

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clane** Ref: **368**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **295**
Category: **E** Date(s): **25/06/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	53	53
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	33	34
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	43	43
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	32	33
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	53	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31	31
TOTAL MARK	450	291	295

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Congratulations on 42 years in Tidy Towns! Many thanks for your entry in this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for most well-planned and laid-out entry. This was accompanied by your summary plan which (in the adjudicator's opinion) was more than a plan but rather a 'profile' of your group and its considerable achievements. On the actual 'plan' bit - some more specifics could be forthcoming. Back to your entry - this was high quality stuff with great detail and a very relevant map. Your experience shows in your communication skills and attention to detail. Amongst others you are strong on both interaction with schools and on your surrounding natural amenities - both very important.

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

Thank you for the information on the very relevant projects for this year. These included the stabilisation of a landmark heritage building and submission on a pedestrian/cycle way. This illustrates the modern role of Tidy Towns in the built environment and how you have moved with the times too.

What is to be the fate of the derelict old cottage on the way into town from Sallins? At the large 2-storey house here there are large gates, one of which is askew. Some privets have been planted here and aren't working. The former St Brigid's national school was in very good condition on adjudication day. The RC Church of St Patrick and St Brigid has an example of excellent landscaping at the front. The contemporary planters, rushes and grasses were admired. The lights and benches look so well.

Good shop fronts noted included Bambury's, Moran's Pharmacy, Diamonds and Pearls and P. Wallace's. Bombay Bistro and Q&M could both improve their signs. The Village Inn looked very well, especially the beer garden and its floral decoration. The Esso Station/Centra and shops here were busy but neat and tidy. Jones' Pub looks lovely.

The parochial house is gorgeous. The General Hospital looks neat and well-cared-for. A few more trees at the front of the car-park here would be good. Scoil Bhríde looks fantastic. What is the purpose of the sign frame at the front here? It looks unnecessary. Scoil Phadraig national school looks neat and had 2 Green Flags. Scoil Mhuire has gorgeous planters at the front but should consider switching to perennial planting to save money and to benefit native invertebrates. A plants for pollinators project would be a good one for this very biodiversity-aware town.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Two new beds were added to your stock of landscaping this year. The maintenance of what you have surely takes up much of your time. Your work helps to soften the impact of passing traffic on the relief road. The use of old

Christmas trees as mulch is admired.

There is nice simple planting at the distinctive name signs. There is a very nice triangular bed at the Abbey Community Centre. There is a great bit of work in unusual stone on the green here. The tall wooden planters are very effective. The Garden of Remembrance is lovely. There were many good examples of window-boxes being used to enhance the streetscape but the first storey of Ladbroke's and Heavenly were stand-outs. Good landscape planting was noted in front of the shop/petrol station.

The birch trees at Aldi looked well. There was a great bed of colour at the cottage opposite the playground.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fíadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádurtha:

You are very strong in this rather technical category. This is fitting as you have such wonderful natural amenities in terms of the river, native trees and grasslands. The Wild About Clane series is a great initiative. The nesting box scheme and honey bee hive installation also really caught the eye - excellent. You are taking action against Himalayan balsam and this is an example of good co-operation with the Clane Anglers. The provision of a native tree for every baptism is a lovely idea and it is hoped that this will long continue.

There is lovely wildlife signage on the walkway to the Liffey. The little bit of riparian woodland at Alexandra bridge is noted. So too were the numbered nesting bird boxes - excellent.

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

Thank you for your submission in this category. It is felt that this could be stronger. However, you list Farmer's Market, old tyre reuse and timber reuse as good examples for this challenging category.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your submission here was very detailed and succinct. You have good solid systems in place, it appears for tackling litter, graffiti and clutter. You make submissions on same to Kildare County Council. You have regular litter-picks and participate of course in the Spring Clean. It is acknowledged that 12km of roadside is a long area to manage but your efficiency will help you in this regard. You acknowledge the assistance of SuperValu in your locality. Fostering these relationships is crucial to the Tidy Towns ethos.

It was felt that there were too many commercial signs on gables and that these should be rationalised if at all possible. Some road signs were in need of cleaning such as the R403/402. The anti dog litter stencils were admired. It is hoped that these will be effective. Litter control was good on day of visit.

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

The competition and subsequent awards for the best estates are an absolutely essential key in the maintenance of the very extensive estate areas of Clane. The coordinated anti-graffiti action is to be applauded.

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

Another good entry in this category. You list solid tangible actions which included variously new street furniture and refurbishment of old, audit and submission to Kildare County Council and plans for replacement landscape planting.

Sallins Road is a very nice approach in the main. However, there are some issues. For example, some road signs are obscured or hard to see. The relief road has three roundabouts. All are good but the middle one needs a little bit of pruning. Traffic was quite heavy on the day and the adjudicator was surprised at how few cars were using the relief road. Road surfaces on the Edenderry Road were very poor. There is a gorgeous little playpark by the river. This was very much in use on adjudication day.

Concluding Remarks:

Well done Clane, an entry befitting your experience. Excellent submissions in a number of categories. Your upward trajectory continues.