

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Windgap** Ref: **1105**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **238**
Category: **A** Date(s): **14/06/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	32
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	28
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	30
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	30
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	6
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29
TOTAL MARK	450	238

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Welcome back into the Tidy Towns Competition! It has been too long since Windgap last participated your adjudicator enjoyed the visit to your charming village. Thank you for Windgap's entry submission with map featuring landmarks that made it easy to 'get ones bearings'. Log onto the Tidy Towns web site for information on requirements regarding the map, it should have been numbered by 'projects' to be assessed this year and linked to details of projects in the entry form; it is also necessary to provide a Tidy Towns Plan covering a three year period at least indicating what the committee / community wish to see happening in their village; the Tidy Towns web site can be helpful in this regard also. The Tidy Towns Initiative in Windgap appears to be well organised with a committee of 15 and sub committees with responsibility for various projects. Communication methods employed are effective for the task and links to the schools via the Parents Council, Board of Management etc are good.

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

Public buildings including the school and its grounds are beautifully presented and flagpoles give a finishing touch that is quite magnificent and it is good to note that it features inclusive access. The church is nicely presented too together with its grounds and roadside boundary wall. Guinan's Bar is attractive. The large (boarded up) vacant premises across from the Lake amenity would look better if cleaned or painted as an interim measure pending redevelopment. Wall building is noted favourably as are renovations to properties where these occur.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

'Sun flowers' hanging from trees at the lakeside amenity are a nice touch and the footbridge over the lake is a lovely feature also. Colourful flower displays at numerous points around the village were uplifting. Green verges with newly planted trees and nameplates were admired and the landscaped stone enclosed bank in the village centre is an attractive feature of Windgap. When choosing trees and other plants choose native species when possible to encourage wildlife habitats and enhance bio diversity. The show of daffodils in spring must have been lovely.

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

Windgap's lake and woodland amenity area together with children's playground are enviable attractions that many communities would love to. The car park looked a little weedy but its roadside boundary is attractive. The sports grounds has a handsome entrance and boundary however some work needs to be done inside. The burial grounds are neatly presented and feature stately yew trees. Young trees and maturing well and neat hedgerow will encourage wildlife habitats if managed properly and not cut between February and August inclusive. Congratulations on the accessibility of the pathway / Amenity Walk enabling its use as a Nature Trail by the National

School. Has there been a species survey of the woodland area? An information panel on the flora and fauna of the woodland area would promote awareness and interest in wildlife.

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

Recycling is of course important but for the best performance under this heading focus on 'prevention at source' i.e. prevent waste from occurring in the first instance. Where possible measure and report as feedback any savings / reductions to indicate success to all involved. The following are a few ideas to get started, hopefully the committee will find these useful: 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. You can also log onto <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/> to see what other Tidy Towns groups are doing in this category.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Litter control and tidiness is of a high order in Windgap, well done! Participation in the National Spring Clean no doubt has heightened awareness of litter and dumping issues and made a significant contribution to the tidy appearance of Windgap in addition to the work of the Tus worker. It is good to note the input of Glanbia under this heading and rotas are acknowledged also. Overhead service cables present an unattractive wirescape in places however it must be satisfying to the community that the ESB have agreed to remove the two redundant poles, this should make a big difference to the appearance of the streetscape. At the time of adjudication there was quite a lot of construction work in progress and allowances have been made for this.

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

Residential properties look well in general however there are far too many instances of poor presentation of roadside boundary walls. Renovations and recent painting to dwellings is noted favourably. Do encourage residents to maintain their roadside boundary walls to the same high standard as their gardens. An on-street terrace of dwellings looks attractive.

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

Good quality cultural finger posts are an attractive feature of the streetscape in Windgap as is street furniture in general. Some stretches of road and footpath surfaces are of excellent quality while others need refurbishment. Grass verges and hedgerow are well maintained within the village nameplates. Verges of approach roads can be maintained neatly trimmed to their outer edge where appropriate while leaving the inner edge uncut as a 'Bee Line' for bees and other pollinators. It is important to maintain the area around the name plates / stones tidy.

Concluding Remarks:

Windgap is a lovely village with some charming amenity developments and wildlife amenity features / opportunities for children. Your adjudicator would like to see more development in this area and in the sustainable waste and resource management category.