

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Urlingford**

Ref: **406**

County: **Kilkenny**

Mark: **262**

Category: **C**

Date(s): **15/06/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	37	37
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	34	34
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	36	36
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	26	28
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	47	49
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	36	37
TOTAL MARK	450	257	262

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Urlingford is welcome to the 2015 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your entry submission. The map provided was clear and facilitated understanding the layout of the village however projects accomplished for this year's competition should have been numbered on the map and linked to their details in the entry form. A Tidy Towns Plan covering a period of at least three years should also have been submitted; these are basic requirements for good performance in the competition. On-going and work accomplished by the community is invaluable in addressing the problem posed by vacant and derelict premises. An information panel might be located within the village centre with details of the Islands Walk

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

Public buildings look well particularly the Fire Station; both Hayes Bar and the adjoining Butchers are nicely painted. The school and the church both look well together with their respective grounds however the murals at the school might be refreshed. It was surprising to see a number of dated plastic neon beer signs still featuring on public houses within the village. A number of shopfronts could be improved some thought might be given to holding an annual 'clean your face' competition to encourage maintenance. In terms of shop window presentation try to keep windows and doors free of stickers and posters or be discriminate in their use. Weather stained walls were noted at a number of locations, for example at the old school premises, these should be cleaned, painted or where appropriate planted. Work in progress (painting) was noted to a building in the village centre. The old Community Centre needs refurbishment particularly to its retaining walls.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The roundabout at the Johnstown entrance to Urlingford is superb in design and presentation, commendations to all responsible. Stands of mature trees are nicely complemented by well maintained grass verges shrubberies and container planting throughout the village. Climbing plants are suggested for the fencing to the Kwik Fit Tyre premises and gates here might be replaced with solid gates to offer greater enclosure. Green areas are being nicely maintained and hedgerow neatly shaped. Flower displays on individual premises are attractive. In future landscaping plans choose native species to encourage wildlife habitats and enhance biodiversity.

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

The sports grounds together with its roadside entrance are neatly presented, and its mature hedgerow boundary is noted favourably; has a habitat survey be undertaken here? The Mill cemetery enjoys good maintenance. The wildlife status of the stream and its banks in Ghoul Garden could be explored and an interpretive panel featured,

perhaps this could be done in conjunction with the school as part of their environmental studies. The bird sanctuary along the Ghoul River is notable again a species survey would be appropriate with interpretive panel for results. Keep a check for invasive species as these can limit native species. Work at the allotments garden area has been taken into account.

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

Congratulations to the children of the primary school on their green flag status; the committee might now consider registering Urlingford with the An Taisce Green Homes Programme to complement the work of the school children. The allotments at Mount Finn estate are noted favourably and are a great way of enhancing community spirit. The recycling point is noted and seems to enjoy good maintenance. To perform well under this heading it is necessary to do more than engage in recycling activities. Prevention of waste at source is the primary focus; check out <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/to> to see what other Tidy Towns communities are doing. Any initiatives that make less waste; use less water, less energy or less materials; reuse, upcycle, repair, swap, exchange, restore; new life for old goods by the community, householders, businesses, schools, with the local authority, or other organisations is desirable and eligible for adjudication.

Use the "Greener Gardening" guide in your Tidy Towns activities

www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/waste/wpp/greenergardening.html

Introduce the "greener cleaning" guide into the community

www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/waste/wpp/greenercleaning.html

Help green your local festival or event for more information visit: <http://greenyourfestival.ie/>

Food Waste Prevention Activities www.stopfoodwaste.ie

Hold a' Water Saving Awareness' Night

Other ideas

Green the TT 'office' activities, e.g. print double sided; use online promotion instead of printed materials; use recycled paper; don't use disposable cups and cutlery at meetings.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Some litter was noted on the Johnstown entrance to the village and some takeaway litter was noted in the centre; neither lapses were considered to be serious and the frequent clean ups and litter collections are commended. The standard was equally good in residential estates. Two oversized advertisement hoardings are out of the scale for a village the size of Urlingford and are visually obtrusive. Work regarding the treatment of vacant / derelict premises is acknowledged. Some really bad looking weather stained walls at the Cork end of the village looked shabby.

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

Residential developments on the entrance to Urlingford from the Johnstown Road were admired for their well-managed green open spaces. Ghoul Garden was particularly admired as was landscaping marking the entrance to Togher Crescent. A development of single story dwellings needs identification. It is good to note that residents take care of their own estates in regard to litter management and maintenance of green open spaces.

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

Road and footpath surfaces are reasonably well presented throughout Urlingford. Unfortunately a lot of street furniture in the village centre including litter bins some road signs and of course the old lamp standards do not look good. The stone wall on the Johnstown entrance would complement the landscaped roundabout and sculpture if it were refurbished. The Lumper Lane initiative is favourably acknowledged.

Concluding Remarks:

The amount of dereliction in Urlingford is unfortunate together with the unfinished Hotel and housing estate; cognisance is taken of representations made by the committee where appropriate and work accomplished to date. Good luck for the future.