

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tinahely** Ref: **245**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **268**
Category: **C** Date(s): **04/07/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	42	42
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	35	35
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	36	36
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	31	32
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	12	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	49	49
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30	30
TOTAL MARK	450	266	268

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Tinahely TidyTowns is welcomed to the 2016 SuperValu TidyTowns Competition. Your committee operates as a sub-committee of Tinahely Community Projects which seems to be working well for you. You meet regularly and like many other centres are always on the look-out for some new blood and fresh ideas. We thank the new members who have come on board this year and we hope they have enjoyed volunteering their time to the TidyTowns movement in Tinahely. You are working in partnership with a number of agencies and bodies and it is great that you are supported locally by the GAA club, the local ICA, Tinahely Arts Group and the Courthouse Arts Centre. Your communication methods are apt, utilising the Community Projects Facebook page, the dedicated notice board and we are impressed that you went door-to-door liaising with households in May. While you may not have an established Junior TidyTowns Group thus far you are engaging with the local children in local projects and indeed we noted their involvement in the 1916 Boot/Shoe project.

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

Riverside Business centre will be soon due for a fresh coat of paint. There are some properties that need a little more attention in and around the town centre; however we note that you are engaging and liaising with owners of derelict properties and encouraging them to improve their appearance and also doing some upgrade works when able. O'Connor's Bar is well presented with colourful window box display. We thank Murphy's Hotel, Tinahely Pharmacy and Madeline's Restaurant and B&B for taking pride in the presentation of their premises. Colourful planting set of the Market Square Building. We liked the hanging baskets at the Gala and at other locations along Kevin Street, they add colour and interest. Daisy Cottage Café also had a nice shop front and window boxes. The Centra shop had a clean and tidy exterior, although this adjudicator is not a fan of the large window stickers associated with most if not all our Irish supermarkets. We visited on a Monday and are sorry to have missed a visit to the Tinahely Farmshop.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The children's play area was being well utilised on the day we visited. We thank you for maintaining this wonderful facility for the benefit of the local children. You are fortunate to have a local horticulturist on hand to give you some sound advice for this category; continue to choose pollinator friendly plants when possible. The Tinahely picnic area needed some maintenance work when we visited. It was quite out of shape. It would appear that you are mowing some areas which is fine as we like to encourage grassed sections to allow wildflowers to come through, however perhaps mowing should be more regular in the areas to be cut during the summer months. In contrast, presentation at the Railway Walk was much superior and the picnic area more inviting. We noted the 1916 commemorative project; the planted boot project carried out to present those who died during the Easter Rising. Thanks to all those

who participated and facilitated this community project. It's good that some of these perennials will be planted out throughout the town.

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

We visited the Railway Walk, part of this walk in the Togher direction appeared to be closed off, we were not sure why. The Gardening for Biodiversity workshops hosted by you with Agenda 21 funding sounds like a great event and indeed we have had feedback from other committees that they really found the workshops beneficial. We hope you can continue to implement the recommendations and knowledge gained. You have updated the website to contain information on Tomnafinnoge Woods, you could further raise awareness by organising a woodland walk for families on a Sunday afternoon in association with a local wildlife enthusiast or perhaps a woodland forage with your horticulturist in autumn. These are only ideas to consider, you may have ideas of your own. Bear in mind that raising awareness and understanding of the natural amenities of your area is a key part of this competition category.

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

We are delighted to learn from your application that a member of your committee made the journey to Monaghan to attend the Sustainable Waste Seminar organised by Monaghan County Council. Indeed, it was well received by many. Your committee should now be able to build on the ideas and information obtained at this event. This category aims to develop and encourage sustainable communities and sustainable management of a variety of resources such as water, energy, waste, travel etc. Bear in mind also that this section also involves significant education and awareness elements in relation to behavioural change – changing our bad environmental habits to more sustainable habits. Behavioural change isn't something that a person just suddenly chooses to adopt. You have to slowly learn a new habit. This means that you have to 'overwrite' a new habit over the ingrained, existing habit. This takes time and repetition. Therefore sharing the resource efficiency messages and leading by example is important. Good luck with your planned composting workshop in July 2016.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We have highlighted a number of issues below; perhaps they could be considered picky, but in order to progress swiftly in this competition, attention to detail is required. A review of signage is recommended. Conduct a walkover of the town paying detailed attention to signs, are they required, are they appropriate, do they need washed, repaired or replaced etc. Ensure advertising signage is swiftly removed after an event. For example, we would have expected that the advertising sign at the Welcome Sign for the Ballad and Rebel Fest on 24th June would have been removed, our adjudication was almost ten days later. Still in relation to signage we thought that there was quite a bit of signage at the Coogan Steel premises, both on the wooden hoarding and on the fence. The Railway Walk sign at the Lugduff Service Station junction should be repaired or replaced. There is a pole outside of Black Tom's and some redundant round signage that should be removed. There is also a bent bollard outside the Market Square Building that needs attention. Thanks for taking last year's comment on board in relation to signage at the Railway Walk car park. It was looking well when we visited; the before and after photographs allow us to get an appreciation of the actions that you took in relation to this. The recycling centre was busy, parking was limited, and we noted cars had to park on the grass. You conduct weekly litter picks. Litter was noted at a bench at Beechwood Drive. Dog fouling was noted on the footpath outside Holts Crescent. In the town centre we noted some fresh litter along the footpaths near the Gala and Centra Shops on Kevin Street. Continue to encourage residents to take a shared responsibility in relation to litter and pick up any they see as they walk past. Well done on your annual clean up – we would encourage residents to come out in 2017 and join your group.

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

We visited a number of residential estates. Thanks to all those who take pride in presenting their houses and gardens to a good standard. There is a stone but no name engraving at the entrance to Kilcommon View. Furthermore, there is no need for the tree ties or supports on trees here. Some cut bushes at various locations should be removed. Another name stone on Pound Lane/Meadow Hill had no name. In Beechwood green tree ties should be reviewed here also, however we noted an engraved name stone and a well maintained communal green area. Holts Crescent has a well landscaped and decorative entrance and we noted many well presented properties and gardens. Weeds at the kerbside were noted in a number of areas. The Tyndles and the Hollows both were immaculately kept; well done to all the residents for taking such care and attention. Consider painting the yellow pump near the Railway Walk entrance.

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

The road surfacing was considered to be poor in places on Kevin Street, the surfacing on Barton Street is of a much better standard. On Pound Lane we noted a nicely presented water pump. There is a bush growing out of the chimney above Bill's Takeaway. Strimming was on-going along the Aughrim Road at the 50km signs on the day we visited. You don't need to trim the large verges; you can cut or mow one to two meters and let the rest grow wild to encourage biodiversity areas, by cutting just a strip the community are still aware that the areas are being maintained.

Concluding Remarks:

You have a number of projects in the pipeline and we wish you well with your endeavours in 2017. Well done to all those involved in the TidyTowns movement in Tinahely this year - Thanks for all your hard work.

