

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lisryan** Ref: **2171**
County: **Longford** Mark: **227**
Category: **A** Date(s): **16/06/2016**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2015 | Mark Awarded 2016 |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Community Involvement & Planning | 60 | 25 | 26 |
| Built Environment and Streetscape | 50 | 30 | 31 |
| Landscaping and Open Spaces | 50 | 29 | 30 |
| Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities | 50 | 16 | 17 |
| Sustainable Waste and Resource Management | 50 | 10 | 11 |
| Tidiness and Litter Control | 90 | 54 | 55 |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas | 50 | 25 | 26 |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes | 50 | 30 | 31 |
| TOTAL MARK | 450 | 219 | 227 |

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Welcome Lisryan Village and District Development Association to the 2016 Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition. Your entry is very much appreciated. Thank you for your entry form, clear, concise map but the 3 year plan, which your association was urged to submit by 2 previous adjudicators, was not included. It is well worth the effort to draft one. It sorts out priorities, focuses minds, helps in keeping within budgets and may earn marks. The entry form was left with a lot of white space. This adjudicator will comment on the amount of information provided elsewhere in this report. You are commended on the clarity of your map. It is noted that your population is in category A – the lowest population category in the competition. Your committee of 8 persons is very good for a population of your size and is a testament to the status of your association in your community. It follows then that there would be a consistent level of volunteering as you mention in your entry form. Your community are commended for their support. A reasonable cross section of agencies and bodies give you support. No doubt this will increase with time. Appropriate channels of communication are used. Schools are important to Tidy Towns groups and we encourage those groups to include youth in your activities. The value of the Tidy Towns to your community is well stated.

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

Physically and visually the Crossroads Inn does not stand alone in the centre of the village. It blends with other features in the centre – the landscaped junction of the Abbeylara and Granard Roads, Castlepollard Road and the newly rejuvenated playing pitch opposite. The building itself is well painted and makes a strong statement as a focal point of the village. The outbuildings, also well presented, draw the eye down the Abbeylara Road. The landscaped junction is eye-catching and will be dealt with in that category. The outbuildings stimulate curiosity which is rewarded in finding that they are as well looked after as the main building. On the Castlepollard Road side of the building the eye is caught by the delicate white chain held up by slim white stakes protecting the immaculate verges. Who would dare encroach on them? The pristine lawn of the playing field, with its new wooden fence, allows a panoramic view of the Crossroads Inn, landscaped junction and the well kept entrance to the 2 roads. If there were buildings instead of playing field the village would look ordinary.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The standout feature is the landscaping at the junction of the Granard and Abbeylara Roads. It fits perfectly into the village where it is. It would not work elsewhere. The wooden "Welcome to Lisryan" sign is attractive – not too formal, and the mature trees, including the impressive monkey puzzle, add an appropriate back drop. The well filled half barrels of flowers add their own colour in front of the Crossroads Inn. The new trees at the playing field were noted. As mentioned elsewhere in this report hedges, verges, etc. on approach roads were well kept. The playing field and its boundaries look very well. Painting of the sheds noted. Replanting of flower beds throughout the village noted.

Well done to all involved, including your Solas worker Keith.

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

Lisryan is located in countryside that has a variety of habitats and abundant wildlife. There are 50 marks available in this category. There is also a lot of advice and guidance available. This is where a 3 year plan helps to focus attention on earning some marks in each category. Your task is so much easier than that of an entrant in an urban area where habitats and species are scarce. Key to this category is an understanding and appreciation of existing habitats and species in your area. Aim to gather baseline information on the habitats and species to be found in your area. Your local authority will have someone who specialises in wildlife matters. Make contact with that person. Use web sites such as that of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (www.NPWS.ie) The Heritage Council in Kilkenny also has an informative web site (www.heritagecouncil.ie). Wildlife is an important part of our heritage. A previous adjudicator recommended that you get a copy of their publication "Wildlife in towns and villages". www.birdwatchireland.ie is another useful web site. There is a crossover between this category and the landscaping category. Make a conscious effort to plant flowers that attract butterflies and bees and plant native species of trees and hedges that also promote wildlife.

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

The actions that you list in your entry form are all commended. It is important to recycle where possible and to segregate rubbish. All of these initiatives should continue. The marks in this category have been increased from 20 marks to 50 marks in recognition of the time and effort given to it by Tidy Towns groups. However, the emphasis is on waste prevention. The EU Waste Management Hierarchy prioritises waste prevention over waste treatment. The Tidy Towns groups should give leadership in promoting the prevention of waste as much as possible and then the principles of reuse and recycle. In summary "rethink, reduce, reuse, recycle". Consider wider resource efficiencies across the community and not just waste management itself. These include any measures to save water, energy and transport. A useful website is www.localprevention.ie. This is the web site of the Local Authority Prevention Network and it has a section specifically for Tidy Towns groups. It gives groups ideas and examples for projects in this category. Instead of trying to create new initiatives groups are encouraged to copy projects that have worked for other groups and have earned marks. Examples of how you communicate with your community should be enclosed with your entry form.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The Bring Centre, located in the centre of the village, has a clean sign, 4 clean containers and a clean and tidy area around it. There is also a rubbish bin at the Crossroads Inn. It, too, is clean and so is the area around it. It is noted that you remove posters and signs that are outdated. Your anti-litter and anti-weeds programmes are effective. You do not tell us how you promote anti-littering in Lisryan to residents and passing motorists. In next year's entry form perhaps you would tell us if you have an anti-litter programme. Many Tidy Towns groups take part in An Taisce's National Spring Clean which is now seen as a 'kick off' event in the Tidy Towns calendar. On adjudication day Lisryan was tidy and orderly so perhaps you do not need to take part in such events. Well done to all involved.

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

With a population in Category A (under 200) it follows that Lisryan has no large housing estates or residential areas. Your village is very lucky to have escaped the blight of unfinished, ghost estates. Your only residential neighbourhood – Lios na Gaoithe has a name stone at its entrance. It stands on a neatly trimmed grass verge. Separating Lios na Gaoithe from the road is an attractive well painted wooden post and rail fence and a long, kerbed grass verge, also neatly trimmed. Tall, elegant lamp posts with flowers at their base added to the overall impression. There is a variety of house designs and each is well presented. Other residences in the village are equally well presented, many with well stocked gardens. No issues arise in this category.

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

Approach roads are important in creating the first impression of a town or village. The approach roads to Lisryan have attractive metal blue and white village name signs with long legs which allow them to stand prominently on the roadside near the 50km sign, which marks the boundary of the Tidy Towns area. All of the signs are clean. On the Edgeworthstown Road the sign is in a raised flower bed. On each approach road the verges are well maintained. The other 3 approach roads – Granard, Abbeylara and Castlepollard, each has a metal village sign in a raised bed with good verges, one has the addition of neatly trimmed trees and a large wishing well on the Castlepollard Road is eye-catching. Individually, each gives a good first impression of Lisryan. In addition, 2 raised circular stone beds hold a traffic sign. Road surfaces are good.

Concluding Remarks:

Lisryan made further progress this year, your third year. Next year the Tidy Towns competition will be 60 years in operation. As your momentum increases, so too will your marks.