

# Tidy Towns Competition 2016

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dunlavin** Ref: **517**  
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **245**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **02/07/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	28	30
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	33	34
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	37	37
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	19	19
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	12	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	49	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31	31
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>245</b>

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

Dunlavin TidyTowns is very welcome to the SuperValu TidyTowns competition 2016. We thank you for your entry and your continued dedication both to your local village and to the national competition. Your committee meets regularly and are the driving force behind a number of local projects. You enjoy support from a number of organisations and bodies including the local schools, businesses and the local Credit Union. Indeed, it is apparent that you are supported by a vast majority of the community who contribute to the TidyTowns agenda in a number of ways but understand that you are on the lookout for some 'new blood' to join your committee and we wish you well with this. Last year's adjudicator wisely suggested the development of a 3 or 5-year annual plan and we wonder how this is progressing. The cornerstone of the TidyTowns programme is the preparation of a multi-annual plan which should represent a shared vision of what the TidyTowns programme can achieve for Dunlavin. We recommend that you consult on your draft plan and ask the local community and wider stakeholders for their opinions, ideas and feedback. That said, we recognise that you are communicating well with the local community via a variety of difference mediums. We viewed your TidyTowns page with interest and fully support your motto "Everyone can contribute to their local environment." It's great that you have developed a delightful and most interesting website and can use it to share TidyTowns information to a wide audience.

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

Dunlavin is synonymous with a lovely wide street with your Market Square and Market House which now houses the library. Indeed, you have many fine buildings in the town including the Bank House and Tynte House B&B. St. Nicholas of Myra Roman Catholic Church occupies a prominent site overlooking the Fair Green and is a wonderful asset to the streetscape here. We would concur with the comments from last year's adjudicator asking you to consider the possibility of establishing lime trees down both sides of Main Street. Doyle Family Butchers, Dunlavin Arms and Signature Windows and Doors on Main Street are well presented properties. We also liked Ed's Fruit and Veg and Rosie's Coffee Shop, their shop fronts are simple and effective, however perhaps when the owners are next painting, colours that co-ordinate and complement each other could be considered as this would have better effect. Have you considered the undergrounding of cables in and around the Market Square and one side of Main Street? The traditional decorative lighting standards are much more aesthetically pleasing and make for a better streetscape than those on the other side of the road. Lighting standards should be uniform throughout the Main Street. The census data project on prominent buildings is an interesting project. Wouldn't it be fabulous if buildings such as the launderer's house, farmers house and tailors house could be renovated and become family homes once again? The white house beside the Fire Station and the Frank Whittle Farmhouse are examples of how well these properties could look. The Jonathan Swift National School with Green Flag and Active Flag looks well. St. Nicholas' Church of Ireland is a charming building set within a small graveyard on Stephen Street. The Credit Union building looks well and is nicely set out with colourful window boxes. In a town such as yours with a long heritage encourage

businesses to choose signage in keeping with the style of building.

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

The tree planting outside St. Nicholas Naofa National School looks well and will further enhance this area once they mature some more. The playground in this vicinity is excellent, a wonderful facility for all to enjoy especially with the addition of the outdoor gym equipment. The planting outside the Friar Hill along the Sparrow Road is excellent – congratulations to those who tend these beds. The Fairgreen looks well and is a lovely feature in the town particularly with the Church in the background. There is also a lovely peaceful small park in the Market Square.

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

We are delighted to note that you are aware of your pollinator plants and have been planting wild flower areas in many areas in and around the village. The Playschool and the Jonathan Swift National School are playing their part in raising awareness of the local flora and fauna by developing insect hotels and wildlife gardens respectively. At the playground we noted the insect boxes. We liked that you have initiated the organisation of a guided walk in association with Bat Conservation Ireland. We wish you well with this.

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

The climbing frame made from old tyres at the Playschool fits well into this category. Do you as a committee reuse any materials in your work projects? Perhaps you accept paint donations for painting projects? Children from Scoil St. Nicholas Naofa walking to school also cuts down on vehicular movements and as a result carbon emissions is a worthy project in this competition category. You have asked for more clarity in relation to this category. We suggest that you review the literature available on the TidyTowns website on the Sustainable Waste and Resource Management Category; it was revised in 2015. You should also check out the following website for tips and advice to help you with this category: <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>. If you still need assistance after consulting this, please contact the TidyTowns unit who will be able to point you in the right direction.

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

Litter control was good when we visited. Your daily litter collection is laudable and requires significant dedication. Temporary signage (Smooch and blood donation advertising) detract from the Naas approach. This adjudicator was infuriated to see that the smooch ice-cream and milkshake sign (Centra) was actually attached to the tree by a screw nail which will cause substantial damage. Please do not allow businesses to continue this practice, it is very irresponsible. The interpretative panel is very informative and in nice condition. We wondered why there was orange and yellow paint lines all along the footpaths at the Market Square and on Main Street?

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

Friar Hill is a well presented housing estate perhaps consider washing the stop sign at the entrance. Properties and gardens within Sparrow Road Estate are also presented to a high standard with delightful communal green areas. We visited Church Hill and Church Terrace housing estates and noted the new trees planted on the approach to Church Hill. Some paint was noted on the Chapel View estate sign. We would concur that the cottages beside the credit union have been tastefully painted and look well. Indeed, we also thought the three-storey terrace houses down from Imaal Hall were nicely colour co-ordinated. We noted the old water pump that has been restored on Stephen Street.

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

The tree lined approach from Naas was admired. We approached the town off the N81 and thought it wasn't up to the same standard as your other approaches. We recognise that roadside should be managed to encourage wildflowers but perhaps consider strimming / mowing just at the welcome signs. The road surfacing on Kilcullen Street is poor in places. Works were ongoing on the footpath across from the COI on adjudication day.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

We commend the members of Dunlavin TidyTowns and your support network (who assist you with clean-ups and fundraising) for maintaining and enhancing your town. You have raised your marks this year in some categories and have a number of projects underway or planned that will hopefully come to fruition in time for next year's competition and should assist you in gaining more marks. We hope that you can take on board some of the recommendations to further assist you. Overall, you should be pleased with your efforts – congratulations.