you for your application, map and photos. You have a large committee with a number of volunteers who meet monthly and communicate by village app and weekly newsletter. You engage with all the relevant agencies and local clubs. You also have a good working relationship with the school which is very important. Your participation in the competition is important to the Tidy Towns unit and it is good to note that you have already noticed an increase in volunteers since entering the competition last year. It has created a greater sense of pride in the community and in the village with all members coming together to develop and enhance the village further.

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

The enhancement works of lighting and tree planting carried out to the village have made a big visual impact on the streetscape. The stone walls that are very much part of the village streetscape also enhanced the village. Shrule Castle and its surrounds look impressive at this entrance road to the village. TJ Gibbons premises with its well painted facade and neat car park looked good. The brightly painted yellow house with copper trees in front was very striking. St Joseph's Church and surrounds which includes well maintained grounds with nice trees was admired. The planted stone beds which are in keeping with the adjacent stone wall were admired. The Community centre a fine building and amenity for the community was visited. The sound of the swifts busy at the rear of building could be heard. Eircom building was noted but the railings need painting. The bridge here could be highlighted more with planters on the parapet of the bridge enhancing the village entrance. The sports field was visited, again a lovely recreational amenity for the community, avoid the over use of week killer as it looks untidy. Other premises that impressed were Craddocks Bar, The Shawl and Mullins supermarket. Your treatment of unoccupied buildings is noted with painted facades brightening up their appearance. The building that looks like an old mill was noted, more information on this building would be welcomed.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The village has well maintained green areas with nice hard and soft landscaping, with the village pump an important feature in some landscaping. The planted stone beds with suitable perennial and annuals looked good and enhanced the lovely stone walls of the village. The sycamore line was also admired. The pound green area makes a good impact at this corner and its future development will be welcomed. The memorials with splendid landscaping to past members of the community are commended.

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

There are many areas of natural habitats for wildlife in Shrulie in the trees, stone walls and hedging around the village. The Castle and its surrounds and the Black River are also good sources for wildlife. It is good to note that your group have hosted a training workshop on Bats and wish to do further training. The Castle has been identified as locations for bats and bat boxes have been put in place to enhance their presence. Well done on obtaining a grant to pursue this project on bats creating awareness and appreciating the wildlife that is present in the village. Similar projects could be undertaken in conjunction with the school on other species of wildlife that can be seen around the village. Visit www.biodiversityireland.ie/pollinator-plan which will give good assistance on suitable planting to encourage wildlife. A nice area for such planting would be beside the river bank at the Community Centre.

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

This category is about trying to reduce the amount of waste produced in the community in the first place. Recycling and reusing are all part of this. Harvesting rainwater and using this water for watering plants is one idea. Cycling and walking to school and car-pooling to work are another. Composting is a way of reusing and can be introduced to the wider community so too could the use of low energy bulbs. Reusing items such as pallets and metal that can be used for planters is another way of reusing waste. With the proposed introduction of paying by weight for waste may encourage people to reduce the amount of waste they produce. Looking at shopping habits by carrying out a survey with a number of houses over a month period and see if the amount of food purchased could be reduced, which would reduce packaging. Thus waste would be reduced. Segregation of litter during litter picks and recycling where possible is another way of reducing. The school are commended on their achievements in the Green School Initiatives.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done on your participation in National Clean Up and also Mayo Litter league. This creates awareness among the community on the importance of keeping the village clean. The Recycling banks at the community centre were noted which could be brightened up with a mural or colourful planting. The pump in the green needs painting.

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

The houses along the entrance roads and along the streetscape are all well presented. The housing estates have all good landscaping at entrances and are presented to a high standard. Neat gardens were noted and admired, hanging baskets and window boxes brought extra colour to the streetscape. The residents are commended for the work they have done to enhance their homes which shows they have a sense of pride in their homes and the community.

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

The Castlebar approach road has a splendid landscaped entrance sign. Some trees however need attention, staking of newly planted trees is important. Trees should be monitored and stakes and ties checked until the trees are established. All approach roads to the village should have a uniform entrance sign. This defines the boundary of the village. All gates on approach roads should be painted in a uniform colour where possible. Stone walls are a big feature of the village and further development along approach roads should include walls repaired and hedging planted where gaps are. Planting of native hedging and trees is recommended.

Concluding Remarks:

Shrulie was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. You have done great work for this year's competition. The village has good potential to progress. Keep up the good work you are wished well in the future.