

# Tidy Towns Competition 2018

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Pike of Rushall** Ref: **737**  
County: **Laois** Mark: **241**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **28/06/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	30	31
Streetscape & Public Places	50	29	30
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	31	32
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	21	22
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	13	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	27	28
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>241</b>

### Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Pike of Rushall (Baile Mhuighe Moire) chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais.

After an absence of 7 years congratulations on taking the plunge last year and re-joining the Tidy Towns competition. You mentioned that there are obstacles you are still trying to overcome to help you in your venture. We would encourage you to approach Laois County Council, to get you in contact with other Tidy Towns groups of your size to share their experiences. There is no need to reinvent the wheel! They have probably come across the same issues and are usually more than happy to assist. They usually find introducing a social element helps to gain members.

The Tidy Towns website is also a valuable resource.

We would concur with last year's adjudicator report and encourage you to do a three year plan. It provides a focus and helps you to prioritise. It does not have to be professionally done up. Just a page with the three years 2019, 2020, 2021 and a few bullet point under each. Or a table showing if the project is new, ongoing or a future project. It is usually satisfying for Tidy Towns groups to see at a glance all of the work that has being carried out in one year.

### Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:

The church grounds looked well. We hope you are seeking advice from your local heritage office in your County Council about the preservation of some of the fine headstones in your graveyard. The plaque for Naomh Garadh's Holy Water Font circa 550 A.D was viewed near the entrance. A small information sign here would add to the feature. We found out by researching your area that this year you celebrated your bi-century celebration and as part of that, the parish decided to dedicate the church to Naomh Garadh. As part of the dedication, Holy Water Fonts from the site of Naomh Garadh's church have now been preserved and put on display in the church grounds. The public toilets at the back of the church were open and in good condition. It is very usual when travelling around the country to find these.

The bright school sign "Scoil Naisiunta, Baile Muige Moire 1881" stood out proudly in the fine Celtic script.

The use of colour throughout the school was impressive. The painting of the barriers instead of the dull grey really looked lovely. The bright blue gate leading up from the carpark, the red and yellow railings leading into yard really add colour. The red railing at the bottom of the school yard could do with repainting. The bright green door added more colour. It was nicely complemented by the post-box with the green shamrock and Fáilte.

### Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Your village may be very small, but coming in the main N7 Dublin Road you cannot help to notice it. You are doing everything you can to stand out. From the bright flowers and the very colourful picnic bench (the 2nd one you

mention in your report had not yet been obtained on the day of adjudication), it certainly gives the impression of an area that is very well tended and cared for.

The restored pump stood out well, however the area around here was a little untidy around the flagstones.

The carpark beside the school is very well maintained. It is great to see this amenity so close to the school with a connecting path, which means children are not forced back onto the main road. While this place is a credit to you, for next year you might consider reducing the number of containers as these are very labour and resource intensive. The stone wall at the front is an impressive feature in its own right. Colourful flowers growing from the wall here would be just as effective and less work.

The use of the old tree trunks to look like houses in your fairylike garden was one of the most unusual things viewed by this adjudicator this year. Very imaginative in addition to the colourful stones which are an interesting way to add colour. It cannot fail to bring a smile to the face (well hopefully the children on their way to school feel the same way!) The roses as the backdrop to the flowerbed here provide amazing coverage.

The GAA Pitch looked well.

### **Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:**

You mentioned a wildlife area beside the pump. This appeared to be completely mowed on day of adjudication. The area behind was difficult to see. Whilst carrying out adjudications adjudicators don't want to worry people unnecessarily by entering onto land that appears to be private property.

You are surrounded by nature in this area it's just a matter of ensuring that it is cared for and appreciated. There appeared to be a butterfly garden beside the vegetable garden in the school. Maybe the children did this as part of their green flag? Knowing the importance of helping pollinators will only increase the chance of them becoming involved. <http://www.biodiversityireland.ie> has access to Ireland's pollinator plan, including practical tips on how to help in this area.

Bird boxes were noted in the school grounds. Bat boxes were also observed. Do you know if these have been occupied?

Unfortunately despite even asking two residents we were unable to locate your woodland walk that you had marked on your map. For next year please give more details on this.

### **Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:**

You left this section blank on your submission. It is one that many groups struggle with. Sometimes starting with a blank page can be so off putting for groups. Don't forget help is at hand. Check out the Tidy Towns website for more ideas. Check with your Environment Awareness Officer in the County Council. You might get some handy tips at <http://www.epa.ie/begreen/>

The Bring Banks themselves were clean and well utilised.

The composting bin the school looked well used. For future reports it would be great to see some results on the amount of compost created from this.

You mention that your school has their Green Flag. This was flying proudly on day of adjudication. Green flags are only achieved after a great amount of work. To ensure extra marks in the sustainability section ensure you give more details from your school of these projects and results. Short bullet points would be sufficient. We are not trying to create extra work for your committee. Maybe a small group of the children from older classes could get involved here as part of your Junior Tidy Town committee?

A small vegetable patch was seen in the school grounds. Gardening provides an inquisitive and rewarding approach to learning. Food waste is a problem in Ireland. Offering children the opportunity to see what goes into growing food usually gives them more of a respect for food. It also encourages more growing at home which ensures less carbon footprint.

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

Your weekly litter pickups and daily checks are having good effect. This is no easy task with the amount of traffic going through your village and so it is subject to the ongoing scourge of fly tipping.

The area around the Bring Banks had some litter and some weeding was needed here also. There was also some small littering near the compost bin in the school.

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

Most of the houses are very well maintained. This includes some impressive detached houses on the way up towards your marked woodland area.

The house on the corner opposite the picnic table looked very well with its bright red door. The extension behind is done very sympathetically.

The house opposite with the old stone wall exposed gives a glimpse into the material used in the past.

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

On the N7 the approach road verges and signs were very well kept.

On your minor approach road the verges on the way to the school were extremely well kept. Not as well kept on the other minor approach road.

The 50KM signs on the way to the school were starting to be obstructed by the vegetation more so on left hand side driving out.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

In this year adjudication report we have pointed out some areas that you can go to for help and guidance. The big turnout at the Pike of Rushall Catholic Church for the bicentenary and re-dedication of the church shows your community does enjoy coming together. We hope that you continue to find ways to build your community through the Tidy Towns competition.