

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Williamstown** Ref: **321**
County: **Galway** Mark: **300**
Category: **A** Date(s): **14/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	39	40
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	41	41
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	41	41
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	40	35
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	17	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	64
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	25	28
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	34
TOTAL MARK	450	300	300

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Many thanks for your entry in this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for participating in Ireland's biggest community project. Well done on submitting a really good entry this year. This was focussed, long on detail and amply illustrated with many photographs. Our compliments to the photographer, by the way, there are some great moments captured therein. For a small town, you have very strong numbers on your committee and also assisting your work. Over three decades have been put into Tidy Towns by you and the experience shows. It's great to read how the competition has benefited Williamstown.

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

Well done on the Built Environment survey. This will help you to focus on areas in need of attention. The painting of street furniture was noted, very good. It's great to read how much you appearance your Community Employment scheme participants. A great asset indeed. The Halla na Pharóiste was in good order. The Community Playschool and Credit Union looked well. Is the school wall to be repainted this year?

The now derelict hairdressers hop has a broken window and is in need of attention now. The Post Office was missing some latrines from its name sign. Well done to the petrol station owners for the lovely raised bed planter here.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

You have begun to grow flowers from seed and that is a great initiative. Your work has included beech hedging and native tree-planting. Some really good quality shrub and contractor planting was noted, well done. Slug pellets should not be used. The 1916 commemoration plaque beneath the older 1966 plaque is a lovely touch.

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

Well done for installing bat roosting boxes. You unfortunately didn't say when you did this and where they are. You should be monitoring these for activity. You describe combating the invasive species Japanese knotweed. However, we'd also need some details on how you are going about this too. Overall, we'd like to have better information in order to increase your points in this category.

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

A better entry here, Williamstown. Congratulations to the national school but it appears that you have already promised the Green Flag in last year's entry. You have organic gardens but what does this mean? Do these

produce anything?

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You have a litter control plan in place and that is good. This involves weekly Saturday and Wednesday litter-picks. You have your Spring Clean on Good Friday. Your adopt a road scheme is sponsored locally, and this is very good. There are a couple of empty sign poles.

Weed control is needed at the Crescent where it looks rather neglected. A sign is missing from the crescent too. All the street furniture looked so well in 'racing' green. The old telephone box could be improved.

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

You describe how twelve private houses have been painted in May. This is excellent. Indeed even ownership can be difficult to establish. However, among the occupied dwellings, some really splendid gardens were noted. The name stone of the housing estate near the water tower couldn't be read. Tree-planting is recommended at Glynndale Court.

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

You mention that you have a few challenges in this category, including invasive species, roadside litter and the condition of the roads themselves. You describe the weather as taking its toll here. The adjudicator didn't think that road surfaces were bad. Didn't you have Rás through here? Your idea to put old (presumably) black and white photographs in faded windows is a good one and you should pursue this. You describe the Bog Walk as being your focus. However, there is no information on what you have done over the last while.

Watch out for the condition of your road signage. The 60kph signs were nearly illegible. The derelict site beside the petrol station looks poor. Could an alternative to the palisade fencing be found?

Concluding Remarks:

Well done on all that you have achieved to date. A few areas for your attention should be addressed over the following year. You have great will and experience and you are more than up to the challenge.