

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castleiney** Ref: **1211**
County: **Tipperary(North)** Mark: **256**
Category: **A** Date(s): **08/08/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	33	34
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	36	37
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	33	34
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	19	20
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	11	11
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	58	58
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29	30
TOTAL MARK	450	250	256

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Thank you Castleiney for your completed application form including a hand drawn map with numbers showing the various points and interest and structures of importance in your village. You are very welcome to the 2017 SuperValu Tidy Towns competition.

Your Castleiney Tidy Village Committee of 7 which meet about 6 times a year can call on another 3 volunteers when various jobs need doing. It is always a good idea to get as many as possible to volunteer even if it is just for one job which takes a few hours. The more people involved in the activities in one way or another gives a sense of community spirit which this competition fosters.

We are happy to see that you have the support of Tipperary County Council, FÁS and the Irish Midlands Ringing Group. Your text messaging is a good idea and cuts down on overheads. The parish newsletter is read by the majority of the community and information dissipated in this way is always read. We're seeing that a lot of parishes are putting the newsletter/bulletin on line rather than printing it but the Tidy Towns information is still part of it, which is great. You give financial support to the local school and we hope that, in return, the school children are involved in the work of the Tidy Village committee even at just a very basic level. Perhaps encourage the school to form a Junior Tidy Village committee which can initiate projects of its own.

Your involvement in the competition for eight years shows you dedication to your village and the community must be proud of all your voluntary work.

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

The village has a wonderful welcoming feel with its wide area in the centre. The school, church and hall were very well presented. Similar to last year's adjudicators we loved the 'Saving Water' sign displayed on the back of the handball alley. We also query if the handball alley is being used? It is adjacent to the school and it seems a pity if it is not used by the school. The end of the stone wall close to the Castleiney sign on the Loughmore is in disrepair ... can the owner be approached to repair this / or allow the Tidy Village committee to carry out repairs? The stone wall itself is a wonderful approach to the town and is of good quality. We loved the setting of the Washpen sign – just keep the moss off the cobblestones. The seats outside the church are welcoming and are sure used very often during mass times. The church itself with its stone gable and decorated side entrances looked very attractive as did the church grounds. We also loved the stone wall area and black gate across from the handball alley – an interesting feature.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The green area, trees and planting beds on the entrance road from Loughmore were full of colour and looked well. We particularly liked the rose garden near the village. The area before this green area had a lot of weed growth

which needs attention. Also the growth at base of the trees on the green space needs to be trimmed back. The grass margin along by the post and rail fence and along by the wall on the same side on this entrance road was in need of cutting. The village pump area with the tubs and neatly trimmed hedging to the rear looked very well. The area at the junction of Templetohy road looked well with its neatly trimmed shrubs – the wall however, could be painted or washed. We noted some planting tubs with nothing in them – we suggest that you put plants in them or remove them as they are unsightly at present.

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

The green flag in the school was noted – it's good to see the children involved in this programme. The nest boxes for the house martins on the walls to the rear of the school and to the hall are interesting. We look forward to hearing when you have success in attracting a pair. One pair leads to another – so we await news of your success. Are there any walking routes in your area which could become a Nature Trail? This is always a great way to encourage communities to discover what's on their doorstep.

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

You mentioned that local children have a used clothes collection but you didn't say what they did with the clothes. Sustainable waste and resource management is an area where we all must participate if we are to make a difference nationally. This is not about recycling but about not creating the waste in the first place. Last year's adjudicators suggested that you examine some areas – water harvesting, composting and general household waste. We suggest that you look again at this category and begin with something small which can be advanced annually.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The village was free from litter but weeds were noticed in quite a few areas – sides of roads, handball alley, cobblelock outside of church, planting area to the left of the hall carpark near the slipway etc. Weeds are an ongoing problem and we suggest that a programme of weed control be put in place. Hoeing weeds is extremely effective and while it does take time it works. There is a Christmas tree dumped beside the hall which should be removed. In addition, various walls in the village were dirty – they should be either painted or washed to freshen them.

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

There is a mix of single and two storey houses and, generally, all are in good repair, with well painted walls, neat hedging and colourful gardens. Some of these have farm buildings attached and these too were well presented. The row of houses beyond the school had a great array of flowers and shrubs in most of the gardens – a great attraction for our bees and butterflies. Your work of encouraging house owners to take care of their properties has reaped rewards.

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

The village is well signposted and all signposts were spotless. However, the 50km signs on the Loughmore road are barely legible – contact should be made with the area engineer in Tipperary Co. Co. to have these replaced. We recommend signs of similar size / diameter be installed and not the large format which we see in some villages. Is the second 'Slow Through Village' sign with the black and yellow pole required? We suggest this is removed as the motorist has already read this on the first sign. The roads are in good repair except the road edge section across from Nolan's and along by the Washpen area – another job for the area engineer.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure spending the time visiting your village and getting to know its character. Your application form did not give a lot of detail of the work / activities / projects you undertook under some of the headings. When something is done by the committee record it and take photos and next year add that information to your application. We need to see the work which you do.

We look forward to a return visit in the years ahead. Thank you for entering the Supervalu Tidy Towns 2017 competition.