

# Tidy Towns Competition 2015

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Boherbue** Ref: **95**  
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **263**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **16/06/2015**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2014</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2015</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	34	35
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	35	36
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	39	39
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	21	22
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	55
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	34
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>263</b>

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

Welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2015 and we note that your participation spans 19 years. We have noted that you have a core membership of 14 which extends to 35 when litter picking is underway. You hold regular meetings throughout the year and have strong links with residents, voluntary groups and schools. You receive support from local businesses and public bodies. The use of the parish newsletter, the Corkman, phone and text are your means of communication. The involvement with the Comprehensive schools is commendable and is a great way of involving youth in the area. Many thanks for attaching a map of the area with landmarks marked for our attention and some photographs. The map was very good and informative. We were not sure what the ticks meant and concluded that they were some private houses but why other houses had no similar marking, we failed to understand. May we suggest that you improve on it for next year by having a stranger try to understand it.

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

The Comprehensive School is a fine building. We admired the hedge and other plantings at the front. More trees would add further enhancement. The thatched house had a red painted pump and other memorabilia in the front garden. However, the old milk churn is so rusted that it spoils the impact. In days when such churns were in use, this one would have been thrown away; now it can be recycled. The church looks well and we admired the planting at the car park. Linehans Insurance is a new use for the thatched house. Pearse Memorial Hall is a fine building, well painted and no weeds to be seen. The empty plant containers on the footpath outside would best be removed. The well painted O'Keefe's Bar caught our eye as did the red painted houses on each side of it. The planted island with the red pump looked well. The Credit Union building and the Post Office looked well but it is sad to see so many unoccupied houses and business premises in decline. The retail park was fine, the nearby houses look well and we admired the Rhododendrons in flower. Casey's Concrete Products is well screened and the boundary wall well painted. The GAA grounds are well maintained; the gates need painting. The interesting design of the Grotto looks well with its stone boundary wall. The Yield sign in that area was dirty. The school could do with some planting to soften the impact. The house on Kiskeam Road with a façade of stone and reveals around windows and doors was well presented. Ingredient Solutions was clean and well painted. The cemetery boundary wall of stone with a brick capping was attractive. It was clean and well maintained and the repainted cemetery gates looked well. We noted the Endeavour plaque for 2002 inset into the wall. The islands of low planting used to demarcate the right angled parking are well maintained.

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

Boherbue Park had a lovely boundary wall. It is well maintained and the modern playground is attractive. The main structural elements in the landscape are trees and you have many good examples such as the fine specimens

within the park. The use of permanent planting is encouraged rather than relying on annuals which are more time consuming. In that regard, the established planting of Hypericum opposite the school looked splendid – it will give a great yellow display in a few weeks. Shrub planting can get out of control if not pruned occasionally. This is the case in regard to the planting at the vehicle turnaround at the school. Opposite the thatched house, we noted an attractive well maintained shrub planting area and a seat. A house well clad with Virginian Creeper caught our eye. We liked the shrub planting in front of the red house at the junction in the main square of the town. Hanging baskets of Petunias looked well on a shop.

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

We note the participation in the 'Life' project; it is a great activity for the school. The wildlife photography competition should be very interesting and exciting. Well done on having the constructed wetlands near the River Brogeen featured on Nationwide. WE noted further actions such as limited maintenance of hedgerow boundaries and reducing the use of weedkiller. You have a rich natural area surrounding your community and it is important to promote an awareness of its many traits and to map these habitats. Appreciating your local wildlife resources is vital in order to achieve under this category. In this regard researching and raising awareness as you are doing is more important than 'doing' at the early stages. Biodiversity is under threat globally and sadly Ireland is a part of this trend. Habitats of value include specimen trees, hedgerows, treelines, streams, woodlands and wetlands. List the plants and animals to be found in your natural environment and recognise their significance (native, protected, or alien invasive?). These are very useful projects for students to do annually in schools.

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

We note that householders have been surveyed on waste prevention and expect that some results will be in your application in 2016. The can recycling bin inside the school grounds was noted and other recycling banks were seen in the retail park. Contact your waste contractors and try to find out how much material is being recycled, what is being thrown away and armed with this information you can start to think about how waste can be further reduced. The other measures listed such as battery recycling and water butts are all appropriate measures under this section as are the energy saving measures including insulation. It is becoming more and more important to highlight the need for communities to address the issues involved in tackling the growing waste mountain that is creating problems of pollution, unwanted land use, and the use of dwindling resources. Other ideas to consider are .... One third of our waste is organic in nature, such as grass clippings. You can avoid collecting mown grass by more frequent cutting and using mulching mowers which shred the clippings and facilitate faster decomposition. In regard to water usage, self-watering hanging baskets are a help in reducing the amount of water used and also the task of watering. Other waste minimisation projects might include working with retailers to cut down on packaging, reminding people to re-use shopping bags, discouraging junk mail, encouraging the re-use of water bottles and coffee mugs at school and at work. In response to an over use of chemicals for weed control, many useful products of the past are no longer available and therefore communities are encouraged to use other means such as hoeing to maintain weeds. In some cases, allowing wildflowers to develop is an acceptable alternative. These activities will highlight the fact that you are focussing on this category and when you develop more projects in the future your marks will increase.

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

Very little litter was seen in and around the town. Therefore, your actions under this section are very worthwhile. These include the annual Spring Clean and participation in the Cork Anti-Litter Challenge for which we note you have already received a certificate and a cash prize. The regular clean-up days are proving fruitful and it is good to see the students taking responsibility for maintenance of a designated area. You have listed many other projects in this regard so well done for this huge effort. A number of issues arise in regard to tidiness. For example, redundant posters should be removed from poles. Dead weeds in the tennis court did not add to its appearance. A rusty gate near the thatched house needs attention. There are three derelict houses beside Pearse Memorial hall and weeds are establishing there. A stop sign near the Credit Union building is dirty.

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

Most houses in Boherbue are well maintained. Vaughan Terrace was an estate of fine houses but some untidiness appears at the end and we noted one house on the corner with plenty of hanging baskets. The unfinished estate looked sad – it is an eyesore. The houses opposite are well painted.

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

The welcome signs were very cheerful. The road surface is very good so well done on that achievement. Signs on the Kanturk Road needed cleaning.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Many thanks for your application this year. Our visit to Boherbue was most enjoyable.